



# Rocky Trails



April 2026

Volume 21 Issue 4

The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings All,

We are now into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2026 and its time to start planning for our 58<sup>th</sup> Columbia Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. We want to involve every member who is willing to work on the show, including the planning, set-up, working the show and take down. Putting a show of this size can be intimidating, but many hands make for easy work. If each CG&MS member would consider helping in any area of the show it makes the show move easily from beginning of the show to the end. Please consider answering the call for volunteers for our annual show.

We have had several Field Trips so far this year and Casey Tyler, our Field Trip Chair, has more planned for the future. Casey understands that not everyone can travel to far from home and others that love doing just that! Please consider signing up for a Field Trip when Casey announces these trips. If you know of a possible Field Trip site that would make fun adventure let Casey know. He's ready and willing to do what needs to be done to make these Field Trips happen. Cat Sawyer, Program Chair, is doing a wonderful job. She has lined up some great presentations already this year and there are more to come. Keep your eyes open when reading the Rocky Trails as the monthly program will be announced! You don't want to miss out on a great presentation!

I, personally, want to thank our CG&MS' Executive Board for the hard work they put into keeping our club going strong. I hope everyone has a great Easter and we are looking forward to the adventures ahead of us!

Respectfully,  
*Patricia B Stidom*

## **NEXT MEETING**

**April 20, 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:

Ellen Price, a professional geologist from Martin Marietta, will give a presentation on the importance of aggregates in today's society, how they are produced and how the facilities are permitted and engineered.

David Curtis will provide door prizes.

Terry & Liz Gregory will provide refreshments.

## **Executive Meeting**

**April 27, 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 **April**, our speaker will be Ellen Price, a professional geologist with Martin Marietta. She will discuss the importance of aggregates in today's society, how they are produced and how the facilities are permitted and engineered. She will also discuss mines that are located in South Carolina.



Walt Kubilius will give our June meeting presentation. Walt Kubilius is a geologist who retired from Savannah River Site in 2019. At Savannah River Site his work concerned groundwater contamination. As a young man he worked in the mining industry in Alaska, New Mexico, Arkansas, and Nova Scotia. Walt is a long-time member of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Club and President of the Aiken club. I have had the pleasure of knowing Walt for many years and assure you he knows geology! His talk topic is “to be announced.”

## EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES

### March 23, 2026, Executive Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly board meeting on March 23, 2026, at Grecian Gardens at 2312 Sunset Blvd. Members in attendance were Patricia Stidom, Jim Cobb, Angela Valvasori, Ron Ahle, Catherine Sawyer, Steve Coker, Cheryl Coker, Jim Carter, Gary Hert, Terry Gregory, and Liz Gregory. President Patricia Stidom called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

**Treasurer:** Angela Valvasori gave a report on the club's finances. She reported that the storage units rent increased by \$15 per month and SFMS liability insurance increased from \$764 to \$986 for the year. **Secretary:** In Sophie's absence, Angela Valvasori took the meeting minutes.

**Webmaster:** Terry will hold a meeting about the CGMS website renovation. Steve, Angela, Patricia and Ron want to participate. Terry offered to write a description of his position for the CGMS Constitution and Bylaws revision that Ron is working on.

**Membership:** Liz stated that CGMS has 152 members but only 79 have paid their dues for 2026. Liz asked when the non-renewing members are typically removed from the newsletter and club email distribution list. The committee reported that this is done in April. Members are expected to renew in January but are given a grace period to the end of March. Reminder to renew dues has been in the Rocky Trails. It was suggested that Liz send a reminder to those who have not paid yet. Liz will also contact Sue to give her the correct email distribution list so that only members get emails. Angela noted that the Bylaws says members have until March 1 to pay before being removed from the current member list. However, our practice has been to give members to the end of March. Ron mentioned that he is working on the CGMS Bylaws revision and discussed that this type of responsibility, and others that are currently not assigned, be assigned to one or more position(s).

**Programs:** In April, Ellen Price will talk about Martin Marietta. In May, Walt Kubilius will talk - topic TBD. In June, anthropologist Chris Judge will speak about the history of Native American pottery in SC. He requested to give his talk before our business meeting, which the board agreed with. In August, Carol Elliott volunteered to do a live auction and be the auctioneer. It was pointed out that Ron Ahle is the CGMS Auctioneer, so Carol should coordinate the materials and planning with Ron. In November we have the election of officers and Catherine will plan Show and Tell. Ron can give a presentation in October – topic TBD. Catherine is contacting Gwen Geidel who has spoken to us before. In December we have a Christmas Party instead of a meeting.

#### **Show Planning:**

- Patricia presented the changes to the show dealer contract for 2026. She removed duplicate references to the no wholesale clause, as well as updating the dates and small editorial changes.
- Angela will contact Jamil to confirm the show dates of November 20 - 22 with setup on November 21. She will also ask if Jamil will impose a parking fee or has any other "surprises," i.e., changes.
- The scholarship method for show volunteers was discussed. The committee agreed to continue having two scholarships: one for those who work at the show and another for those who work on show preparation. For those who work at the show, we will continue the past practice of entering their name in the drawing one time for every four hours worked. For the show preparation drawing, people who spend up to 30 hours will have their name entered

### EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES (continued)

- once and for those who spend more than 30 hours will have their name entered twice.
- Catherine presented information about the Columbia Convention Center to consider for holding the show next year, since our contract with Jamil ends this year. The rate is \$2995/day, and Jamil will be increasing their price to \$3000/day according to their website. Additional information is needed about the cost of table rental and the provided Security. The Convention Center has a free parking lot and additional parking is available across the street. Carol Elliott is going to find out information about the National Guard Armory on Bluff Rd.
- Jim Carter asked when the show planning meetings will start. Angela will start the planning meetings in April. She is willing to lead the planning committee but would like someone else to be the chair at the show. She will put an article in the Rocky Trails about show planning and mention it at the club meeting.
- The geode price increased about 15% this year. Gary recommends increasing the price of the geodes from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per ounce. Ron Ahle seconded the Motion. The committee voted and approved the price increase.

**Workshop:** Gary noted that the committee approved the increase to the workshop fees in the February executive meeting. He explained that the price of replacement parts has been increasing. Catherine informed the committee that some people have the impression that Gary keeps the workshop fees for himself, but we clarified that the money goes to the club. **Field Trips:** Casey Tyler was not in attendance but sent a report that the field trip to Florida will be cancelled unless he receives 5 people expressing interest this week. Patricia will tell Casey to email the CGMS members about this. The Graves Mountain public weekend is April 17-19.

**Sunshine:** Sheila Frame was not in attendance, but Steve Coker reported that as a heart condition that was detected during a cardiac stress test. He is feeling fine now, but doctors are continuing to investigate the cause. Terri Tokaz's brother is in the hospital in California in serious condition. **Newsletter:** Ron needs input for the Rocky Trails in the first week of the month. If contributors find it too difficult to put their input in the Google Workspace, then they can email it to him. Regarding the list of snacks and door prizes, Sue will send a reminder to the volunteers.

**Historian:** No report. Pat Carter is willing to help organize storage unit, when a group is ready, so that historian records can be reached. **Auctioneer:** Ron stated that CGMS received donations of Diamond Hill quartz from Ronnie Belleggia, worth about \$200. Ron asked if any other donations have been made this year. No one was aware of any. The micro-mounts and microscope that are in the CGMS storage unit are intended to be sold in the auction.

**Workshop Location:** Cheryl investigated several artist cooperatives and the most promising was Gemini in the Rosewood area. It provides space for artists that are leased at a low cost. They are currently full but might have space soon. Cheryl will submit an application in order to get more information. It would provide space to set up equipment for lapidary work, but we would still have to keep the storage unit. Rooms vary in size with the largest about 10' by 12'. Gary stated that we would need two rooms because the saw must be separate from the cab machine so that oil does not contaminate the cab machine. Gary will look at the space with Cheryl and report next month. If any members have questions about property they see for sale, they should contact Cheryl to ensure it meets our available funds and criteria.

**EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES (continued)**

**New Business:** Meeting location: Catherine provided information from Seven Oaks Park in Irmo which rents rooms for meetings in case we wish to move. The multipurpose room seats 50 and rents for \$50/hour. For now, we will stay at Hope Church. The agreement with Hope Church has been signed for 2026, with no change from last year.

Ron is working on the CGMS Constitution and Bylaws revision that is to be done every 5 years. He will review proposed changes with his committee, then present the information to the executive committee next month. He will send the draft to the executive committee prior to the meeting. Once changes are approved by the executive committee they will be presented to the general membership.

Patricia adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Angela Valvasori*

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on March 16, 2026, at Hope Church. President Patricia Stidom called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Patricia thanked Laura Bailey and Catherine Sawyer for the snacks and Sue Shrader for the door prizes.

**Field Trips:** Casey Tyler gave a field trip report. CGMS will have a field trip to collect calcite clams and fossilized shells in Vero Beach, Florida on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (*fieldtrip canceled due to lack of participation from members*). There will be a \$75 fee per person which will allow you to collect one 10-gallon bucket of material. The field trip will be on private property digging through tailing pits. Please speak to or email Casey if you are interested in attending. (*fieldtrip canceled due to lack of participation from members*).

**Program:** This month Ashby Gale, of Charleston Fossil Adventures, gave a presentation titled “A Tour of the Jurassic Cliffs of Yorkshire (Whitby, UK).” As a part of Charleston Fossil Adventures’ 10 Year Anniversary, they will be hosting a trip to the UK to search for ammonite fossils (one seat remains). Ashby gave a fantastic presentation about searching for and identifying ammonites near Whitby. He also identified fossils that club members brought to the meeting. Charleston Fossil Adventures is also hosting more events to celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, including:

- Free beer tasting and premier of Ashby’s YouTube video of his UK Ammonite trip at Indigo Reef Brewery on March 23, 2026, from 6 to 9 pm in Charleston.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Meg Hunt- A hunt for megalodon teeth on Folly Beach on April 11<sup>th</sup>
- A free fossil walk on Holden Beach on May 25<sup>th</sup>

Thanks to Ashby for returning to CGMS and giving a great presentation!

Patricia adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sophie Grimsly

## News Worth Digging Up

### The significance of the Artemis II moon photos

Source: Time Magazine

Date: April 7, 2026

By Jeffrey Kluger

“The last time human beings took pictures in the vicinity of [the moon](#) the world was an awfully analog place. [Apollo](#) astronauts would hand carry cameras into space and hand deliver them back to Earth, where [NASA](#) technicians would hand develop the physical film inside. No images could be released to the public until after all of that happened.

Things are different today. The crew of [Artemis II](#)—the first astronauts to venture to the moon since the flight of Apollo 17 in December 1972—have been beaming back images captured both on digital cameras and iPhones since their launch on April 1. On April 6, they swung around the [far side](#) of the moon and fired back a fusillade of photos of the moon, the Earth, and life inside the cockpit from which the crew of four observed both worlds through their spacecraft’s five windows.”



NASA

At the top of the image above are the large basins, or seas, which characterize the lunar hemisphere that always faces us. The bottom half of the image is part of the moon's far side, which is always turned away from the Earth. The dark patch in the middle of the image is Orientale basin, an ancient 600-mi.-wide lava flow that straddles the near and far sides.

To see more amazing imagery go to: [The Significance of The Artemis II Moon Photos](#)

## CLUB PICNIC

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 (screech owl) was taken this year by Ron Ahle at Sesqui.)*



### Social Media Helps our Club Stay Social!

CGMS website: [www.cgms.rocks](http://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](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

Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues for the year! If you need a membership card, to use on field trips, please see me at one of our meetings! If you ever have any change of information, such as email, or phone or address, please let me know! You can fill out a new form at one of the meetings or email me at [membership@cgms.rocks](mailto:membership@cgms.rocks).

I am loving getting to know you all! Thank you, again!

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

**Habitat Earth**

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

**Mars: One Thousand One:** takes viewers away from planet Earth, into space, and across our solar system to our neighboring planet. This thrilling planetarium experience follows the fictional story of the Mars IRIS 1 mission, a daring 1001-day voyage to fly an international crew to the planet and return them safely to Earth. The crew faces a few dangers along the way, including a solar coronal mass ejection that threatens their safety. And, once on Mars, viewers will see the team work on the planet's surface, exploring the landscape, looking for water, and retrieving rocks in a search for the history of water.

### CGMS Fieldtrips

Casey Tyler, our fieldtrip coordinator, has developed two exciting fieldtrip options for CGMS members. If you are interested in either of these, it is very important that you contact Casey to let him know. Text Casey Tyler at (803) 319-4492 to RSVP. As a reminder, only CGMS members are allowed to attend CGMS fieldtrips

Date: May 23, 10 am

Destination: Franklin, NC – Ruby Mining

Trip Organizer: Casey Tyler, Field Trip Chair

Contact: 803-319-4492 [fieldtrips@cgms.rocks](mailto:fieldtrips@cgms.rocks)

Meeting point will be determined once we have interest in going.

We have two mine options and the fees mostly depend on our group size.

Option 1: Less than 15 people we go to the Mason Corundum Mine for rubies and sapphires.

6961 Upper Burningtown Rd, Franklin, NC 28734

- all-day native dirt dig (9 AM – 4 PM)
- The Dig buckets, rinse at sluices
- Bathroom + shop with specimens & jewelry

Option 2: 15+ people we go to the Mason Mountain Mine & Cowee Gift Shop (better value)

Located off of HWY 28 5.5 miles north of Franklin

- all-day native dirt dig OR \$500 for a private pile (cheaper per person if group is large enough)
- Rhodolite garnets, mica, rubies, sapphires
- Bathroom on site

Money will be collected early once we confirm the group size and which mine we use.

What to bring:· Closed-toe shoes (no sandals) · Warm weather clothes (layers; it can be cool in the morning) · Shovel (small garden shovel works) · Bucket · Ziploc bags or pill bottles (to keep your rubies, garnets, and sapphires safe) · Sunscreen, water, snacks/lunch

If you're interested, sign up at the April meeting or contact Casey Tyler ASAP – we need a headcount to pick the right mine.



17 carat Pink Sapphire collected by Ron Ahle at the Mason Corundum Mine

### CGMS Show Planning and Preparation

The annual Columbia Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show will be held November 20 to 22, 2026 at Jamil Temple. The show accomplishes a number of goals: it provides a great venue to enhance collections of minerals and fossils and purchase jewelry-making supplies, it is a place to introduce like-minded people to CGMS, and it is our largest fundraising event that is fun for us and our attendees. This will be our 58<sup>th</sup> annual show so we have lots of show planning experience to help it run smoothly. The first show planning meeting will be in May (date TBD), and the team will meet about once per month up to show time. Whether you would like to be involved in specific tasks or just want to help with decisions, all CGMS members are invited to the show planning meetings.

The planning categories, chairpersons and descriptions are:

- Dealers and Layout: Patricia Stidom and Tom Stidom.
  - Contracts are sent to previous show dealers, and they indicate if they are returning and how many tables they will need. After they have had time to respond, the show is opened to other dealers. The chairperson talks to the dealers and finds out their preference for location. Then a layout is drawn and given to Jamil Temple for setup.
  - Patricia would like to pass the chairperson position on to someone else next year, so this is a good opportunity to learn how it is done if you are interested in working with our dealers.
- Geodes: Gary Hert, co-chair Jim Carter.
  - Prior to the show, this committee orders the geodes and readies the equipment.
- Dealer Dinner: Pat Carter.
  - CGMS provides a buffet dinner for the dealers on the day of setup. This is a special treat for the dealers, and they are very appreciative of it. Pat and her committee plan the meal and signup volunteers to bring dishes.
- Advertising and Publicity: Committee positions are open.
  - This committee designs the flyers and posters (*Sue Shrader will do this*), posts the show on event calendars on websites (we have a list), arranges for billboards (*Angela will do this*), contacts TV and radio stations, and sends out show reminder postcards and emails.
- Volunteer Organization: Chair position is open.
  - This person signs up volunteers to help at the show, including setup and teardown, and organizes them so we have the right number of people at each post.
- Raffle: Chair position is open.
  - The planning consists of ensuring we have 1 or 2 raffle prizes, have raffle tickets and organizes selling of the tickets at the show.
- Grab bags and salted mine: Ron Ahle.
  - Ensure we have sufficient material for the salted mine and put together grab bags for the show.

### CGMS Show Planning and Preparation

- Show Pamphlet with Sponsorships: The details were developed last year but we did not have time to implement it. If the show committee decides to proceed with it this year, then it will need a chair.
  - The chair will organize volunteers in obtaining sponsorships from local businesses, create a show brochure which features the sponsors and create a banner with sponsor names. The talking points and a draft brochure were developed last year and are ready to be deployed.

I am also looking for someone to oversee show operations from setup through teardown as I will be busy with Treasurer activities.

If you are interested in leading or helping with one of these activities or show planning in general, please come to the May meeting. I will send out an email once the meeting date is decided.

Please contact me at [treasurer@cgms.rocks](mailto:treasurer@cgms.rocks) if you have any questions prior to the meeting.

Angela Valvasori  
Show Chair

### News From SFMS from Cindy Reed, SFMS Loadstar Editor

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

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ThyzFENxmw15huIxFOazbWQDIWmPis-6/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 April link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zpFJgNtKGWpfG1HshRJ169ZsV6VAYKey/view>

The T-shirt design contest is still underway. Please read the President's letter on page 1&2 regarding the rules and suggestions. You could win a scholarship to one of the SFMS workshops. The minutes of the quarterly meeting are located at the end of the Lodestar. Be sure to check out David Liles article on Summerville Agates. 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

**Graves Mountain  
Rock Swap and Dig  
April 17, 18,19  
Lincolnton, Georgia**

As of this posting, the dig is scheduled for April 17-19. No reservations are needed. If something changes, it will be posted here.

The mountain will be open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All attendees must stop at the welcome table to sign a liability release and make a contribution/donation to help with the cost of providing porta johns, four wheeled vehicles, and golf carts. The dig will end, and everyone must be off the mountain by 6:00 p.m. each day.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be set up for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to set up a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. There will be an area in the parking lot for vendors to sell and trade minerals. If you would like to set up a booth, contact Jr. at the phone number listed below. Hot food and drinks will be available for purchase on the mountain all three days.

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

Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706-359-1544 (his business) or 706-401-3173 (his cell)

**THIS DIG IS OPEN TO ALL CLUBS and ROCKHOUNDS!**

**GRAVES MOUNTAIN CODE OF CONDUCT!**

Park your vehicle in the designated area at the end of the paved access road.

ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash. The caretaker, Jr. Norman has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work. Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!). STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS! NO RAPPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING! NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!) EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY 6:00 p.m. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

**DIRECTIONS:** From Washington Georgia, drive east 11 miles on SR-378, look for mine entrance on right. From the Hardee's in Lincolnton, Georgia, drive approximately 5-1/2 miles west on SR-378. Look for the sign at the entrance to Graves Mountain on the left side of the road.

Motels and Camping:

Cullars Inn, Lincolnton, Georgia, 706-359-6161

Soap Creek Lodge, Clarks Hill Lake, Lincolnton, 706-359-4100

Elijah Clark State Park, 706-359-3458 / 800-864-7275

## AREA SHOWS

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

**April 18–19, 2026...ORLANDO, FL:** Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Inc. is hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show Saturday 9am to 5pm and Sunday 9am to 4pm. Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Admission: Adults \$6, Kids \$3 and Scouts in uniform free. Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or e-mail: [ssfossilhunter@aol.com](mailto:ssfossilhunter@aol.com).

**April 18–19, 2026...MEMPHIS, TN:** Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society is hosting the Memphis Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show. Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd, Memphis, TN 38120. Sat. 9–6, Sun. 10–5. Admission: Adults \$6.00. Children 12 & under \$2.00. Free Parking.

**April 18-19, 2026....ORLANDO, FL:** Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society; Saturday 9AM - 5PM, Sunday 9AM - 4PM; Admission: Ages 16 and up is \$6.00, Kids 6-15 \$3.00; Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806; Enjoy demonstrations, kid activities, door prizes, and silent auctions. Link: [www.cfmgms.org](http://www.cfmgms.org)

**April 26, 2026...Marietta, GA:** Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society Annual Spring Rock Show and Swap. Free event! 10am to 4pm Saturday April 26th rain or shine. We will have outside dealers and demos in our lapidary shop. 516 West Atlanta Street, Marietta, GA 30060.  
Link: [www.ccgms.org](http://www.ccgms.org)

**May 2-3, 2026... Hixson, TN:** Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Society; Rock Your World: A rock and mineral ,jewelry and fossil show and sale. 10 am-4pm eastern each day. 25 + vendors, rocking fun events for the kids, ongoing demonstrations, educational displays, door prizes. Free admission and parking. Chester Frost Pavilion, Chester Frost County Park, Hixson TN 37343.

**May 8-10, 2026... FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA:** Annual show; Franklin Gem & Mineral Society; Carpenter Community Center, 1288 Georgia Road, 441 South; Varshana Dholakia, (828) 342-3135; Email: [FranklinGemSociety@gmail.com](mailto:FranklinGemSociety@gmail.com) ; Website: FGMM.org

**May 8-10, 2026... MARIETTA, GEORGIA:** 57<sup>th</sup> Annual show; Georgia Mineral Society; Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy SE; contact Jane and Robert Stone, (717) 304-7178; Email: [mayshow@gamineral.org](mailto:mayshow@gamineral.org) ; Website: gamineral.org

**May 15-17, 2026... FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA:** Franklin Gem Show May 2026; Watauga Festival Center, 6295 Sylva Road, Franklin, NC Join us for an unforgettable experience at our Franklin gem show. Explore unique gemstones, connect with exhibitors, and discover the latest trends in lapidary arts. GLW, INC

**May 22-24, 2026... SALEM, VIRGINIA:** Annual show; Salem Gem and Mineral Show; Salem Convention Center, 1001 Roanoke Blvd; Salem, VA; Alan Koch; Website: [americangemshow.com](http://americangemshow.com)



**UPPER ABBEVILLE  
GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

**April 24 & 25, 2026  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Daily**

**Location:**

**Abbeville Civic Center**

404 N Main St. Abbeville, SC 29620

Discover beautiful gems, minerals, fossils, crystals,  
Indian artifacts and more!

Vendors, Food, Displays, Door Prizes and  
Fun for all ages.



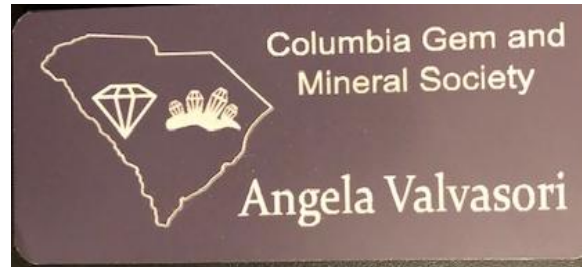
**FREE Admission & Parking**

Come explore treasures from below the earth's surface!

**For more info, contact David Brown @864-884-7219 or  
Amos Cunningham @ 864-992-7843**

### 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](mailto: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.



# Columbia Gem and Mineral Society



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year \_\_\_\_\_

(Membership Year runs January 1 – December 31)

<https://www.cgms.rocks>

Check one: **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

	<i>Jan 1</i>	<i>July 1</i>
Individual	\$25 _____	\$12.50 _____
Family	\$30 _____	\$15 _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

For those with privacy concerns: If you do not want your home phone or physical address published in the Club Roster please circle or highlight: No phone No address.

**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP:** Spouse and children under 18 yrs. living at the same address.

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CLUB PARTICIPATION:** Please indicate which committee you can help with:

Field Trips\_\_ Membership\_\_ Newsletter\_\_ Programs\_\_ Social\_\_ Faceting Guild\_\_  
 Workshop\_\_ Show Chair\_\_ Publicity\_\_ Sunshine\_\_ Rookie Rockhounds\_\_

May we call on you to work with a Board Member on a committee or project? \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Columbia Gem & Mineral Society (and) mail to: PO Box 6333  
Columbia, SC 29260

Previous Membership in another Mineral Society? Club \_\_\_\_\_  
 Have you held an office in another club? Club/Office \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you collect minerals and/or fossils? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What lapidary skills and interests do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

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..... treasurer@cgms.rocks  
 Secretary..... Sophie Grimsley.....

#### **COMMITTEES**

Membership ..... Liz Gregory.....membership@cgms.rocks  
 Auctioneer..... Ron Ahle.....  
 Club Liaison..... Jim Cobb.....  
 Faceting Guild..... Tom Daniels.....  
 Facebook..... Sue Shrader .....  
 Field Trip..... Casey Tyler.....  
 Historian..... Angela Valvasori.....treasurer@cgms.rocks  
 Librarian.....Sheila Frame.....  
 Newsletter Editor.....Ron Ahle.....  
 Program..... Catherine Sawyer.....  
 Show.....open  
 Sunshine ..... Sheila Frame.....  
 Website..... Terry Gregory ..... website@cgms.rocks  
 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**