



Rocky Trails



August 2026

Volume 21 Issue 7

The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a nice Independence Day celebrating our country's 250th birthday! The weather has been, well, HOT!! I hope that everyone has a cool place to go to. If you missed this month's meeting you missed a great presentation by Scott Persons, SC's State Paleontologist. Scott has a great personality and gave us a delightful presentation on dinosaurs. You also missed some great food too! Jennie Breeden and Jacalin Shealy laid out a great spread! Next month there will be an Auction by Ron Ahle. Could be a chance to get some nice rocks!

I do want to remind all our members that we need volunteers to help with CGMS Annual Show. We need help with set up day on Thursday November 19, volunteers to work in different areas of the show, and help with breakdown after the show ends on Sunday November 22, 2026.

I am also looking for a member to take over the Dealer Chairperson position for next year's show. I would welcome that person to work with me during the show to learn about our dealers and what it takes to get the annual show up and running. It can be done solo or have an extra hand to help you out, always a good idea! Looking forward to hearing from our club members about volunteering in the show this year.

Respectfully,

Patricia B Stidom
CGMS President

NEXT MEETING

August 17, 2026

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

The July 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,.

PROGRAM: The program for June is an auction. This year we are going to start with a live auction of a few items and then release folks to bid on the silent auction items. Minerals, fossils, jewelry and other geology or lapidary items will be sold.

Pam Etheridge and Patricia Stidom will provide door prizes and refreshments. Pat and Gary Hert will provide refreshments.

Executive Meeting

August 24, 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

The program for June is a live and a silent auction. In September Gwen Geidel will be presenting on the Remediation of Graves Mountain. In October, Dan Frost will be presenting on earthquakes.

Auction: This year we are going to start with a live auction of a few items (including a microscope and a gold panning kit) and then release folks to bid on the silent auction items. CGMS has received many donations and these items, along with those brought by members, will be auctioned. In this auction there will be lots of mineral specimens, some fossils, and some lapidary materials.

If you bring items you wish to sell, you will be provided a form at the meeting or use the form below to enter your item into the auction. Be sure to write in your minimum bid. You may choose to keep the proceeds, donate them to CGMS or split the proceeds with CGMS. If you bring items to sell in the auction, please arrive by 7:00 so we can get everything arranged. At the end of the bidding period, the Treasurer will collect the payment on items for which proceeds are going to CGMS. Cash, check or credit card will be accepted. **Note that credit cards will only be accepted by the club for items in which the proceeds go to CGMS.**

Item _____

Collection Location/Made by _____

Contributed by _____

Proceeds go to: _____ CGMS _____ Me _____ Split proceeds

Minimum Bid \$ _____

Name

Bid

1. _____	\$ _____
2. _____	\$ _____
3. _____	\$ _____
4. _____	\$ _____
5. _____	\$ _____
6. _____	\$ _____
7. _____	\$ _____
8. _____	\$ _____

EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES

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

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society held its monthly board meeting on July 27th, 2026, at Grecian Gardens at 2312 Sunset Blvd. Members in attendance were Jim Cobb, Angela Valvasori, Ron Ahle, Cheryl Coker, Steve Coker, Jim Carter, Sheila Frame, Gary Hert, Catherine Sawyer, Carol Elliot, Susan Richardson, and Sophie Grimsley. Vice President Jim Carter called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Angela Valvasori made a motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting. Jim Carter seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Sunshine: Sheila Frame stated that she sent a “get well soon card” to Carol Elliot, and a thank you letter to Scott Persons for his presentation at the July general meeting. **Historian:** No report.

Programs: Catherine Sawyer listed the programs currently scheduled for the rest of the year:

- August: Live and 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
- December: Holiday Party

Ron Ahle gave a description of the Auction taking place in August. There will be 4 or 5 items auctioned off during a live auction, followed by a silent auction. There will be room available in the silent auction for members who wish to bring items to enter, however if you would like something entered into the live auction, please contact Ron Ahle in advance. For members who wish to auction their items, they can choose to donate the money to CGMS, keep the money for themselves, or split it. If members would like to keep the money, they must handle payment individually, it cannot go through the club's treasurer.

Show Planning: The next show planning meeting will be held on July 28th at 6:30 pm at the Richland Library branch on Assembly Street. Angela Valvasori gave a report of the last show planning meetings, emphasizing that planning is going well except for sponsorships. There has only been one sponsorship so far for the show pamphlet. The final date to confirm sponsorships will be August 31st. Angela then presented the draft budget for the 2026 show. Jim Carter made a motion to approve the budget, Ron Ahle seconded, and all voted in favor of approving the 2026 budget as presented.

Workshop: Gary Hert recently purchased backup pumps for the geode saw as discussed in the last board meeting. Jim Carter asked if the tents that CGMS owns will be sufficient to keep the geode area dry during the show if there should be inclement weather. Gary said yes, the tents would keep out water, and there is a tarp that can be spread between them to cover any gaps. **Workshop Special Committee:** This committee has not had a chance to meet, no report was given.

EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

Field Trips: Casey Tyler was not present, but he recently sent an email announcing a Fossil Dig at Durham Coal Mine in Northeast Georgia to collect 300-to-325-million-year-old Pennsylvanian-period fern fossils. That trip will be on Saturday, September 5th, from 9:45 am (be on time!) to 4 pm. There will also be a trip to collect amethyst at Rock 'in Winn Amethyst Mine in Pelzer, SC on Saturday, August 8th at 10 am (\$30 per person). Finally, Sophie Grimsley gave a brief description of the recent field trip to mine Montana Sapphire from gravel bags at Dreher Island on Sunday, July 27th. All had a great time and found sapphires!

Newsletter: Ron stated that he cannot complete the Rocky Trails without information sent to him. Please get any information for the Rocky Trails to Ron quickly. Additionally, the bylaws were approved by the membership at the July General meeting and will need to be posted online. Sheila Frame asked if the Webmaster position created in the bylaw amendments got a single vote, or if the subcommittees under Webmaster also received a vote. Angela stated that according to the bylaws, only the committee chair, the Webmaster, would get a vote, not the subcommittee heads.

Old Business: Catherine Sawyer asked about the outcome of research for tax implications of CGMS hosting a Christmas party. Angela stated that there is no issue with the club hosting a party for club members as long as it is not exorbitant. Catherine stated that Terri Tokaz found some options for hosting the party, and Carol Elliot stated that she would offer her house as a location to host the party on the condition that it be catered. If Carol's house is not large enough to fit all attendees, she stated that she can contact her church, Greenlawn Baptist on Garner's Ferry, to see if we can host it there (fees to rent are around \$200 per day). There was discussion of catering options.

New Business: The board discussed the storage units that CGMS currently operates as a workshop. Discussion included plans to organize the shop/storage unit and remove broken furniture and personal items in order to create more space for club members to use while using the slab saw and cabbing machines. Sheila stated that there had been a layout designed upon initial rental of the unit, but those plans were not followed. Angela asked if anyone would like to lead the effort to organize the space. Ron Ahle volunteered to coordinate a time when he is available so that interested parties such as Gary Hert, Catherine Sawyer, and Sheila Frame, and other volunteers can meet to organize and clear some unwanted items out of the unit.

Rocks from Don Burger's House: Sue Shrader recently shared an email stating that former club president Don Burger had recently passed and there are rocks at his house that are available. In the email thread, there was a suggestion that the rocks should be picked up by club members and distributed at the show. Several board members thought this could compete with vendors and grab bag sales. Gary Hert stated that some of the rocks are of pretty nice quality. Jim Carter mentioned that other shows in the area, such as the Aiken show, have a table of free rocks for kids to take. Gary suggested putting the rocks out with a sign to only take one or two. Ron stated that we do not have room to store them. Gary Hert, Jim Carter, and Ron Ahle volunteered to go over to Don's house and take a look at the rocks to see if the club would be interested in taking them.

EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

Show Venue: Angela briefed the board about possible new locations to host the show. She ran through the disadvantages of the Medallion Center and State Fairgrounds and compared the pros and cons of Jamil temple and the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The board discussed these pros and cons, and made these comments:

- We used to have the show at the State Fairgrounds and availability restrictions made us move.
- Regional gem shows rarely change dates, and changing dates for our show may be hard on our attendees and vendors.
- Dealer dinners are important to the club and vendors, and we would like to keep it going if possible.
- Jamil Temple Building is not the cleanest or prettiest venue.
- Long-term contracts are helpful to the club for planning.
- Are vendors available for December show dates, and are there any other shows in the area for the weekend that the Convention Center is free?

Faceting Guild: Catherine Sawyer stated that Tom Daniels has resigned as the faceting guild chair since we do not have a workshop or equipment to teach faceting .

Petition to Change the Meeting Time: At the July meeting, Laura Bailey passed around a petition to change the general meeting time from 7:30 pm to 7 pm, and social time from 7 pm to 6:30 pm. Many members signed the petition, and board members brought up points in favor of making the meetings earlier. Since CGMS will need to ask permission and communicate with Hope Church, and speakers for the rest of the year have already confirmed the current start time, the board will discuss changing the meeting times in the new year. Sophie Grimsley suggested putting a poll on the ballot during the November elections to ask the club members what time they prefer. There was also discussion of the order of presenters and business meetings during general meetings, which could also be done on a case-by-case basis or proposed during the November meeting.

Petition Carol Elliot presented a document endorsed by Sheila Frame and Catherine Sawyer proposing to hold a special meeting of the board to discuss improving membership participation in the club by hosting more member events and fundraising events during the year. Carol explained that maintaining new members through relationship building events would help the general dynamics of the club. Jim Carter stated that he will speak to Patricia to put this on the agenda at the next Board meeting as requested.

Jim Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sophie Grimsly

(Additional board activity: A larger storage unit has become available and the board agreed that the club should acquire the space and discontinue the current space. The club has until the end of the month to vacate our old unit by moving shop equipment and other objects into the new space. This comes at a time when we were about to have a space cleaning as noted in the meeting minutes. We will need some help with the move.)

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Columbia Gem and Mineral Society Meeting 07/20/26

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on July 20, 2026, at Hope Church. President Patricia Stidom called the meeting to order at 7:28 PM. She thanked Jenny Breeden and Jacalin Shealy for bringing the wonderful array of refreshments and welcomed our speaker, Dr. Scott Persons.

Show Planning: Angela spoke about the show and sponsorships. A show planning meeting will be scheduled for next week and she will send an email with the details. She apologized for any inconvenience caused by cancelling the last meeting at short notice. The Club is obtaining sponsorships for our show, who will be recognized in our show booklet, on our website and on a banner at the show. A few people have volunteered to contact businesses to ask for sponsorship. We need a few more volunteers. Angela passed around a sign-up sheet and a one-page handout to give to potential sponsors. We also need someone to contact radio and TV stations for publicity.

Field Trips: Casey Tyler spoke about three opportunities for club field trips. He has arranged a Columbia Gem & Mineral Society field trip to Rock'in Winn Amethyst Mine near Pelzer, SC, on Saturday, August 8th, 2026. We'll meet at 10:00 am. 6 to 8 people have already signed up. Casey passed around a signup sheet. The second opportunity is the Durham Mine at Lookout Mountain, near Chattanooga, TN. He showed a fern fossil obtained at this location. He is working on setting this up and passed around a signup sheet. The third opportunity is to sift through gravel for Montana sapphire. Casey has ordered the gravel and will have a group get-together for sifting. Please contact him if you are interested.

Membership: Liz Gregory informed the Club that we have 3 new members for a total of 126 members.

Sunshine: Sheila informed us that Susan Bloodworth's brother has passed away. Susan had cared for her brother for a long time. A few CGMS members attended his funeral, and she sent a card on the club's behalf. Carol Elliott was just released from the hospital upon treating an infection from a cut. Other members are having surgery or health problems but do not wish to be named. She asked for our thoughts for all these members.

New Business – Bylaws Revision: Ron explained the proposed changes to the CGMS bylaws, as posted in the Rocky Trails, for the membership to vote on. A new chair position called Information Technology is being added to consolidate the functions of the webmaster, Facebook, Instagram and other social media posting. Laura Bailey asked if this would change the number of board members. It does not. Ron explained eliminating the position of Liaison since it is not a necessary position. It had been used to liaise with other clubs, which can still be done. Furthermore, the President and other executive committee members liaise with the Southeast Federation. Ron proposed adding a statement that the meeting minutes will be distributed to the members via the Rocky Trails, to reflect actual practice. The final proposed change was to drop members from the roster if they have not renewed by April 1 instead of March 1. Casey Tyler made the motion to vote on these changes. Chris Glass seconded the motion. The vote was held and the changes passed unanimously.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (continued)

Ron spoke about the SCAN (South Carolina Association of Naturalists) 50th anniversary celebration, this Saturday, July 25. Rudy Mancke will be recognized. Tickets can be purchased at the SCAN website. Patricia Stidom thanked Ronnie Bellagia for the door prizes and held the door prize drawing.

Presentation: At 7:50 Catherine Sawyer introduced the speaker: Dr. Scott Persons, Curator of Natural History at the South Carolina State Museum and the research curator at the Glenrock Paleon Museum. Scott gave a presentation on the Dinosaurs of Glenrock, Wyoming, an area where he leads teams of students on paleontology digs every summer for Cretaceous fossils. Scott also helped identify fossils that club members brought to the meeting. Thank you, Scott, for the fantastic presentation and information!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Angela Valvasori

News From SFMS from Cindy Reed, SFMS Loadstar Editor

Here's the link for the August edition of the SFMS Lodestar:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ELTzYI815v0bPDjWxshyS_tYUfqxb57i/view?usp=sharing

Info on the next annual meeting is on page 5 with the registration form on page 24. It's in Norcross, GA on September 19. This is an important meeting as we will be electing officers. The meeting will be followed by the GMS potluck and auction. This is always fun. Be sure to check out David Liles article on Smaragdite found at the Chunky Gal mine in NC.

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

News Worth Digging Up

Prehistoric Site in Florida Confirms Pre-Clovis Peopling of the Americas

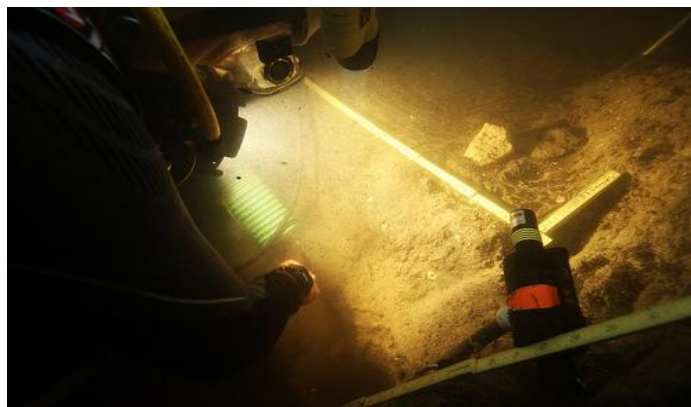
Source: Popular Archeology

Date: May 13, 2016

By Popular Archeology News Editorial Team

Radiocarbon dating of a prehistoric archeological site in Florida suggests that 14,550 years ago, hunter-gatherers, possibly accompanied by dogs, butchered or scavenged a mastodon next to a small pond. In the 1980s and 1990s, researchers James Dunbar and David Webb investigated the site and retrieved several stone tools and a mastodon tusk with cut marks from a tool in a layer more than 14,000 years old. Working in near-zero-visibility waters in the murky Aucilla River between 2012 and 2014, divers, including Dunbar, excavated stone tools and bones of extinct animals. They found a biface—a knife with sharp edges on both sides that is used for cutting and butchering animals—as well as other tools. Daniel Fisher, a vertebrate paleontologist at the University of Michigan also took another look at the mastodon tusk that Dunbar had retrieved during the earlier excavations and found it displayed obvious signs of cutting created to remove the tusk from the skull.

The findings, based on a four-year study of the Page-Ladson archaeological site in the Aucilla River, about 45 minutes from Tallahassee, Florida, provide a rare glimpse of the earliest human occupation in the southeastern United States, and offer clues to the timing of the disappearance of large animals like the mastodon and camel that roamed the American Southeast during the Late Pleistocene. “Our work provides strong evidence that early human hunters did not hunt mastodons to extinction as quickly as supporters of the so-called ‘Blitzkrieg’ hypothesis have argued,” Fisher said. “Instead, the evidence from this site shows that humans and megafauna coexisted for at least 2,000 years.” Additionally, the artifacts at Page-Ladson highlight that much of the earliest record of human habitation of the American Southeast lies submerged and buried in unique depositional settings like those found along the Aucilla River, which passes through Florida on its way to the Gulf of Mexico. This record can only be accessed through underwater investigation, which, if undertaken with precision and care, should reveal a rich and abundant pre-Clovis record for the American Southeast, the authors say. To read more go to: [Prehistoric Site in Florida Confirms Pre-Clovis Peopling of the Americas – Popular Archeology](#)

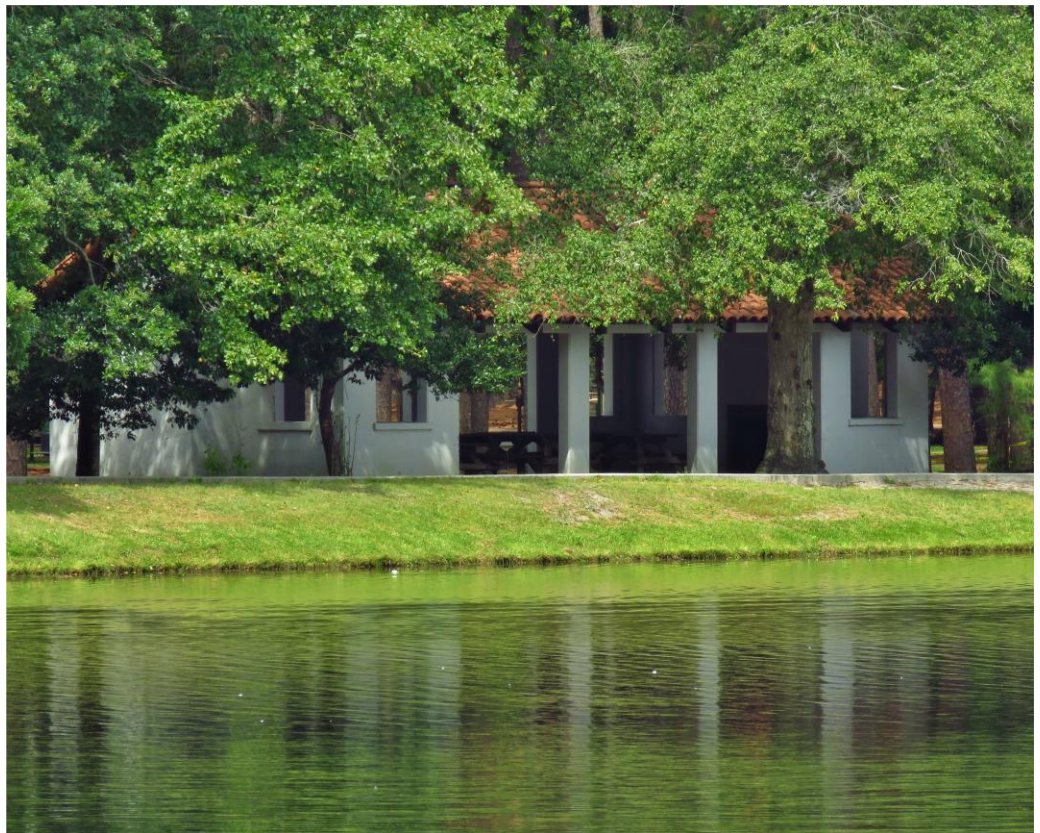


Divers working underwater at the Page-Ladson site. Image by S. Joy, courtesy of CSFA

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 a total of 102 adults, 35 juniors, for a total of 137 members in our club. So glad you all ate here! Let me know if anything changes, or you have any issues, questions, or problems with your membership!

Sincerely,

Liz Gregory

Membership Chair

membership@cgms.rocks

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

Bugs 4D

Explore the extraordinary hidden world of bugs! Narrated by the beloved Dame Judi Dench, Bugs 4D brings viewers on an up-close-and-personal adventure in the Borneo rainforests, using cutting-edge technology that magnifies these insects up to 250,000 times their normal size. Join the amazing giant Asian mantis and stunning swallowtail butterfly and many more as they hatch and grow in this unforgettable, spectacular 4D Experience® that reveals the tremendous life of bugs!

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. Narrated by Academy Award® winner Morgan Freeman

Animal Kingdom 4D: The Wild Awaits

Get ready for an exciting adventure through the wild with *Animal Kingdom 4D*! This action-packed show takes you from the African savannah to icy polar regions and deep ocean waters, bringing you face-to-face with amazing creatures. With stunning 4D effects, you'll laugh, gasp, and cheer as you discover the incredible talents of animals from all over the world. *Animal Kingdom 4D* celebrates how we're all connected to the animal world, inspiring us to protect these creatures and their habitats for the future. It's a fun, immersive journey that'll leave you in awe of the natural world and ready to make a difference!

South Carolina Wings of Wonder :

(Changing exhibit) Guests can explore the diversity of South Carolina birds in *South Carolina Wings of Wonder*, which will feature specimens and objects from the museum's extensive natural history collection. The display will highlight the variety of the nearly 450 bird species in our state. Specimens include both common and less-often seen raptors, shorebirds and songbirds. Also included in the exhibition will be the Decamps bird egg collection, showcasing the beauty and variety of size, shape, and color of bird eggs. Also, a section on the extinct Carolina parakeet that includes the museum's taxidermy specimen and early depictions of the bird by John James Audubon and Alexander Wilson.

Upcoming museum "curator talks"

August 14th, 12:30: Dr. Scott Persons will discuss "The Beasts of South Carolina's Ice Age" with reference to the amazing collection stored in the museum.

Columbia Gem and Mineral Fieldtrip

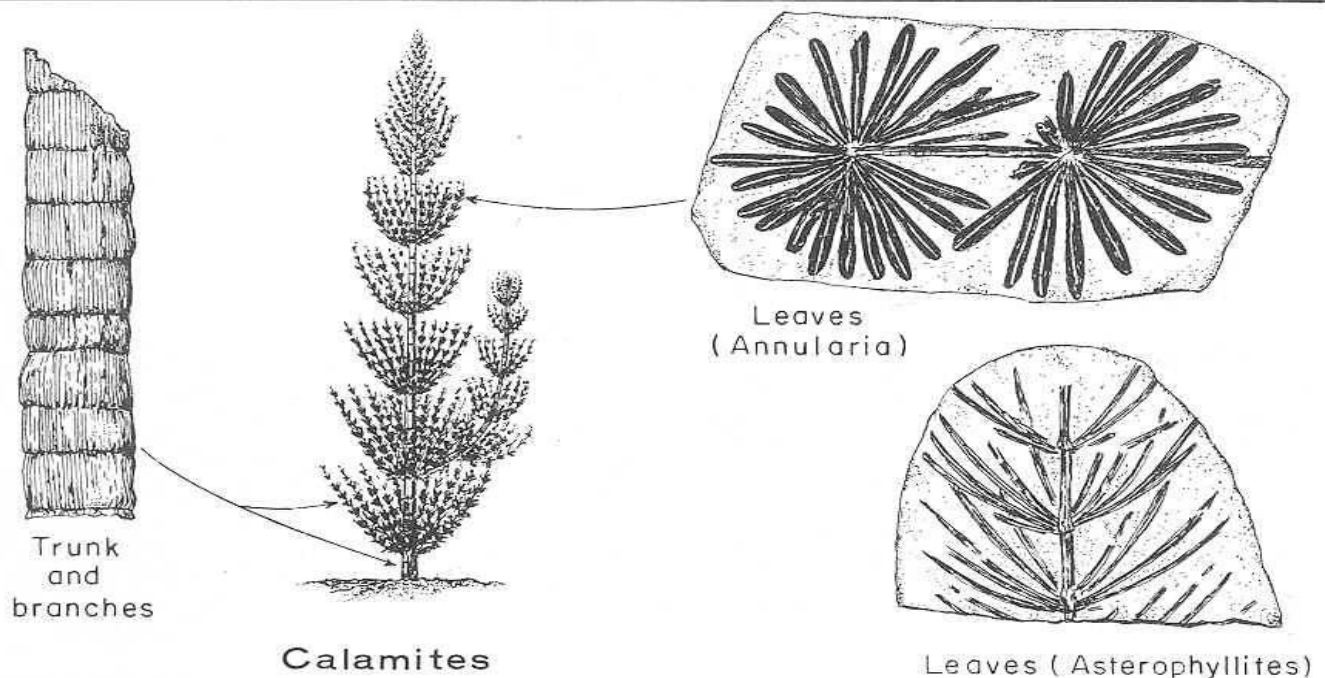
9:30 AM EST

Saturday, September 5th, from 9:45 am (be on time!) to 4 pm

Durham Mines, Walker County, Georgia

Coal Fossils of Durham Mines

The waste dumps of abandoned coal mines near Durham Road in northwest Georgia supply a treasure trove of Paleozoic plant fossils – the leaves, stems, bark and seeds of lycopods, giant horsetails and seed ferns from 300 million years ago when coal swamps flourished in the region. Pennsylvanian age plant fossils from the Rockcastle Formation including Lycopods such as *Lepidodendron*; giant horsetails such as *Calamites* (and its leaves known as *Annularia*); and seed ferns such as *Pecopteris* and *Alethopteris* are abundant and easy to find. The fossils are found by carefully splitting shale on bedding planes revealing the imprints of the fossils. On the following Sunday, an opportunity to collect banded agate will be given to field trip attendees. Below are examples of fossils that were found at the collection site by Ron Ahle

*Pecopteris* sp. Pennsylvanian fern leaf*Annularia* sp. Pennsylvanian fern leaf

This trip is arranged by Casey Tyler for the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society.

Meet: At the site, on Durham Road. In Walker Co., GA. This is in the NW corner of Georgia.

Directions: From Lafayette, Ga. Follow GA Hwy. 136 West for 20 miles, to GA Hwy 157. Turn right, going North on GA Hwy. 157 for 6.0 miles. Durham Road will be on the left. Turn left on Durham Rd. The mines and the parking area are 0.50(1/2) mile on the right. Drive time from the intersection of US 27 and GA 136 West in Lafayette, is approximately 30 minutes. From Atlanta, at the intersection of I-285 and I-75 North, allow 2.5 hours total, using GA 136 Exit #320.

Where to Stay: There are hotels in Lafayette and Trenton that are reasonably close to the site. In addition, Cloudland Canyon State Park, which is very close to the site, has cabins and camping. The State Park has a two-night minimum for both options. In that this is tourist season, please make your accommodations as soon as possible.

You must be a member in good standing to attend this field trip.

Contact: Casey Tyler: swrcool@aol.com or (803) 319-4492.



Club Members showing big fossil plates found on a fieldtrip to Durham Mines back in 2016

58th Annual Columbia Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show**November 20-22, 2026****Jamil Temple**

Show planning is going well. **The next show planning meeting is on Thursday August 20 at 6:30 pm, at the Hunter-Gatherer Brewery at the Hangar, 1402 Jim Hamilton Blvd, Columbia.** All CGMS members are invited to the show planning meetings.

Planning status:

- 22 dealers have confirmed so far.
- Pat Carter will ask members to vote in the August meeting on ideas for the dealer dinner theme.
- The show budget was approved by the executive committee.
- Two specimens have been obtained for the raffle, one donated and one purchased.
- Jim Carter and Angela Valvasori met with Jamil Temple to discuss show details.
- Mandie is arranging classes for home-schooled children to be held on Friday at the show. If you would like to teach, please contact Mandie or Angela.
- Show sponsorship: Members have been contacting businesses to obtain sponsors for the 2026 show. This additional income will help with workshop funding. The sponsors will be recognized in a special booklet given out at the show, on our website and on a banner at the show. We aim to secure commitments by the end of August.
- We will begin passing out flyers and show volunteer sign-up sheets in September.

The table below lists the show committees. Items in blue text are areas where we still need help. Please contact Angela Valvasori if you would like to do these activities (contact info is at the end of the Rocky Trails).

Show 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 Need help with selling sponsorships Need articles for the booklet
Dealer Dinner	Pat Carter
Advertising and Publicity	Posters – Sue Shrader Billboards – Angela Valvasori Posting on event calendars – Sue Shrader Need someone to contact TV and radio stations Need someone to label and mail show postcards
Volunteer Organization	Bri Tribbett
Raffle	Casey Tyler
Mystery Bags	Ron Ahle

Angela Valvasori

Show Chair

AREA SHOWS

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

August 21-23, 2026—MARIETTA, GEORGIA: Annual show; Bellpoint Gem Show; Cobb County Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta Pkwy; BJ; Email: mbellpoint@gmail.com; Website: www.bellpointpromotions.com

September 4-7, 2026—RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA: Retail-only show; Treasures of the Earth, Inc; Kerr Scott building at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Rd; Website: www.TreasuresOfTheEarth.com

September 11-13, 2026—WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; The Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club, Inc; Winston-Salem Fairgrounds Education Building, (569 Fairgrounds Blvd, Gate 7) at the [Winston-Salem Fairgrounds](http://www.winston-salem-fairgrounds.com). - Website: www.forsythgemclub.com

Oct. 2-4, 2026, 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-day pass \$14.00, 12 & under free. All military & their dependents free with ID Card.

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

Geodes sold & cut

Club member's rock collections on exhibit & lapidary demonstrations

Education for the whole family

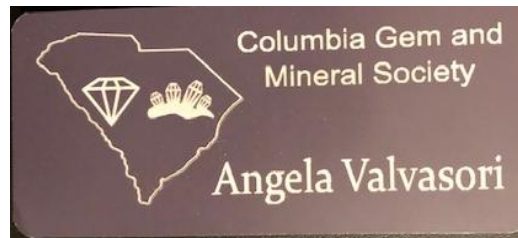
South Carolina amethyst on display

www.cgms.rocks

Patricia Stidom is the dealer's contact.

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



Columbia Gem & Mineral Society **Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil Show**

Jamil Temple
206 Jamil Rd.
Columbia, SC 29210

Nov. 20, 10:00 – 6:00
Nov. 21, 10:00 – 6:00
Nov. 22, 12:00 – 5:00



**58th
Annual
2026**



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



Please Copy

www.cgms.rocks



**\$1.00
Off**

**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.

CGMS Website

Please visit our website:

<http://www.cgms.rock>

Webmaster: Terry Gregory

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.

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.....open
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.....