



Rocky Trails



February 2026

Volume 20 Issue 2



The Newsletter of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good day to all!

As I think back over this past year and look forward to what is to come this year, there is still so much needed to get us to where we should be as a large club. My goal in 2025 was to make finding CGMS a home of our own a reality. A place where we can share, teach, learn and to store all that the CGMS has. If any of our members know of such a place, let me know! We truly do need a place of our own.

I know that Cat Sawyer is working hard to get us some great presentations for this year and I'm looking forward to **February 23 to see what SC Geology has for us!** Ashby Gale with Charleston Fossil Adventures is coming up in March! Ashby always has some great things to show and talk about! I know Cat is going to bring us lots of great presentations for the rest of year and if you know of someone that would be a good fit for us let Cat know and she'll be glad to talk with them and see what they say!

We need our members to be involved with our presentations, as well as our Field Trips! Casey is working hard to get us out into the great outdoors to find great things that are in the ground waiting for us to dig them up! If anyone has any ideas for Field Trips let Casey know.

Well, I've said all I can say for this month! Y'all take care of yourself, dig safely, and I hope to see everyone February 23 at SC Geology! HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Patricia Stidom
President CGMS

Editor's notes:

There are **6 fieldtrips** listed in this issue of the Rocky Trails. See if you can find them all! One last note, there's a membership form on page 19 or at [Join Our Club | Columbia Gem & Mineral Society](#). Don't forget to join or renew your membership.

NEXT MEETING

February 23, 2026

The February 2026 CGMS meeting will be on **Monday February 23**, which is the fourth Monday of the month instead of the regular third Monday. The meeting will be at the SC Geological Survey instead of at Hope Church. Meeting time is 7 pm. Please meet at the Geological Survey.

The address is:

**South Carolina Geological Survey
5 Geology Road
Columbia, SC 29212**

For the program in February, Scott Howard, State Geologist, with the aid of his SCDNR team, will cover a range of topics such as history of the Geologic Survey, current projects, how geology data contributes to the betterment of the State, long-range plans and projects, and current capacities and expertise.

Since this is at an alternate location, we will not have refreshments, door prizes or the business portion of the meeting this month.

Executive Meeting

February 16, 2026

Dinner: 6 pm, Meeting: 7 pm

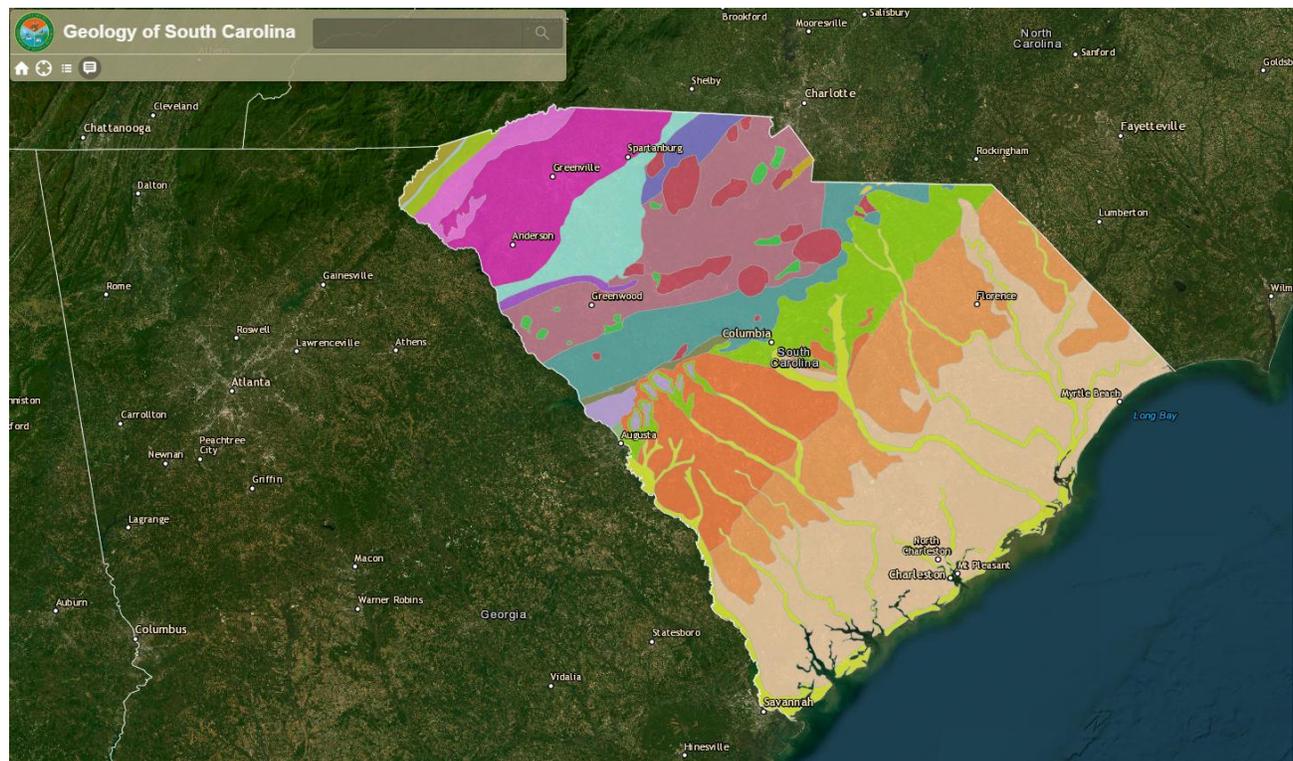
Grecian Gardens, 2312 Sunset Blvd.,
West Columbia. Members are welcome to attend. Only executive members can vote.

About the Programs

The program for February will be a visit to the State Geological Survey complex where Scott Howard, State Geologist, with the aid of his SCDNR team, will cover a range of topics such as history of the Geologic Survey, current projects, how geology data contributes to the betterment of the State, long-range plans and projects, and current capacities and expertise. Note that the meeting will be on the **fourth Monday, February 23rd at the SC Geology Survey Office off Broad River Road at 5 Geology Rd.**

For our March meeting, we will be welcoming back Ashby Gale, paleontologist from Charleston, who will be giving a presentation on ammonites. Come Join Ashby as he recounts his trip to the Yorkshire coast of England. Ashby will cover his trip from start to finish, sharing information about the geology of Yorkshire. On hand will be ammonite specimens Ashby collected dating back to 183 million years. After his presentation, Ashby has agreed to ID fossils, so bring fossils for identification. Ashby will also have copies of his book “A Beachcomber’s Guide to Fossils” for sale, and if you purchase one he will sign it for you.

In April, Our speaker will be Ellen Price who will talk on a subject related to Martin Marietta mining company.



Click on the link for a detailed map: [Geology of South Carolina](#)

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**January 19, 2026, Monthly Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society**

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly meeting on January 19, 2026, at Hope Church. President Patricia Stidom called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM. Patricia thanked Olga Hall for the snacks and Ron Ahle for the door prizes. CGMS still needs volunteers for door prizes and snacks for the March general meeting and onward.

Patricia reminded the club that next month our club meeting will be a little different than normal. We will be meeting at the State Geology Office on the 4th Monday of the month (February 23rd, 2026 at 5 Geology Road, Columbia, SC 29212). The meeting will start at 7:00 pm, and there will be no snacks or door prizes.

Angela Valvasori gave a report about the results of the 2025 show:

- Attendance: Friday-323 attendees; Saturday- 599 attendees, Sunday- 300 attendees; Total- 1222 attendees
- 6 3-day passes were sold, 134 military members and family passes were granted
- When asked how they heard about the show: word of mouth brought most people to the show. There were lots of repeat customers, and the next highest category was internet (19%). Billboards represented 7%.
- Net gain for the 2025 Show was presented to the membership. The raffle, which was new this year, had a net gain.

After the show report, Catherine Sawyer stated that she had multiple people ask her for larger size t-shirts than we offered at the show, specifically 2X and 3X. Some also wanted smaller than we had. She stated that it may be worth it to increase the size range of t-shirts offered if we choose to order them again.

Next, Angela did the scholarship drawings (\$625 value to William Holland or Wild Acres) for those who helped plan or who volunteered at the show. 17 people helped plan the show, while 46 people volunteered at the show. There were separate drawings for each category. If the winner is not able to use the scholarship, the 1st alternate will have the opportunity to use it. If they cannot use it, the 2nd alternate will get the scholarship. The original winner for the volunteer drawing was Tom Cox, but he stated he was unable to go, so Angela drew another winner and 2 alternates. The winners are:

	Drawing for Planners	Drawing for Volunteers
Winner!	Pat Carter	Mandy Wenzel
1st alternate	Bri Tribbet	Isabel Wenzel
2nd alternate	Catherine Sawyer	Patricia Stidom

After the drawing Tim Anderson, teacher at William Holland and opal enthusiast, gave the program. Tim gave a detailed presentation and demonstration on how to make opal inlay rings. Thank you Tim for sharing your talent and knowledge with us! Tim also stated that in addition to William Holland, he would also be willing to teach classes at his home, and to reach out to him if you are interested!

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (continued)

January 19, 2026, Monthly Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

Door prizes were drawn, and then Casey Tyler gave an update on field trips:

- There will be a field trip to Keweenaw Peninsula on Lake Michigan May 25th -31st, 2026. CGMS will be looking through copper mine tailing piles (pay to search), for copper minerals, copper replacement and other types of agates, and amethyst on the shore of Lake Michigan. There is also a Mineral Museum in the area that may of interest. Please see Casey if you are interested in joining this trip!
- There is a Dixie Mineral field trip to Diamond Hill in February. Walt Kubilis, friend and member of CGMS and the Aiken club, will be leading the field trip. Ron states that they've opened up new areas/material to dig, and that the price has gone down. Reserve your spot online for the Dixie Mineral field trip, as there are a limited number of spots.

Patricia reminded the club to pay membership dues for the year, and to sign-up to bring snacks or door prizes later in the year. The chair position for Show Planning is open. Please see a member of the executive board if you are interested in volunteering!

Patricia ended the meeting at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sophie Grimsly

Membership Information

If you have not renewed your membership, yet, please consider doing so soon! There are several ways you can do so:

One is to go to our website at www.cgms.rocks and click on the tab at the top called "Join." [Join Our Club | Columbia Gem & Mineral Society](#). You can pay with a credit card online that way, or you can pay with a credit card at one of our meetings by seeing Angela. When you join, please fill out a membership form (either online or printed from *page 19 in this Rocky trails*) to go along with payment.

You can also pay me at one of the meetings using check or cash. Or you can mail in your payment and information to our address at Columbia Gem & Mineral Society, PO Box 6333, Columbia, SC 29260. Please note that we do need to know if any of your information has changed, just let us know! Thank you all! Looking forward to a great year in our club!

Sincerely,
Liz Gregory, Membership Chair

EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. held its monthly board meeting on January 26th, 2026, at Grecian Gardens at 2312 Sunset Blvd. Members in attendance were Patricia Stidom, Tom Stidom, Jim Cobb, Angela Valvasori, Ron Ahle, Steve Coker, Cheryl Coker, Jim Carter, Sharon Sterrett, Dee Iurcovich, Sheila Frame, Asif Bhuiyan, Catherine Sawyer, Gary Hert, Casey Tyler, and Sophie Grimsley. President Patricia Stidom called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Programs: Catherine Sawyer gave a report on the upcoming scheduled programs.

- February- SC State Geologist on the 23rd. The managers are going to talk about the programs at the geologist office. This will be in person at their offices.
- March- Ashby Gale is going to talk about fossils and ammonites. He asked if he could be paid for travel expenses. The board had a vote and approved on paying for Ashby's travel expenses.
- The group then discussed the order and content of meetings to facilitate presenters and the business of the club. Board members discussed the order of presentations, social time and club business. Points made during the discussion covered content of business section, time allotment for presentations, when presentations should go first and length of social time. Catherine requested that Ashby Gale be given the whole 1-½ hour meeting for March because there is lots of interest from the club in hearing his talk and getting their fossils identified. At the end of the discussion, the board agreed that Ashby will get the whole 1-½ hours of allotted meeting time for his presentation. After the February and March meetings, the board wishes to try to start the general meeting earlier in order to make sure there is time for both the business meeting and the programs.

The February Executive meeting will be held on the 16th (the third Monday of the month), rather than the 23rd, to accommodate the State Geologist's office program.

Workshop: Gary Hert stated that he needs approval to purchase geodes for the show next year and replacement pumps for the saws. All voted in favor of providing funding for the purchase of the geodes and pumps.

Field Trips: There will be a DMC field trip to Diamond Hill Mine on the 28th of February. There is a maximum of 40 people, so sign up soon if you would like to go. Casey said that he has been at Diamond Hill recently and there's tons of new dirt, which is good for diggers but not as good for surface collectors. If anyone wants to go and cannot make the DMC trip, talk to Casey and we can possibly plan a trip for CGMS. Also, the Graves Mountain public weekend is April 17, 18, and 19.

Sunshine: John Narang's father passed away, and Sheila sent a card from CGMS. Sheila is also writing a thank you letter to Tim and has sent out some get better soon cards. Pat Hert had surgery and a CAT scan, keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

EXECUTIVE BROAD MEETING MINUTES (continued)**January 26, 2026, Board Meeting of Columbia Gem and Mineral Society**

Treasurer: Angela gave a report of the club's finances. She also stated that it is January, so someone must do a treasurer's audit. Jim and Pat Carter volunteered to conduct the audit. Also, Mandy Wenzel and Pat Carter, winners of the William Holland scholarships, have had their certificates mailed to them.

New Business:

- Bri Tribbett was invited to a STEAM night in Charleston, and she wants to know if she should go and represent the club. Sophie asked if she is going as a part of her job, or if she was invited as a member of CGMS. The board agreed that if Bri was attending already as a part of work that she should feel free to talk about the club, but there is no need for her to go to Charleston solely to represent CGMS.
- Angela stated that there are 12 T-shirts left, and she was thinking of putting a note on the website stating that if you make a donation to CGMS, the donor would get a free T-shirt. The board discussed this and set a minimum \$25 dollar donation amount to get a free T-shirt. Patrica stated that she will send a list of sizes that are left.
- Sue Shrader gave the gem club a donation of a mineral specimens including ones that can be used for next year's show raffle. One specimen in particular is a beautiful fluorite and barite on sphalerite from Tennessee. Some of the donations will be used for door prizes, auction, and grab bags. She also gave lots of documents to the club, which will be with the Historian files.
- Angela gave old workshop files to Gary.
- Dee brought up a possible workshop location. She found a property in Lexington County with a cement building. The building has 8 rooms, 2 restrooms, a kitchen, meeting rooms, and a metal roof. She mentioned that a 501(c)3 doesn't have to be a commercial property, and that this property would just need a development review. She got a list of the process from the county, talked to the fire marshal, water company, created a zone plan drawing, and will attend the county meeting on February 2nd to see if it would be possible for us to use this property. She gave a rundown of the location and cost, and the board discussed if this would be something that the club would be able to afford.
- Tom Stidom is opening a retail store and workshop in Swansea, opening on March 1st! There will be space for workshops, classrooms, and retail/consignment space for makers in the classes to sell their creations. There will be lapidary arts classes as well as things like leather working. He emphasized that this is a plan to enhance the club, not compete with it, and that if anyone has interest in teaching a class to reach out! There also will be an indoor flume.
- Patricia and Ron discussed consolidating some chairs and committees. Terry Gregory will be the webmaster, with social media under him. Asif asked if he could livestream our general club meetings on YouTube Live. The board stated that he would need permission of the presenter and any members who would be in the video, and that they would need to sign the web release.

Patricia adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sophie Grimsly

News Worth Digging Up

Prototaxites May Be Completely Unknown Branch of Complex Life

Source: Science News

Date: January 22, 2026

By Enrico de Lazaro

“For more than 165 years, one of the earliest giants to rise above Earth’s barren land has defied classification. Known as *Prototaxites*, the towering, column-like organism dominated terrestrial landscapes more than 400 million years ago, reaching heights of up to 8 m (26 feet) long before trees evolved. A new study by paleontologists from the University of Edinburgh and National Museums Scotland argues that this enigmatic organism was not a massive fungus, as many scientists have believed, but belonged instead to an entirely extinct lineage of complex life.”

Widespread in early land ecosystems *Prototaxites* was likely consumed by arthropods, thereby playing a significant ecological role during the colonization of land. Yet many years of study have left its biological identity unresolved. A new study by Dr. Corentin Loron and colleagues focused on *Prototaxites taiti*, a species preserved in exceptional three-dimensional detail in the 407-million-year-old Rhynie chert in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The Rhynie chert has been described by Dr. Loron as one of the world’s oldest fossilized terrestrial ecosystems and because of the quality of preservation and the diversity of its organisms, allows for novel approaches to examination such as machine learning on fossil molecular data. “Microscopic imaging revealed a complex internal organization unlike that of any known fungus. The structural, chemical and biomarker evidence suggest that *Prototaxites* did not belong to any fungal group.

“As previous researchers have excluded *Prototaxites* from other groups of large complex life, we concluded that *Prototaxites* belonged to a separate and now entirely extinct lineage of complex life. *Prototaxites* therefore represents an independent experiment that life made in building large, complex organisms, which we can only know about through exceptionally preserved fossils.”

To read more about the fossils and the models used in this research, go to: [Prototaxites May Be Completely Unknown Branch of Complex Life | Sci.News](#) For a copy of the original research publication go to: Corentin C. Loron *et al.* 2026. *Prototaxites* fossils are structurally and chemically distinct from extinct and extant Fungi. *Science Advances* 12 (4); doi: 10.1126/sciadv.aec6277



Image Credit: Matt Humpage

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.

[South Carolina State Museum](http://scmuseum.org/events/upcoming-events/)
<http://scmuseum.org/events/upcoming-events/>

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

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

Hours of Operation:

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

Planetarium/ Theater Shows

BUGS: A 4D Experience®

Explore the extraordinary hidden world of bugs!

Arora

Explore the beauty of the Northern Lights in the new digital dome planetarium experience, *Áróra!*

Habitat Earth

Frances McDormand narrates this full dome planetarium show. The show features stunning visualizations of the natural world.

Museum Special Exhibit:

Apollo 16 & Beyond: South Carolina in Space

This new exhibition explores the Apollo 16 lunar mission and the historic moonwalk of SC astronaut Charles Duke.

CGMS Fieldtrips

Field Trip Announcement: Diamond Hill Mine - A Geological Adventure
(Weather permitting, digging through snow or ice is no fun.)

Join us on Friday, February 21st, 2026, at 11:00 AM at 100 Diamond Mine Rd, Abbeville, SC 29620 (near Antreville, South Carolina) for a hands-on geological field trip to the famous Diamond Hill Mine. This unique site offers a rare opportunity to explore the heart of the Carolina Terrane, a complex geological province that is part of the ancient Appalachian Mountains. The mine is situated within a granitic pegmatite intrusion that cut through older metamorphic rocks. This geological setting created perfect conditions for the formation of spectacular mineral crystals. This is a particularly exciting time to visit, as recent site work has turned over fresh soil, leading to numerous finds of large amethyst crystals—specimens that were considered very rare here just a short time ago. Visitors can also search for quartz (clear and smoky), aquamarine (beryl), garnet, and other minerals.

The mine operates as a pay-to-dig site, with a standard fee of \$20 per person (discounts for seniors and children). Please bring cash and any desired hand digging tools.

Critical Personal Gear: South Carolina's famous red clay is pervasive, slick, and notoriously muddy, especially in late winter. Weather-appropriate, sturdy boots and old clothes you don't mind getting dirty are essential. For anyone planning to use a rock hammer or chisel on-site, protective eyewear (safety glasses) is mandatory, and work gloves are highly recommended. Please prepare for variable February weather with layers, water, and snacks.

We look forward to a day of discovery, learning about the deep geological history of the region while hunting for beautiful mineral treasures!



Contact Casey if you plan on going so he can have a headcount. 803-319-4492 .

Also, there will be a field trip to Keweenaw Peninsula on Lake Michigan May 25th -31st, 2026. CGMS will be looking through copper mine tailing piles (pay to search) for copper minerals, copper replacement and other types of agates, as well as amethyst on the shore of Lake Michigan. There is also a Mineral Museum in the area that may of interest. Please see Casey if you are interested in joining this trip!

**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.gaminerall.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.

February 28-March 1, 2026—JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI: Annual show; Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society; Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, 1200 Mississippi Street Leslie A Lane, (601) 344-8171; Email: rock2lanes@gmail.com; Website: www.missgems.org

March 13-15, 2026 —AUGUSTA, GEORGIA: Annual show; Aiken Gem Mineral & Fossil Society and Augusta Gem & Mineral; Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; \$4 adult, \$6 weekend pass, children under 12 free with adult, cash at door only, please; Grab bags, Geode sales & cutting, Treasure Dig, Member displays • Lapidary demos • Hourly door prizes • Educational resource End-of-show GRAND PRIZE on Sunday! (Attendance not required to win.) Dealers: • Gold • Silver • Fine and everyday jewelry • Loose gemstones • Cabochons • Crystals • Minerals; contact Debra Baer, (803) 295-7897; Email: debbie.aikenrocks@gmail.com; Website: <https://aikengmfs.org/>

March 14-15, 2026...GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA: Annual show; Gaston Gem and Mineral Club; Gastonia Farmers Market, 410 E Long Ave; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission & Free Parking; contact Bob Winstanley; Email: GastonGemAndMineral@gmail.com; Website: gastongemclub.weebly.com

March 20-22, 2026...MARIETTA, GEORGIA: Annual show; Bellpoint Gem Show; Cobb County Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Parkway; Fri. 10-5:30, Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-4:30; contact BJ; Email: mbellpoint@gmail.com; Website: www.bellpointpromotions.com

News From SFMS from Cindy Reed, SFMS Lodestar Editor

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

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1igPycS7T8QM1QkK8IH6_ofiW6BJwpA_K/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 February link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w22DSXSdn35bAL8RKdMHyZKK_mvGRUnX/view?pli=1

The flyer and application for the Rockhound Roundup is located at the end of the Lodestar. Dates are 3/6-8/2026 at the Spirit of the Suwanee Music Park. The 1st quarterly meeting will be held there on 3/7/26.

Be sure to check out David Liles' article on Geology of Yellowstone and info for Alabama Crater Week (March 1-7). You too can be published. Send your submissions to editor@southeastfed.org by the 25th of the month.

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

Cindy Reed, SFMS Lodestar Editor

8th Annual
Southeast Federation
Mineralogical Societies

Rockhound Roundup

March 6-8, 2026
9am to 4pm

Suwanee River Music Park Live Oak, Florida

Join the fun at this outdoor event!

- **Rough Rocks and Slabs**
- **Polished Stones**
- **Handmade Jewelry for Sale**
- **Lapidary & Silversmithing
Tools & Equipment**

*Vendors must
be a current
member of an
SFMS Club or
Join a SFMS
Club.*



For more information contact Barbi Beatty at treasurer@southeastfed.org

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.



Columbia Gem and Mineral Society



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Year _____

(Membership Year runs January 1 – December 31)

<https://www.cgms.rocks>

Check one: **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

	Jan 1	July 1
Individual	\$25 _____	\$13 _____
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: _____

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.....
 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.....open
 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**