

Meeting Information

AGMFS meets every second Friday from January through December, except for July and August. A Club field trip to a museum or other place of interest is scheduled in July/August.

Room 200, Science Building
USC-Aiken Campus
University Parkway
Aiken, South Carolina

Dues: Annual dues are \$20 per family, \$15 for a single membership, and \$2 for a Junior Membership.

Download a **Membership Form** from <www.aikengmfs.org>.

To learn more about our Club, past programs, and upcoming events, check out our award-winning newsletter—*The Hounds Howl*—online.

Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society
P.O. Box 267
Aiken, SC 20802-0267

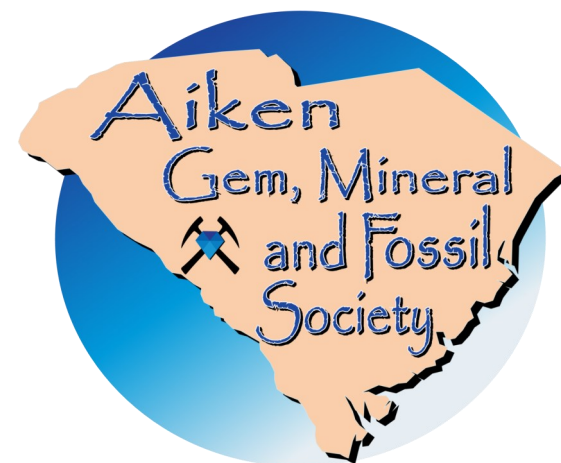
About Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society

AGMFS is a non-profit educational organization affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. (EFMLS), and the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS).

Since its founding in 1962, Club members have had fun learning. A guest speaker is at most meetings. Members collect material for ourselves and to give away to young people on most field trips. A few are non-collecting, so we can learn more about area geology. And AGMFS offers lapidary classes, too!

Our Mission:

- ◆ To stimulate an appreciation of gems, minerals, and fossils
- ◆ To teach about lapidary, mineralogy, paleontology, collecting, and classifying rocks, minerals, and fossils.



<www.aikengmfs.org>

EVENTS

ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW (second weekend in March)

Since 1988, the Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society and Augusta Gem & Mineral Society together have hosted an annual Show. Our own collections are highlighted in case displays and members demonstrate their lapidary skills. Vendors offer exquisite loose gemstones, fine and everyday jewelry, and incredible fossils and minerals from around the world. The Kid's Treasure Dig, Geode Sawing, Grab Bags, and Mineral Mining are popular.

EARTH DAY

In recognition of the importance of our planet's future, AGMFS members teach young people to collect material responsibly according to the AFMS Code of Ethics. This assures a deep appreciation of Earth's resources, safety awareness for themselves and others, the rights of landowners, and a lifelong desire to protect our gem, rock, mineral, and fossil heritage for many generations to come.

SCIENCE EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT DAY (SEED)

October

The Ruth Patrick Science Education Center hosts this event. Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society has had an exhibit at SEED since 1987. The geode cracker, labeled mineral specimens given away to kids, and posters of what fossils, gems, and minerals can be found in our region fascinate kids and parents alike.



EDUCATION

The Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society funds an annual scholarship to the USC-Aiken Geology Department .

Our members can take week-long Federation-sponsored lapidary and other hobby-related courses offered each spring and fall at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts or Wildacres Retreat .

Aiken GMFS members also can go on Dixie Mineral Council (DMC) field trips throughout the Southeastern states. One DMC trip is scheduled each month in addition to AGMFS-sponsored digs.

All Club members follow the AFMS Code of Ethics when collecting specimens on Club and Federation field trips. (The public cannot go on those events because of insurance liability.) Many of our Club members are experts on the materials that can be collected at these dig sites, and we enjoy sharing our knowledge.