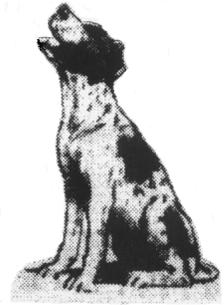


# THE HOUND'S HOWL

AIKEN GEM, MINERAL and FOSSIL SOCIETY  
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA



VOLUME 57, No.2

FEBRUARY 2019

## Editor's Message

Dealing with some unusual weather but taking advantage of inside trips to help the season pass by quickly. Thanks to our field trip committee for planning in January a very informative and fun visit to the Mace Brown Museum at the College of Charleston and the Natural History Gallery at the Charleston Museum. A full day with some having lunch at the local Student Bistro (an experience in itself); a return visit is no doubt on the agenda for those who attended.

And now our focus is gearing up for the Show at Julian Smith Casino: putting exhibits together; prepping specimens for the grab bags; distributing flyers and posters; signing up for duty stations at the front desk, membership table, grab bag booth and treasure dig; and helping with setup on Thursday and takedown on Sunday. It's a very long four days for those on the planning committees, and much help is needed to ensure our visitors and our dealers have a memorable experience. Only five weeks to go until March 8,9, and 10.

In the January *Hound's Howl*, the dates for the 2019 Federation Wildacres and William Holland workshop schedules were listed. As class descriptions are listed in the *EFMLS News* and *Lodestar*, these will be passed on to you as email attachments. Look for them and consider attending a workshop. It's the best vacation plus learning opportunity you can find for the \$\$.

I will close my message with a request for assistance publishing the newsletter. If you are a person who likes to write and also search the web, please contact me.

See you Friday...

*Barbara*



## In This Issue

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- 6 – Cleaning Minerals; Bench Tips;

## February 8 Program

### Asteroid Hit? Clovis Sites and Platinum

We welcome back Chris Moore of the Savannah River Archaeology Research Program who will give a talk about the recent study and documentation that he and a team of researchers completed on the platinum anomaly discovered in North America that reinforces the Younger Dryas Impact Hypothesis. The anomaly dates from the YD Boundary 12,800 years ago and reinforces an earlier study of an identical anomaly and date in Greenland ice cores.

Are scientists finally closer to the answer to why the Northern Hemisphere abruptly cooled 12,800 years ago when the planet had already been "thawing" for 10,000 years and leaving the Ice Age behind?

Could this also support some scientists' claims that many of the Paleo-Indians from the Clovis culture met with their demise about this time because of a comet impact?

And scientists are now pondering whether the Carolina Bays (and the Nebraska Rainwater Basins) were caused by glacial ice ejecta from an YD impact site on the North American icecap where Saginaw Bay, Michigan is located today. ☐

## March 15 Program

### How Portland Cement is Made



Bruce Walker from ARGOS Cement in Harleyville, S.C. will tell us about his company and how its main product Portland cement is manufactured. The low cost and availability of the base materials make it one of the most economical and versatile building and construction materials.

We see cement products used every day and it will be interesting to learn more about them and how important they are in our lives.

**MILESTONES**



- Jim Cobb – 9th
- Patricia Martin – 12<sup>th</sup>
- Jim Sproull – 14th
- Naomi Pine – 18th
- Paxton Prowse – 25th



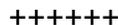
**Happy Anniversary!**

Jessie and Yates Donnan – 17<sup>th</sup>



**Get Well**

Chris Glass is progressing well with the therapies rehab at NHC in N. Augusta. She keeps a pretty busy daily schedule and is very cooperative and positive. Show flyers and posters have been handed out in great numbers to the personnel and she is even up to doing some bagging of specimens. I know she misses being in the midst of all the preparations for the Show but is sure that folks will pitch in and help where it is needed.



**A Reminder. . .**



**DUES are DUE NOW**

You don't want to miss all that the hobby and our club offers – programs, field trips, workshops, newsletter, education, camaraderie, and a positive volunteer opportunity. Plus, show admission is free for those who renew membership before March 1. Look for the member application in the newsletter or download from [www.aikengmfs.org](http://www.aikengmfs.org).

**AGMFS Board Meeting Minutes**

The board of the Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society met on January 27, 2019 at the home of President Walt Kubilius. Walt Kubilius, John Kolmer, Debra Baer, Kathleen Wallis, Barbara Fenstermacher and Sharon Sterrett were present. Walt began the meeting at 2:00 p.m. President Kubilius began by recognizing Debbie Baer for her good work in finding speakers for meetings and

John Kolmar for his success in organizing field trips. John added that the field trip success was because the committee worked hard and worked well together.

Kathleen Wallis gave the **Treasurer's Report** and passed out copies of the report. It was suggested that the club continue to try and have membership dues and the auction proceeds cover all expenses for the year. The amount of Show revenue is never a sure thing.

John Kolmar reported on the following **Field Trips**: February 23, 2019 we will go to Probst Farm for corundum. There will be a \$25.00 fee. March 16, 2019 is the Kempt Mine in North Augusta. It is free and we will work the tailings. If a make-up day is needed because of rain or mud it will be March 30. April 20, 2019 will be Hagood Mill, Pickens Co. to see the petroglyphs. May 11, 2019 will be Heritage Gold Mine Park, McCormick to pan for gold and tour the historic mine. June 10 will be Etowah Indian Mounds and Rock Fest at the Tellus Museum in Cartersville, Georgia. Perhaps September will be a good time for a stipend fossil boat field trip. President Kubilius asked that if needed, the field trip committee ask for help and suggestions to avoid burn-out.

Debra Baer gave a report on **speakers** for the regular meetings. Debbie Baer reported that February will be Chris Moore. In March John Baker will give a program on Portland cement. Herman Kunis will speak on wire wrapping in April. In May Chris Cicimurri will be here from the USC McKissick Museum. June will be the silent auction. October will be Kim Cochran and November is Soils of Aiken County. President Kubilius also asked Debbie to ask for help and suggestions if needed to avoid burn-out.

The **budget** of club for 2019 was discussed. Because the USC-Aiken scholarship was not given in 2018 a motion was made by Walt Kubilius and seconded by Debbie Baer to send \$3,000.00 to cover 2018 and 2019 scholarships. After discussion the motion was passed.

How to use the **Shellie Fund** was discussed. It was agreed upon to send \$1,000.00 to Mace Brown Museum in Charleston. The remainder of the fund (\$325.00) would be increased to \$500.00 with club funds and donated to the Fredericks Mineral Gallery at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center.

A possible **Subsidized Field Trip** was tabled until after the show.

The **Health of the Club** was discussed. SEED was discussed. It is agreed that more members are needed to take on responsibilities to keep SEED going. Going to schools, science fairs and seeing home schoolers was discussed. Finding a Co-Editor for the Hound's Howl is imperative.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.  
Submitted by Sharon Sterrett

## AGMFS Meeting Minutes

The Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society met on January 11, 2019 in Room 200 of the USC Aiken Science and Engineering Building. Seventeen people signed the sign-in list. President Walt Kubilius called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and greeted everyone and reported that he had spoken to Chris Glass and she was doing well in rehab.

Kathleen Wallis gave the **Treasurer's Report** and Debbie Baer gave the **Vice President's Report**. The February speaker will be Dr. Chris Moore.

John Kolmer gave the **Field Trip Report**. On January 19, 2019 there will be a trip to The Charleston Museum and Mace Brown Museum in Charleston. John reported that because our friends Miss "N" and her family were now living in the Charleston area, they would be joining us on the field trip. Be at Mace Brown no later than 10:45. After Mace Brown and lunch we will go to The Charleston Museum and visit the Natural History Gallery. February 16, 2019 there is a DMC trip to Girard, GA sponsored by the Athens Rock and Gem Club. March 16 will be a trip to the Kempt Mine in North Augusta. We will look through the spoil piles from the sand mine. Mud can be a problem at this site so a rain make-up day will be March 30, 2019. John also reported that Chris Moore will need volunteers for the White Pond dig in Elgin, SC in March 2019. In May we will go to Hagood Mill in Pickens County to see the petroglyphs. It is a free location but it will cost \$5.00 per car for parking.

Kathleen Wallis reported on the **Show Committee**. The show is March 8, 9 and 10, 2019. There will be no 50-cent-off coupons. There will be two entry lines; one line will be for exact change. Volunteers are needed for the set-up, dealer dinner and break-down. Volunteers at the front desk and grab bags will work in three hour shifts. Membership will work in two hour shifts. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers working the show.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

**New Business:** Sue Shrader offered business cards for Ricky Taylor's new Rock Shop in Lexington. Walt Kubilius had a few free books from the library. The Bag and Tag will take place at the Lipsky's home on Sunday January 13, 2019. Bring rocks and tags. Sally and Jerry will supply snacks.

**Show and Tell:** Michael Potvin shared a Moki (Moqui) Ball. Herb Martin shared smoky quartz.

**Refreshments** were provided by Sharon Sterrett and Dave Dunlap.

**Program:** Walt Kubilius presented a Trivia Quiz with 29 questions created by Jim Sproull and Margaret Marion. Jerry Lipsky won first place with 24 correct answers. There was a tie for second place with 23 correct answers between Herb Martin and Jim Cobb. It took several attempts but playing "Rock-Paper-Scissors" put Herb into second place.

Submitted by Sharon Sterrett, Secretary

**IT'S  
SHOW  
TIME!** **5 WEEKS TO GO!!!**  
**March 8, 9, and 10**

And for all members now is the time to volunteer and spread the word far and wide to make it happen!

- Talk it up on Facebook.
- Distribute flyers and posters.
- Volunteer at front desk, grab bags booth, and membership table.
- Help at Thursday morning 9am set-up and Sunday 5pm take-down.
- Bring food for Dealer Dinner on Thursday.

Contact Kathleen Wallis, 803-643-3281 or Barbara Fenstermacher, 803-649-0959 for more information.

## January Meeting Notes

Without a doubt, after all the "hobby education" we've received as Club members, one wonders where all this knowledge is stored when one is asked to recall it. There are some who are up to the task...as can be seen in the following photo – Our Rockhound Trivia Winners!!



From left: Jim Cobb, Jerry Lipsky, and Herb Martin

► Show and Tell is always interesting because members are not usually clued in until the last minute. Mike Potvin, a member since 2010, is a frequent presenter and displayed



and displayed Moqui balls purchased at the Columbia Show. These are made up of iron oxide and sandstone that formed underground. Herb Martin brought stones from the

Kemp Mine he found 40 years ago that polished well. ◻



## The Charleston Trip and What It Meant to Me

by Linda Kolmar

On January 19, a group of AGMFS members journeyed to Charleston, SC to visit two museums. Big thanks to Debbie Baer for finding these gems for us!

The first was the Mace Museum of Natural History at the College of Charleston. A part of the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, the museum displays almost 1,000 fossils. We had a very informative tour guide in Addie, a junior geology student at the College. The wide-ranging displays included dinosaur bones, crinoids, Oligocene mammals of North America, mosasaurs, cave bears, and Pleistocene mammals of the Carolinas. We could picture ocean life in the ancient South Carolina Lowcountry through time by seeing these fossils. We also had the opportunity to view the labs where current faculty and students are working on fossils.

After a lunch break, we went to the Charleston Museum. Founded in 1773, the Charleston Museum is frequently referred to as "America's First Museum." It was established by the Charleston Library Society a few years prior to the American Revolution and included displays donated by such distinguished South Carolinians as Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and Thomas Heyward. After the Revolutionary War, the Museum continued to obtain and develop collections of ethnological and zoological specimens.

The museum was originally housed at the offices of the Charleston Library Society. In 1843, it was taken over by the Literary and Philosophical Society of South Carolina and moved to Chalmers Street. In 1848 it had moved to the Medical College of South Carolina. When

the building that housed it was torn down in 1850, it was moved to Randolph Hall at the College of Charleston; it was then named the Museum of the College of Charleston. These collections were so fine that scholars from institutions such as Harvard traveled to Charleston to study them.

During a brief interlude called the Civil War, most of the collections were hidden in a barn in Edgefield or buried locally for safekeeping. While the barn in Edgefield caught fire in 1865, luckily only two of the 200 cases of artifacts were destroyed. The Museum again began enhancing their collections with a focus on natural and historical materials from South Carolina.

In 1907, it was moved to the Thomson Auditorium on Rutledge Avenue, which was originally built in 1899 (in only 90 days!) to house the United Confederate Veterans' Reunion. While it was a wonderful building (as a child I always felt like I was exploring someone's fantastic attic when I was there), by the early 1970s, the building was deteriorating badly. It was realized that the building could not be retrofitted with heat and air conditioning to protect the precious exhibits from deterioration.

The present museum building was constructed in the late 1970s and the museum officially moved to its new location in 1979. It opened its doors to the public in April 1980. Unfortunately, the old building burned to the ground in a suspicious fire on October 18, 1981. All that remain are the front portico columns in what is now known as Cannon Park, a tribute to the old museum and a reminder for current Charlestonians of all the wonderful times we had as children in the old museum. ◻

## Favorites at the Museums

Members were asked what their favorite museum displays were and a few responded. Linda Kolmar chose the



baalen whale skeleton at the entrance to the Charleston Museum. "Reminds me of all the wonderful hours I spent as a kid exploring the old Charleston Museum." The skeleton coincides with the 2017 renovation of the Natural History

Gallery and blog series: Bringing Them Back to Life: Whale Evolution.

John Kolmar's favorites were the turtle fossils at the Mace Brown Museum (since he has 20 live turtles at his home). Sadly, no photos.

▶ Debbie Baer loved it all: "What a wonder-filled collection! The Mace Brown Museum is certainly an unexpected pearl in the greater Charleston area. The exhibits are up-to-date, well-illustrated and easy to understand. Beautiful presentations of evolutionary changes and complete with actual fossils or excellent models. Everyone who attended from AGMFS from age 7 to 70, was enthralled." Her photo of Dunkleosteus great armored fish shows the ferocity of this Devonian creature.



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"I really enjoyed the Pleistocene giant sloth at the Charleston Museum. I couldn't believe how tall it is." commented Jim Sproull. His photo shows this well as compared to onlooker Debbie Baer.

**Eremotherium laurillardii**  
700,000 – 950,000 years ago

Another at the Charleston Museum:



**Gavialosuchus**  
Giant Crocodile native to Charleston area ~33-23 mya During the Oligocene epoch.

Editor's note: A few more photos can be viewed on AikenGMFS.org in a week or two (remind me to post them).

## "The Wando Whale" Coronodon havensteini



This 30-million-year-old whale at the Mace Brown Museum deserves special recognition because its discovery provided a new evolutionary link between ancient toothed whales and the modern baleen whale.

Studying the unusual teeth, it was concluded that the whale could both catch and bite prey and also filter seawater for food. The upper teeth fit outside the lower teeth and the large molars in the back were used for the filter feeding. By ram feeding, the food was gotten by filtering the water through the gaps between the teeth. (In the photo, the large molars with fan-shaped edges can be seen in the upper jaw.)

The skeleton was found by Mark Havenstein in 2007 in the Ashley Formation on the bank of the Wando River south of the Highway 41 bridge. (Mark was one of the dealers at our show some years ago.)

Photo: Barbara Fenstermacher

Source: "30-million-year-old whale provides insight into how modern whales began filter feeding" by Andrew Liptak, June 29, 2017. ▣



## Spring Stratford Hall Fossil Collecting Weekend

May 18th - May 19th, 2019

Stratford hall Plantation in on the northern neck of Virginia and is Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthplace, home of 2 signers of the Declaration of Independence and a world-class fossil collecting site along the Potomac River. This site is Miocene Age (6-14 mya and fossils are from the Calvert, Choptank, St. Mary's and Eastover Formations. Cost: \$100 adult and \$50 child under age 18. Cost does not include food, transportation or lodging or Stratford Hall's Grounds Fees of \$16/adult and \$10/child under age 12 each day.

FMI: [cathy@fossilandnaturetrips.com](mailto:cathy@fossilandnaturetrips.com)  
[www.fossilandnaturetrips.com](http://www.fossilandnaturetrips.com)

## Removing Clay from Minerals

Dirt is dirt, but clay is trouble. It is sticky when wet and hard when dry. In a past issue of *The Collecting Bag*, Betsy Martin explains how to clean rock. Her much longer article is condensed here. Betsy begins by reminding collectors that some minerals are water soluble and that some fluffy minerals or delicate coatings can't survive the mechanical stress of washing. If it is safe to clean the mineral, pick off as much clay as possible before you start.

1. Let clay dry out *completely*. Rubbing or scrubbing wet clay will just pack it down tighter.
2. Work outdoors. It's messy.
3. Always use cold water. Hot or warm water will make the clay even more sticky.
4. Add a tablespoon of liquid Calgon (water softener) to the cold cleaning water. The water should feel slippery. If you must use powdered Calgon, dissolve it in a cup of hot water first and then add the hot water to your cold cleaning water.
5. Put the minerals in the cleaning solution for 10 to 20 minutes or until the clay has begun to absorb the liquid. Some of the clay will fall apart at this stage.
6. Rinse the rocks in cold, clean water and dispose of the muddy slurry. Repeat steps 5 and 6 as necessary.
7. Betsy recommends a final rinse in Calgon, a small amount of ammonia in water, or Windex (presumably the type with ammonia) to get off the last of the clay. Rinse again and drain.
8. Dry the minerals on newspapers and then pick out remaining clay bits and rinse again as necessary.
9. A final cleaning in an ultrasonic cleaner filled with Windex will finish the surface. Rinse in clear water.

--From the *Conglomerate*, Baltimore Mineral Society, Jan 2009 via *The Rockhounder*, April 2012

## Bench Tips by Brad Smith

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



### SOLVENT DISPENSER

Frequently I need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, like the bottle of an alcohol lamp or a nail polish bottle that I use for the yellow ochre anti-flux. Often I can't find a small funnel and end up spilling almost as much as I get into the bottle. It's wasteful, and the fumes aren't too good for you either.

A neat and inexpensive solution is to use a lab dispensing bottle to store small quantities of the solvents

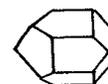
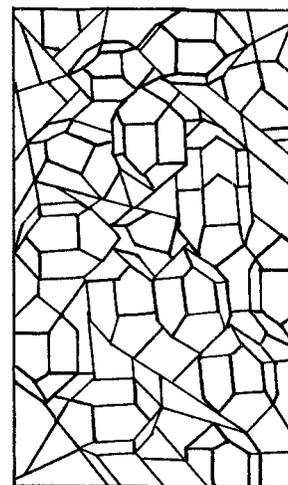
most frequently used. The bottles have a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. You can get a small stream or just a drop or two. With the bottle's fine tip I don't spill a drop. A Google search will turn up many suppliers. One I've used is Carolina Biological Supply Company at [www.carolina.com](http://www.carolina.com). The bottle is Catalog # 716580 Unitary Wash Bottle, Low-Density



Polyethylene, 125 mL US \$5. They have several sizes and other bottles labeled for specific solvents.

### Hidden Crystals

by Michael Kessler  
How many crystals are in the design?  
(see cover pg. for ans,)



**AGMFS Officers and Committees 2018**

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**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

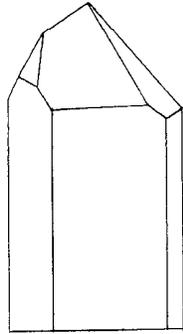
**Webmistress: Patti Bennett webmaster@aikengmfs.org**

**USCA Liaison: Walt Kubilius**

**Librarian/Bag'nTag Coordinator: Jerry Lipsky**

# Triboluminescence

*Luminescence* means *light*. *Triboluminescence* is light that is produced when certain objects are rubbed against each other, or pressure (force) is applied to some objects. You will see triboluminescence in the mineral quartz.



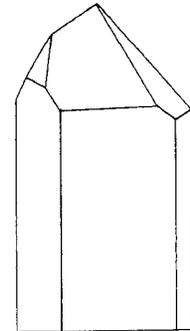
## What you will need:

Safety goggles, two clear quartz crystals (not display quality specimens).

**This activity may take a little practice. You will need fairly large quartz crystals, about palm size or larger. To make this work, you will have to be in a dark room.**

## What to do:

Step 1: Hold one crystal in each hand.



Step 2: Rub the edge of one crystal back and forth across the face of the other crystal. A "face" is the flat surface of a crystal. The "edge" is where two faces come together. *For best results, repeat this with the lights out.*

**When you rub the edge of one crystal against the face of the second, push down so that you are really grinding the two crystals together. If you cannot create light, try again, this time pushing even harder.**

Step 3: What do you see? You will see a brief flash of light on the *inside* of the quartz crystal.

## Triboluminescence: Making Light with Candy

### What you will need:

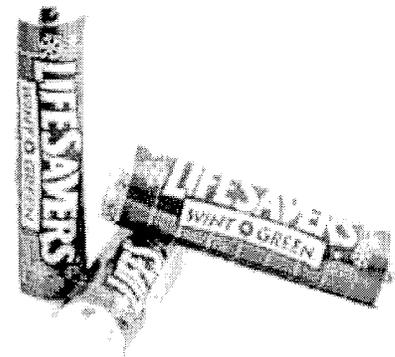
A roll of **Wintergreen Lifesavers™**. No other flavor will work!  
A dark room.  
A friend to do the experiment with.

### What to do:

Step 1: Face a friend in a dark room or under a blanket.

Step 2: Bit into a wintergreen lifesaver **with your mouth open!** Be sure to really crunch it into lots of little pieces all at once. When you do it right, your friend will see a very fast, small *flash of blue light*.

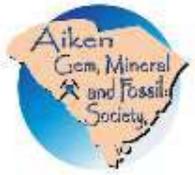
Step 3: Brush your teeth really, really well!!!!!!!!!!!!



What makes it work? Go to

<http://www.waynesthisandthat.com/wintergreen.htm> and find out!

**[www.diamonddanpublications.net](http://www.diamonddanpublications.net)**



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

February 2019

Program: **Asteroid Hit?**  
**Clovis Sites and Platinum**  
by Chris Moore

Meeting date: February 8 at 7:00 p.m.  
USC-Aiken Science Building, Room 200  
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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](http://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.