

THE HOUND'S HOWL

AIKEN GEM, MINERAL and FOSSIL SOCIETY
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



VOLUME 56, No.8

Nov/Dec 2018



From the Editor...

As this year has passed by so quickly for many of us, especially those who spend their time and talents to keep the club on a steady course, may we look back and ponder the challenges that we faced. Thankfully, our sorrows lift as time passes and life, in general, goes on. It has taken many months for me to accept Shellie's untimely passing and not think of her every day. I'm sure some of you feel the same.

As I communicate with members I recognize the effort that the field trip committee and officers have given to bring us to a successful year. That they are willing to continue is welcome news.

The holiday season is fast approaching when we realize all the goodness in our lives and are grateful for friends and family and remember fondly those we have known but are no longer with us.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Barbara



November 9 Program

Fossils of the Pennsylvanian Coal Forest by Walt Kubilius



One of the amazing things in the world is that all the coal that is mined in the U.S. represents the remains of a giant forest which existed 300 million years ago. This presentation will deal with the kinds of trees that lived in that forest. ☐

(Etching from wikipedia)

December 14 Holiday Meeting

Let us join together to reflect on the past year that seems to have passed so quickly and enjoy this special holiday time with our friends.

Bring food and gifts: pot luck works out fine and hobby-related items (~\$10) for the rather unorthodox "Pirate" gift exchange.

Guaranteed fun for all! At 6 p.m. in Room 212☐.



Upcoming Election

At the **December 14 meeting**, we will elect our officers for 2019. At that time, any nominations will be accepted from the floor. An absentee ballot will be mailed to all members so those not able to attend will have the opportunity to cast their vote.

Those who presently serve have agreed to continue in their positions:

- President – Walt Kubilius**
- Vice President – Debbie Baer**
- Secretary – Sharon Sterrett**
- Treasurer – Kathleen Wallis**
- Editor – Barbara Fenstermacher**

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Member News

Happy November Birthdays

1st - John Whatley
 2nd - Dede Biles
 3rd – Don Horne
 9th – Carl Schmidt
 22nd - Barbara Fenstermacher
 22nd – Cheryl Johnson
 28th – John Potvin

Happy Anniversary

21st – Gary and Pat Hert
 18th - George and Karen Loud

Happy December Birthdays

7th – John Pickett
 9th – Cindy Pearce
 11th – Claire Horne
 12th – Adela Dziekanowski
 19th – Sarah Jolley
 23rd – Robert McDivitt
 23rd – Jim Stoops

Happy Anniversary

3rd – Mike and Jill Potvin



Congratulations!

to Herman Kunis and Gayla DeBose on their September

15 wedding. We wish them all the best in the years ahead – good health, prosperity and happiness.

Your Editor is slowly recovering after a knee replacement on September 25; regular physical therapy continues thankfully with less pain. Hopefully, a new woman arises by Christmas.

Kathleen Wallis has been enduring the effects of shingles since September 18. Her advice – get the shingles shots.

Sue Shrader is recuperating after sinus surgery compounded by dental extraction. She is still gearing up for the Columbia Show on Nov. 16-18. ■



And Halloween Too...



Huge pumpkins artfully sculpted by Chris Glass for Trick or Treat visitors. (Largest has 81-inch circumference.)

October Meeting Minutes

The Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society met on October 12, 2018 in Room 200 of the USC-Aiken Science and Engineering Building. Nineteen people signed in. President Walt Kubilius called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A motion to approve the minutes published in the *Hound's Howl* was made by Chris Glass, seconded by John Kolmar and passed.

Please note that the September meeting was canceled because of the prediction of bad weather from Hurricane Florence.

Kathleen Wallis was unable to attend the meeting but sent in the **Treasurer's Report** which was presented by Sharon Sterrett. The Shellie Newell Fund has \$1155.00.

Debbie Baer gave the **Vice President's Report**. In November, the program on Coal will be given by Walt Kubilius. December will be the holiday party with pirate gift exchange.

John Kolmar gave the **Field Trips Report**. There will be a trip to the Hogg Mine on October 20, 2018. Cunningham Rock Capt II will be on October 27, 2018. Also on October 27, 2018, the Gem and Mineral Exhibit will return to the Bowie Arts Center of Erskine College in Due West, SC. It will focus on four local mines. This exhibit is free and will end on November 7, 2018 (news.erskine.edu for more information.) The Ashley Mine trip will be October 31, 2018. Save the dates of December 9, 2018 and January 19, 2019. John also reported that pottery was found on the Bull Island trip.

Chris Glass reported on the recent meeting of the **Show Committee**. Richard McNutt will be in charge. The show cases have been spoken for. Labeling and bagging of grab bag specimens will start in November.

Old Business: There was no old business. **New Business:** There was no new business but recent member news. Herman Kunis and Gayla DeBose were





married in September. Kathleen Wallis is recovering from shingles. Barbara Fenstermacher had stitches removed from her knee surgery.

The motion to adjourn the Business Meeting was made by Ken Glass, seconded by Patti Bennett and carried. It was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Show and Tell: Miss "N" shared a fossil find from Folly Beach. She also reported it would be her last meeting because her family will be moving to the Charleston area. John Kolmar shared pottery he found at an estate sale. Walt Kubilius shared a piece from a limestone quarry. It contained calcite, dolomite, quartz and pale purple fluorite.

We enjoyed **Refreshments** provided by Jim Sproull and Margaret Marion.

Program: Kim Cochran gave an informative and entertaining program on Kyanite with many specimens for viewing. ♦

Submitted by Sharon Sterrett, Secretary

October Show 'n Tell



"Miss N" shared her fossil oyster in limestone from Folly Beach. (see "Friday Fossil Feature – It would be Folly to pass this site up" [https://blogs.cofc.edu/macebrownmuseum/2017](https://blogs.cofc.edu/macebrownmuseum/2017/02/03/)

/02/03/)



Walt Kubilius brought an unusual find from a limestone quarry. It shows calcite, dolomite, quartz and pale purple fluorite.



John Kolmar's favorite pastime – finding artifacts (in this case, pottery) at an estate sale.

Photos by Ken Glass

Kim Cochran on Kyanite

Kim Cochran was the featured speaker at the October 14 meeting of the Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society with a talk on Kyanite. He spoke of the mineral properties and the commercial uses of this



Kyanite w/ hematite and Pyrophyllite, Graves Mt., Ga.



Kyanite blade, Thomaston, Ga.

mineral and passed around specimens so everyone could see the varying forms of his collection. These included deep blue blades from

Thomaston, Ga., a Graves Mt. specimen along with a sample from Brazil and a cut gem stone.

The large teacher's desk was laden with a variety of specimens from many locations. A few are shown below.



Kyanite w/ tuchsite, Russia (Kolapen)



Kyanite, Rockingham Co., NC



Georgia (Clarksville) Kyanite



Kyanite is an unusual mineral and is well known for its anisotropic property – it has a different hardness depending on the direction it is measured. The vertical hardness of kyanite ranges from 4.5 to 5.5, and horizontal hardness from 6 to 7.

Unlike most other minerals, it can expand significantly when heated. Depending upon particle size, temperatures, and heating conditions, kyanite can expand up to twice its original volume when heated. This expansion is predictable. In the manufacture of certain refractory products, specific amounts of kyanite are added to the raw material (which shrinks during heating) to maintain volume in the finished product. For foundries, the molds that are used for casting high-temperature metals are often made with kyanite.

Kyanite occurs in gneiss, schist, pegmatite, and quartz veins resulting from high pressure regional metamorphism of pelitic rocks. It occurs as detrital grains in sedimentary rocks and is also associated with andalusite and staurolite.■

Kim Cochran

Primo rockhound volunteer educator, organizer and all-around “good guy”



Kim has been with the Georgia Mineral Society since the 1960s while still a student. Over the years he increased his memberships in many mineral and fossil groups in the Southeast and volunteered in diverse capacities. He has been president and show chair of Georgia MS, past-president of Cobb County GMS, Cotton Indian GMS and N. E. Georgia MS in Cornelia, Ga. He has been an active member and held office in many more mineral and fossil groups. He is currently a member of AGMFS as well as the Columbia GMS and has helped with both shows.

In 1983, Kim began identifying and setting up mineral displays for the Weinman Mineral Museum in Cartersville, Georgia. He was asked to stay on as curator and held that position until the city of Cartersville took over the Weinman and wanted to allow some museum board members freedom to access the collection. Kim did not agree with letting those without mineral experience handle delicate and rare minerals while he was in charge. He left and Jose Santamaria

took over before the museum was expanded to become the current Tellus Science Museum.

Kim used to give over a hundred talks a year to groups all over the Southeast. It was not unusual for him to give two or three a week from late spring to early fall. Today, his schedule still keeps him on the road, however, he has cut back due to the higher costs of gas and travel.■

Program Review and Bio by Chris Glass

Photos by Ken Glass

Rockhound Roundup July Trip Report

Seven members of the AGMFS traveled to North Carolina on July 26 for the annual Rockhound Roundup sponsored by the Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association. The headquarters for the event was at Camp Stephens in Arden, NC. The first day everyone visited the various vendors who had set up shop at Camp Stephens. There were many vendors present so there were many tempting delights for our shoppers.

Later that day everyone was eager to begin specimen hunting. First on the list was Sinkhole Mine in Mitchell County. This is among the oldest of the mica mines in the area. Archaeological evidence has shown that it was first mined by local Indians before the first settlers ever arrived in the area. Commercial mining was done here from 1867 to the 1960s. Minerals which can be found there include pegmatite, muscovite mica, moonstone, garnet, quartz, and apatite. Everyone found lots of mica books. Margaret Marion found a beautiful specimen of garnet in matrix.

After a restful night's sleep, the group arose early and traveled to Crabtree Emerald Mine which is also in Mitchell County. Emeralds were first discovered in this area in 1890 when a local farmer dug one up while plowing his field. Mining operation began here in July of 1894 and continued until the late 1970s. While the original mineshaft is flooded and no longer accessible, small emeralds and other gems can still be found here. Margaret Marion again proved the superior gem miner of the group as she found many small emeralds. Mark and Nancy Pitts also had a lot of success here.

Early Saturday morning, our intrepid miners headed out to Little Pine Garnet Mine in Madison County. This mine was an operating mine until the early 1950s. Tiffany's of New York mined here for gem quality garnets in the 1940s. Besides garnets, soapstone was also mined here and sent to a mill in nearby Marshall, NC to be ground up into talc. The current owners bought this site in 1961 and began allowing amateur miners to dig here. Here one can either go thru the spoil piles at the mouth of the mine or go into the mine itself.





John Kolmar had the first find of the day; he found an impressive garnet crystal in the spoil piles. Mark Pitts was the only one of the group who was adventuresome enough to go into the mine (the floor is very slick due to the soapstone). He was rewarded with a very nice garnet crystal. However, the rest of the group did not go away empty handed. Everyone found excellent garnet crystals in the spoil piles, with Herb Martin finding three good ones. Jim Sproull and Margaret Marion tried the nearby creek, where they found a quantity of nice garnets.

The weary adventurers then headed back to Aiken. All agreed it was a great trip. ■

Linda and John Kolmar

Dig at Hogg Mine in LaGrange, GA

Dede Biles and I were the only Aiken participants to the DMC trip to the Hogg Mine on Saturday, October 20 in LaGrange, Ga. We left on Friday meandering down back roads to LaGrange. It is a scenic drive that allowed us to see several antique shops and galleries on our trek. We discovered that one shop sold unique jams and jellies including beet jam, strawberry preserves honeysuckle jelly and Beer Belly jelly.

For those not familiar with the Hogg Mine it is a site associated with rose quartz, beryl and aquamarine in the past. When it was newly opened for digging some spectacular beryl crystals surfaced. I was here several times in the past when people unearthed large crystals with major effort. The site used to have huge boulders of an almost deep-reddish rose color.

The day we were there most of the boulders we saw ranged from a deep pink to whitish quartz near the back of the mine area. Some lovely translucent pink pieces surfaced suitable for cutting that were carefully wrapped by collectors. It has an asterism effect in cut and polished cabochons because of rutile inclusions.

Today the dirt at the mine has been turned over several times by machines so beryl collecting is hit or miss but can still be found with serious excavating. I came to the site for rose quartz and mica to help fill grab bags. There were plenty of light rose quartz chips perfect for that but the deep rose color of the past was scarce.

New veins are starting to be explored so there is a chance that more interesting things will be found. Dede found some beryl along with nice specimens of rose quartz. We were happily collecting when caught in a brief downpour. This rain caused a lot of participants to leave. After the storm the rain exposed fresh material so Dede and I went back to collecting until a steady rain set in for the rest of the day.

The Hogg Mine is expanding with new trenches so it will be worth a future trip to see what material might turn up. ■

Chris Glass

Bulls Island Find

Jim Sproull and Margaret Marion enjoyed their September 9 beach trip, via Coastal Expeditions, to Bulls Island, part of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. The highlight was discovering three pieces of Native American pottery but sadly were not permitted to keep. They gave these to the captain who said they were roughly 4000 years old and were made from red clay which was not indigenous to that area. This supposedly proved that these Native Americans traded with tribes from North Carolina, Georgia or farther west.

We found lots of different shells and had a fabulous day. ■

AGMFS Field Trips

Saturday, Nov. 3 – Ashley Mine in Due West, SC.

Open from 9am-3 pm. \$25 per person – pay at the mine. Make sure to take digging tools, bucket, snacks, and drinks.

Sunday, Dec. 9 – Museum at Jarretts Rifles in Beech Island, SC.

Fabulous artifact collection. Only 14 slots on this trip. First come, first served. Call John Kolmar at 642-3767.

Saturday, Jan 19 – Trip to Charleston, SC to tour the Mace Brown Museum of Natural History at the College of Charleston and the Charleston Museum. More details to follow.

Editor's Note: It forever intrigues me that after 34 years living in Aiken and following the natural sciences as a vocation and hobby, I have not known about one of the best museums in South Carolina, Mace Brown Museum of Natural History. Upon viewing the website <geology.cofc.edu/natural-history-museum> and noting the scope of the Museum's fossil collection, a visit is most certainly worthwhile and thanks to our field trip committee will be on the club's agenda.



Bench Tips by Brad Smith

Brad Smith's books are at <facebook.com/BenchTips/> or on Amazon.com



Dental Tools

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworded into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort.

A special note however – If you want to modify the shape of the tool, don't try to just bend it with pliers. Working this alloy of steel while it's cold will cause it to snap. Changing its shape can only be done when it's hot. I work it like a blacksmith. Prop your torch up on the bench so that you can use both hands for the work. Have a hammer and bench block ready. Heat the tip red hot, and hammer it straight or bend it with pliers.

And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist or hygienist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you. If that's not possible, pop them in an oven at around 250 F.

Columbia Gem & Mineral Soc. Show

Fri, Nov 16 & Sat, Nov 17 10:00-6:00

Sun Nov 18, 12:00 -5:00

Jamil Temple

206 Jamil Rd. Exit 106A off I -26

Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Cobb County GMS Show

November 16-18

Cobb County Civic Center

548 South Marietta Parkway at Fairground Street

Marietta, Georgia 30060

Exit 1-75 at exit 263

MAGMA Christmas Show

Fri, Nov 30 & Sat, Dec 1 9:00-6:00

Sun, Dec 2 10-4

Camp Stephens, 263 Clayton Rd.

Arden, North Carolina



EFMLS President's Message

by Barbara Ringhiser, President

This month's message is about something that really bothers me – the unevenness of the distribution of clubs within the regions. In talking to the Executive Board, others have notices this too. As this was written in March, I hope that at the convention there were volunteers to join the Bylaws and Procedures committee to examine this and make recommendations for changes.

The table below illustrates the differences. Data in the table is not exact. It was based on the 2017 directory and membership data from 2018.

Region	States or Areas Included	No. of Clubs	Area (sq. mi.)
I	ME NH VT MA CT RI	28	71,987
II	Metro. NY, Rockland, Dutchess, Westchester, LI, NJ	18	11,823
III	Rest of NY, PA	30	141,535
IV	MD DE DC VA	20	57,738
V	KY TN WV	6	106,782
VI	NC SC	3	88,839
VII	MS AL GA	2	155,277
VIII	FL	5	65,758

Regions V-VIII overlap with Southeast Federation . States in bold type also have member clubs in the Southeast Federation.

In Regions VII and VIII, EFMLS has been losing clubs – Florida lost 3 since 2015. Georgia has lost 4 clubs.

Each Regional Vice President can appoint as many area representatives as needed. Email is used extensively by the Regional VP's to keep in contact. The Regional VP's also visit club shows if they can't actually attend other club's meetings.

I have already received one proposal for a realignment. As far as the elimination or addition of regions, it is possible that no bylaws change would be required.

(Editor's note: AGMFS is in Region VI and our Regional VP is Larry Huffman <ldhuff314@embarqmail.com>. He is a member of the Catawba GMC in Hickory, NC.)

Adapted from EFMLS News, May 2018.

To learn more about the Eastern Federation and Southeast Federation and view their newsletters, EFMLS News and Lodestar, visit amfed.org and click on the federation link.



Thanksgiving with Dendrites by The Lapidary Whisperer

I've always loved dendrites in my rocks. Dendrites are markings in stones that look like ferns or trees or other plants -- if you catch them along their long direction. However, when you cross-cut them, you get a bunch of dots like the two



different angles of the same piece of dendritic opal below.

DENDRITE OR PLUME?

In today's blog, I'm taking a strict interpretation of dendrites. Some people like to include plume agates with dendritic agates, but aside from the fact that they look very different to me, Roger Pabian, co-author of "Agates: Treasures of the Earth" has clarified the difference in that he states that Dendrites form inside existing agates and Plumes form first and then are surrounded by agate.



In this picture, the oval on the left is dendritic opal, the oval on the right is plume agate. Notice how the plumes look a bit fluffy? It is further complicated by the fact that not all rocks with dendrites are agates. However, they usually are made of chalcedony, a term used to describe a group of microcrystalline silica-based minerals that include quartz, jasper, and onyx. They are great for lapidary work all coming in at 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness. Another mineral known for dramatic dendrites is Rhyolite which is also a silica-based mineral. It's not a chalcedony because Rhyolite crystals are much larger than the microscopic ones that define chalcedony. Some of my favorite dendritic rhyolite is found in the Sonora area of Mexico (and rock shows!) And then there's dendritic sandstone. Sandstone doesn't have a place on the Mohs scale because it can be so soft you can rub it off with your finger up to something very hard that can be used in construction.

THE INSIDE STORY
From a mineral standpoint, dendrites consist of iron or manganese from nearby rocks that seep into cracks in the chalcedony and crystallize as they harden, creating the fern or tree patterns that make them so popular. In my readings about them, I was disappointed to see that they were nearly always described as black or brown in

color, especially since I have two onyx rocks on my desk right now; one has dark blue dendrites and the other has dendrites the color of burgundy wine. It turns out that manganese oxide comes in a rainbow of colors including pink, violet, green and others.

NOT EXACTLY ONE OF THE ABOVE

Whenever people try to place walls around the natural processes,



there are usually exceptions. This is a picture of a moss agate. Like other dendrites, it forms in the cracks of established chalcedony rocks. The difference is the mineral inclusion is green hornblende. It's as delightful to work as any of the others, and the startling green color is always an eye-catcher!

For all my readers in the USA, have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving. As others begin to prepare for seasonal holidays, I wish you all the best. Right now, I'm working on a blog post about how minerals get inside geodes -- or when you see a channel between the interior of the geode and it's outside is the material expanding and flowing out, or is it the minerals lining the geode flowing in?

Source: *Your Lapidary Whisperer, Donna Albrecht*
<http://www.lapidarywhisperer.com/>

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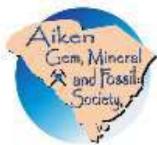
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Hound's Howl
Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

NOV/DEC 2018

**Program: Fossils of the Pennsylvanian
Coal Forest**

November 9 at 7 p.m.
Room 200, USCA Science Bldg.

Holiday Dinner/Gift Exchange
December 14 at 6 p.m.(set up)
Room 212, USCA Science Bldg.



The **Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society** operates as a non-profit, educational organization affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.(AFMS), the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc. (EFMLS), and the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.(SFMS).

The purpose of the Society is to stimulate interest in collection of gem and mineral materials and fossils and to impart knowledge of lapidary work, mineralogy, paleontology, collecting and classification of minerals and fossils, and the application in the art so greater pleasure may be derived from these activities.

The Society meets at 7:00 p.m., second Friday of the month, in Room 200 of the USC-Aiken Science Building located in the University complex on University Parkway in Aiken. There are informal meetings in July and August. The annual dues, payable by December 31, are \$20 for a family membership, \$15 for a single adult membership and \$2 for a junior/student member.

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The Society's web page, www.aikengmfs.org offers more information about the history of the club, our annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, education links and community projects. See photos of our field trips and events on our **Facebook** page.