

THE HOUND'S HOWL

AIKEN GEM, MINERAL and FOSSIL SOCIETY
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



VOLUME 57, No.1

JANUARY 2019

January 11 Program Rockhound Trivia

Presented by
Jim Sproull & Margaret Marion

At our January meeting our members will be challenged to remember information from past newsletters, provide details on experiences from club field trips and digs, recall data about local geography, geology, and history, and remember details from some of our wonderful speakers. The end result of this should be an evening of fun and laughs with rewards earned by a few.

Points are awarded in four categories depending on the degree of difficulty of the clue. Jim and Margaret draw from a supply of clues compiled from past years but also come up with some pertinent new ones. So, usually few participants come up with 100% correct.

The fun comes with the display of uncertainty, anxiety, bluffing, confidence, etc. shown by the "contestants." And the cry "That's too hard!" may even be heard.

The first Rockhound Jeopardy program was initiated by Walt Kubilius and past member Margaret Ritter in January 2005 with eleven members participating; the winner was Kathleen Wallis.■

February 8 Program

Asteroid Hit? Clovis Sites and Platinum

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! We are so excited to have Dr. Chris Moore as our February 8th speaker! He and colleagues have long been researching evidence of a possible asteroid hit approximately 13,000 years ago as an explanation for the extinction of big fauna - and early mankind.

(Is the Hiawatha crater buried under the Greenland ice and possibly formed as recently as 12,800 ya by a ~1.5-km asteroid be the proof?)

January Field Trip

This trip to Charleston will take place on Saturday, January 19. Plan to leave Aiken at 7am with a stop along the way for a brief breakfast. First stop in Charleston is the Mace Brown Museum of Natural History at the College of Charleston (202 Calhoun Street – park in the parking garage on St. Philip Street – turn left off Calhoun St to get to it).

The museum is on the 2nd floor of the building. Everyone needs to be there no later than 10:45 am as the tour starts promptly at 11am. We have a tour guide who will lead us through the museum. There is no admission charged, but donations will be appreciated. The tour lasts approximately 90 minutes.

We will then go the cafeteria at the College of Charleston for lunch. Our favorite little rockhound Naomi (who always had show & tell for every meeting) and her family will meet us at the museum and tour with us. Anyone who wants to bring a specimen to give to Naomi feel free to do so; we all know how she loves her minerals!

After lunch, we will go to the Charleston Museum at 360 Meeting Street (parking is in city parking areas at 23 Ann St (open lot - free) and parking garages at 63 Mary St, 17 John St, or 399 King St (all garages charge \$1/30 min to max \$18/day). The Charleston Museum was founded in 1773 and is one of the oldest operating museums in the US. There are many displays on natural history of the SC Lowcountry. Admission is \$12 each for adults (18 and above), \$5 each for children ages 3-12, and \$10 each for teens age 13/17.

Other future field trips:

February 16, 2019 – DMC Trip sponsored by Athens Rock&Gem Club to Girard, GA. Meet the group at 9 am in the vacant lot just south of the post office.

February 23, 2019 – club field trip to Probst Farm in N. Carolina (just west of Charlotte) to collect corundum. \$25 per person fee. More details to follow.

Linda and John Kolmar



Member News

Michael Potvin – 2nd
 Jessie Donnan – 5th
 Karin Willoughby – 7th
 Ilona Schmidt – 13th
 Diane Provost – 14th
 Carol Jantzen – 14th
 Jenna Potvin – 17th
 Nancy Pitts – 27th



Happy Anniversary

Jan 10 Herb & Patricia Martin
 Jan 19 David Dunlap &
 Sharon Sterrett



News from the Glass household is that Chris is steadily improving after suffering a stroke in early December. She will continue at Walton Rehab this week and then be transferred to another rehab facility or home health care. Ken has been by Chris's side daily and she has made great progress in a relatively short time. Their home address is: 7 Knollwood Blvd., N. Augusta, SC 29841. ■



DUES ARE DUE!!!

The Club's fiscal year ends on December 31 and Federation dues and insurance are paid at that time; also, the budget is determined in January.

It is important that dues are received in a timely manner so the officers and committee chair persons can plan for the new year. A grace period extends to the beginning of March and renewal before the show is encouraged.

A current application form is enclosed.

2018 BEAC AWARDS

Small Bulletins

SFMS & AFMS 1st Place Trophy
 Shellie T. Newell; *Hound's Howl*, Nov 2017

Original Adult Articles Advanced

SFMS 1st Place Trophy & AFMS 7th Place
 Shellie T. Newell; "Ethical Kaolin Mining in Aiken: Field Trip to the W.R. Grace Mining Company" April 2017

▫

SFMS 2nd Place Trophy & AFMS Hon. Mention
 Jerry Lipsky; "Part 2: Do Echinoderms Have a Point?" May 2017

▫

SFMS 3rd Place Trophy & AFMS Hon. Mention
 John Whatley; "Minerals and Microminerals of Graves Mt." June 2017

Written Features

SFMS 2nd Place Trophy & AFMS 6th Place
 John Kolmar; "Our Summer Excursion to Franklin, NC" Oct 2017

▫

SFMS 6th Place Certificate
 Chris Glass; "Gem and Mineral Societies and Education Outreach" Nov 2017

▫

SFMS Honorable Mention Certificate
 Herb Martin; "A Real Gem in Jackson" Feb 2017

▫

SFMS Honorable Mention Certificate
 Shellie T. Newell and Herb Martin; "Buying Diamonds and Other Precious Stones" April 2017 ■

The Story of the Three Shovels

The "pirate gift exchange" is the entertainment at our December Holiday Dinner meeting and every year this adds some unusual surprises.

It always begins with the unwrapping and anticipation mounts depending on how many layers, paper stuffing, boxes within boxes are involved. And sometimes a portion of the gift can be missed within all the packaging. This will result in the giver divulging his/her identify as directions are called out.

One of the first packages to be chosen this year was intriguing because it was long, narrow and large. Hmmm... A prized ~3-ft. shovel was discovered (and a quartz specimen almost missed in the process). The recipient guarded it carefully but knew he was in trouble. Alas, it was quickly pirated and not just once But twice. (New rules allow no further action and the final owner can relax.)

▶ As more gifts were chosen, activity quieted somewhat until one rather unimpressive box showed the contents of another shovel; this one shorter but collapsible!!! Much oohing and aahing undoubtedly with thoughts of digging for field trip treasures. You know what happened to it, of course. (I don't think the original owner, or second owner had possession for more than two minutes.)

To make a long story short, this scenario happened yet a third time; the final shovel was smaller than the others but still coveted by avid field trippers. It was also pirated a few times. By this time, laughter abounded from the audience wondering if there would yet be another one.

(Editor's note: Alas, I have no photos to glorify this story but am following up with a few that were taken.)

The December Holiday Meeting



Debbie and Ken Baer and Paige Jolley appreciate the iridescent color of labradorite rough chosen at the Pirate Exchange. Peeking in the background is Margaret Marion, the elf who helped out Santa (Jim Sproull).



President Walt Kubilius welcomes the members and guests. The holiday spirit is shown in the festive table settings the University arranged for their use.

Jarrett Rifles Trip Report

By Linda and John Kolmar

On December 9, a hardy group of 14 from AGMFS braved the rain to go to the Jarret Museum in Beech Island, SC. This museum has long been the personal project of Mr. Kenny Jarrett, who owns it and has collected all the artifacts and exhibits in it. Everyone could leisurely peruse the museum and study Mr. Jarrett's large collection of Indian artifacts and animal fossils and skeletons. The wildlife section contained



skeletons and taxidermized animals from all over the world. Particularly interesting was a 17-foot alligator that was captured and killed in South Carolina. There was also an entire floor dedicated to Indian

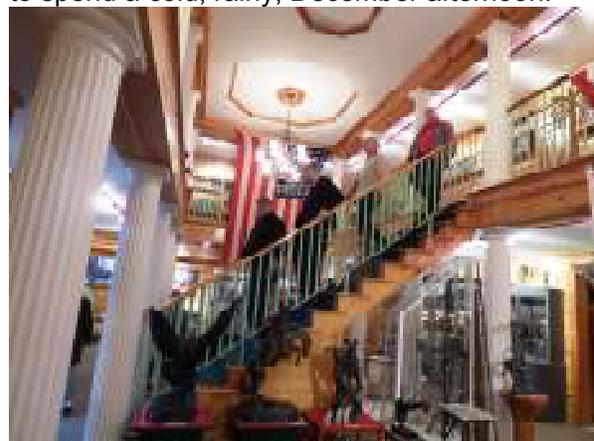
artifacts and fossils.

Afterwards, Mr. Jarrett entertained everyone with



tales of the history of Aiken County, particularly during the Civil War. One interesting fact he told us was about how many animals (mostly horse and mules) were deliberately killed during the war to hinder troop movements (it was over 100,000!).

Overall, it was a very educational trip and a good way to spend a cold, rainy, December afternoon.



John Kolmar, Jim Gee, Debbie and Ken Baer





The Russian Bear

Photos by Herb Martin

2019 EFMLS Wildacres Sessions



Information about the Workshops is now in the January *EFMLS News* and on <www.AMFED.org/EFMLS-wildacres.org>.

You can also download an application form or fill in directly on your computer before printing.

Spring Dates: May 20-26, 2019

Fall Dates: TBD

Applications and class schedules will be sent by email and also are available at the Club meeting. ☐



SFMS Wildacres/William Holland Workshops

Information about the Workshops is now on <www.AMFED.org/sfmsworkshops.com>. Contact for registration:

Claudia Erwin, Registrarwildacres@gmail.com

Warren Ratcliff, Warren.registrar@yahoo.com

Wildacres: August 19-25, 2019

September 16-22, 2019

William Holland: June 09-14, 2019

Applications and class schedules will be published in the January *Lodestar*, they will be sent to members by email and are also available at the Club meeting.

November Meeting Minutes

The Aiken GMFS met on November 9, 2018 in Room 200 of the USC Aiken Science and Engineering Building. Twenty-one 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 Kathleen Wallis and passed.

♦Kathleen Wallis gave the **Treasurer's Report**. The Shellie Newell Memorial Fund has \$1155.00.

♦Debbie Baer gave the **Vice President's Report**. December will be the holiday dinner at 6:00 and the pirate gift exchange. Board members are to bring drinks for the party; it will be held in room 212.

Programs: January will be Trivia and February will be Dr. Chris Moore.

♦John Kolmar gave the **Field Trip Report**. December 9, 2018 there will be a field trip to the Jarrett Rifles Museum at 2:00. Meet in Beech Island at 1:30. On January 19, 2019 there will be a trip to The Charleston Museum and Mace Brown Museum of Natural History in Charleston. John reported that the Ashley Farm trip had mixed results. John also reported that Chris Moore will need volunteers for the White Pond dig in Elgin, SC in March 2019.

♦Chris Glass reported on the **Show Committee**. Chris reported that the show committee met on November 8, 2018. There will be no 50-cent coupons for the 2019 show. The rent is going up. Volunteers are needed for the set-up, dinner and break-down.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

The motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Jim Cobb, seconded by Chris Glass and carried. The Business Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Show and Tell: Michael Potvin shared a Labradorite egg and a thunderstone from Oregon. Walt Kubilius shared fossil tree roots and a sandstone cast.

We enjoyed **Refreshments** provided by Jim and Karin Gee.

Program: Walt Kubilius presented a program on coal fossils.

Submitted by Sharon Sterrett, Secretary

December Meeting Minutes

The Aiken GMFS met on December 15, 2018 in Rm 212 of the USC Aiken Science and Engineering Building. It was a holiday miracle or maybe just eager elves but when the first person arrived the room was already decorated. The tables had bright tablecloths and the chairs had holiday themed slip covers on the backs. Twenty-seven people signed in. At 6:00 everyone enjoyed our annual potluck holiday dinner. ▶

Once again it was proven that AGM&FS has many wonderful cooks and bakers. After the dinner President Walt Kubilius called the general meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

◆Kathleen Wallis gave the **Treasurer's Report**.

◆Debbie Baer gave the **Vice President's Report**.

Debbie reported on the upcoming programs in 2019. January will be Trivia supplied by Margaret Marion and Jim Sproull. It will be presented by Walt Kulilius. February will be Dr. Chris Moore.

◆John Kolmer gave the **Field Trip Report**. John passed around the sign-up sheet for the Charleston trip.

Old Business: Barbara Fenstermacher presented the federation BEAC *Hound's Howl* awards.

New Business: Officers were elected for 2019. The 2018 officers will serve in 2019. The officers will be Walt Kubilius as President, Debbie Baer as Vice President, Kathleen Wallis as Treasurer and Sharon Sterrett as Secretary. The meeting was over at 6:57. The meeting was followed by the singing "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

The singing brought Santa (Jim Sproull) and his elf (Margaret Marion) to the party to lead the **Pirate Gift Exchange**.

Submitted by Sharon Sterrett, Secretary

Having Fun: Junior Activities

By Jim Brace-Thompson,
AFMS Junior Program Chair
*Classic American Fossil Sites for Earth Science
Education*

In this column several years ago (November 2013, to be exact), I reported on a book by Albert B. Dickas entitled *101 American Geo-Sites You've Gotta See* (Mountain Press, 2012). I noted how Dickas helps you take kids to sites that tell unique geological stories; for instance, dramatic evidence of an ancient meteorite strike in Alabama, a view of the Pacific plate sliding by the North American plate along California's San Andreas Fault, fossil-bearing ash beds in Nebraska that tell of an unimaginably immense volcanic eruption in ancient Idaho 12 million years ago, or evidence of a tropical sea as well as massive glaciation in Ohio. With 101 sites included across all 50 U.S. states, you should be able to find a locality within reasonable distance for a day- or weekend trip for your club's pebble pups and juniors.

Well, Dickas has done it again! He has just published *101 American Fossil Sites You've Gotta See* (Mountain Press, 2018). The book opens with a quick romp through the history of paleontology as a science, provides the basics of fossils and fossilization, and explores the history of life on Earth, eon-by-eon, period-by-period. Then comes the real meat of the book: the 101 sites from Alabama to Wyoming (including Alaska and Hawaii). Each site entry consists of a two-page spread. The opening page provides GPS coordinates, a one-sentence overview of the significance of the site, and an overall description and paleontological history. The second page provides colorful supporting illustrations, maps, and photos. Printed on high-quality glossy paper, the photos make it a wonderful coffee-table book in addition to an informative read. Additional helpful info is provided in an end-of-book glossary and a reference section supplying four additional suggested readings for each site.

The sites include those where viewing-only is allowed (for instance, Arizona's Petrified Forest or Oregon's John Day Fossil Beds National Monument) but also a wonderful assortment where hands-on collecting is not only allowed but encouraged. I've been to 22 of the 101 sites from California to New Jersey and points between, and from first-hand knowledge of those sites, I can assure you that Dickas has chosen wisely. All are worth considering as field trip destinations for your club's kids—and are sure to provide a whole lot of fun!

From AFMS Newsletter, October 2018

The Southeast Micromounters

**The 18th Ed and Martha Cunningham
ACV Winter Gathering of Micromounters**

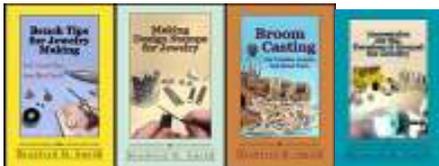
February 21-13, 2019

**[Advent Christian Village,](#)
**[Dowling Park, Florida](#)
[Click here for Map](#)****

**Village lodge Phone: 18003718381 .
Link to the lodging page: [Lodging](#)
If you are planning to come, make your
reservations soon, as space at the Village is
limited.**

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

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



MAKE A TEXTURE HAMMER

An inexpensive hammer can be easily turned into a great texturing tool by grinding a pattern of narrow lines into its face.



The tool I like to use to grind the pattern is a thin separating disc in a Foredom or Dremel. Be sure to hold the hammer and separating disc steady as you carve, and wear those safety glasses to protect your eyes.

For the pattern to work well, a major part of the face needs to be ground away leaving only small areas of high points. That way the high points will have enough force to emboss the pattern into your sheet metal.

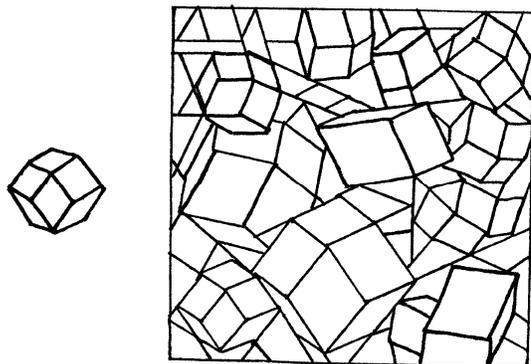


My preference is to use small ball peen or cross peen hammers. They are quite inexpensive from tool

dealers at swap meets and rock & mineral shows. There is no reason to buy an expensive hammer to experiment with creating your own textures.

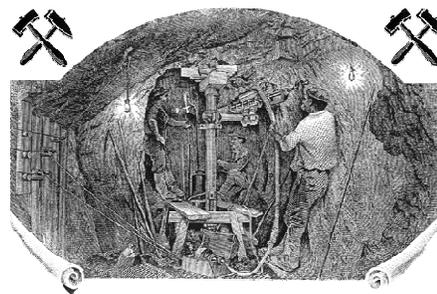
And BTW, if you don't like the first pattern you create, simply file or grind it off and try again.

Posted on www.facebook.com/BenchTrips/, Dec 27, 2018 by Brad Smith, *Bench Tips for Jewelry Making, 101 Useful Tips.*



Hidden Crystals by Michael Kessler.
How many dodecahedrons are in this design?
 Permission originally granted for reproduction.

Rocks of Ages *Rxofages.com*



If you are interested in fine mineral specimens; mining artifacts; used, rare and out of print books on the earth sciences including mining, mineralogy, geology, gemstones, jewelry, meteorites, etc.; and mining ephemera/ebay auctions, this is a website that covers it all.

Request a book catalog, four are published per year and include over 500 titles. Also they carry a large number of journals and magazines including back issues of Mineralogical Record and Mineral Digest.

AGMFS Officers and Committees 2018

President: Walt Kubilius
 (803) 643-3281/president@aikengmfs.org

Vice President: Debbie Baer
 (803) 295-7897 / vicepresident@aikengmfs.org

Secretary: Sharon Sterrett
 (803) 649-0174 / secretary@aikengmfs.org

Treasurer: Kathleen Wallis
 (803) 643-3281/ treasurer@aikengmfs.org

Editor: Barbara Fenstermacher
 (803) 649-0959 / houndshowl@gmail.com

Federation Liaison: Barbara Fenstermacher

Field Trip Committee/ DMC Liaison: John Kolmar, Jim Gee, Debbie Baer and Herb Martin
 (803) 642-3767 (John) / lkolmar@gmail.com

Webmistress: Patti Bennett webmaster@aikengmfs.org

USCA Liaison: Walt Kubilius

Librarian/Bag'nTag Coordinator: Jerry Lipsky



STONES LOVE TO TELL A STORY

by The Lapidary Whisperer



Prairie Fire

If you Google “story stones” you’ll be pointed to web sites where people have painted or otherwise added something to a rock in order to give it an element of interest and possibly make it an element of storytelling and sharing.

Not me.

My story stones already come with wonderful stories in them and the only thing I need to do to reveal the story, is to remove the excess rock, shape, and polish. Admit it; you’ve done the same thing. You look at a rock or a slab and say to yourself, ‘that looks just like a _____!’ Then your job comes down to using your lapidary skills to make it apparent to everyone else.

SHAPE IS PART OF THE STORY

I often find that a stone can tell its story within the constraints of the shapes available on lapidary templates, but not always. Sometimes you have to listen to how the stone tells its story best. For example, in “Prayer” below, I did it free-form because I felt the capsule around the praying figure would highlight it best if it followed the lines of the figure.



Prayer

I found this little beauty (it’s much smaller than it looks in the image) in a discard pile! It’s a beautiful quartz that took a high polish and I’m planning to have it made into a ring someday.

PATTERN CAN TELL THE STORY

In this chatty silver lace opal, you can see the tree-lined, muddy river at the bottom and the vineyard higher up alone with a cloudy sky. Or at least that’s what I saw in the slab. It was originally part of a long almost ribbon-like slab and I made an oval cabochon to give it an old-fashioned look. What do you see?



Tip! When you’re looking at likely slabs, try turning them slowly so you see it from different angles, otherwise, you may discard a chatty stone that couldn’t tell you its story from the first angle!

And finally,

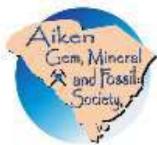


Knee Bone

This one I call the “Knee Bone”. The “marrow” part is a shiny jasper/quartz and the “calcified” part on the outside of the bone is, I believe, common opal. Notice how it flares out at the top and there’s even a little notch where it would fit with the bone above!

Have you worked on stones that insisted they had a story for you to bring out in them? I’d love to hear about it! Click on Donna@LapidaryWhisperer.com

Source: “Story Stones,” Dec 28, 2016
Your Lapidary Whisperer, Donna Albrecht
<http://www.lapidarywhisperer.com/>



Hound's Howl
Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society
P.O. Box 267
Aiken SC 29802-0267

FIRST CLASS MAIL

January 2019

Program: Rockhound Trivia

January 11 at 7 p.m.
Room 200, 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.

The *Hound's Howl* is published ten times a year by the Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society. An annual subscription is an additional \$10.00 for posted delivery. Otherwise it is sent via email delivery. Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted to reprint material from this bulletin for non-profit usage provided the sense or meaning of the material is not changed and proper credit is given to our club and the article's author or photographer. Material written by the editor may not have a by-line.

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.

The Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society: 2019 Membership Application

Current Date _____ Please check one: New *or* Renewal
Name _____ DOB (month/day) _____ Spouse's Name: _____ DOB _____
Address _____
Email Address: _____ DO Anniversary _____
Children's names (those active in Club only) and DOB _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell/work phone: _____

I give my consent to the Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society (AGMFS) to use my name and likeness for publicity purposes and to promote Society activities (Check one): Yes *or* No

Please check one type of membership and one type of newsletter preference.

Membership: Dues Family \$20 *or* Dues Single \$15 *or* Dues Student \$2 grade/school

Note: New members joining from July–December, 1/2 price with full price membership in January.
(Family is defined as spouse and/or children under 18 living at the same address)

Newsletter preference: Email (*free* to all members) *or* Snail mail (add \$10 per address per year)

TOTAL: \$ _____

Make check payable to: Aiken Gem and Mineral Society

Kathleen Wallis, AFMS Treasurer
1142 Ridgemont Drive
Aiken, SC 29803

Cash _____ Check # _____
Amount: _____ Date: _____