



GEM SCOOPS



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Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

February 2014

All About Meteorites

President's Remarks

Our January fossil talk with Dr. Alan Coulson from Clemson's Environmental Engineering & Earth Sciences Department had to be rescheduled due to last minute health issues. We will announce its rescheduled date as soon as possible.

February's (February 18th) talk will feature Russ Ligeikis and meteorites. This will take place at 7 PM on Tuesday, February 18 at the OLLI Center. This will be a heavy metal presentation.

March's activity entails a class on wax ring design. Taught by Fred Sias, it is a prequel to an OLLI workshop series that commences on the same day. Partake in this and you'll be set to continue with the workshop.

The Tellus Science Museum (Cartersville, Georgia) visit appears to be formulated for Saturday, February 22. This museum contains the Weinman Mineral Gallery.

Speaking of excellent rock collections, I missed our January meeting as I was in Washington DC, lobbying South Carolina Congressional districts on the need for hurricane

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society will be about Lost-Wax Casting on March 18th.

FEBRUARY MEETING

WHEN: February 18, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Charles K. Cheezem OLLI Education Center

SPEAKER: Russ Ligeikis

TOPIC: Meteorites

New club member Russ Ligeikis will give an illustrated talk titled "Meteoritis - The Incurable Addiction to Hunting and Collecting Meteorites." Russ will bring his meteorite collection along with much of the equipment used for collecting and examining meteorites. He will also have some advice on buying meteorites at a fair price. Refreshments are served; visitors always welcome.

preparedness and other weather related issues. One of my team members was a Smithsonian Museum volunteer and took me on a tour of the Smithsonian's rock collection after our work was done. It was absolutely fabulous! I saw some of the most showy gypsum, stibnite, goethite, quartz, sulphur, opal, etc. specimens ever. The collection will not disappoint gem fans either: they have the fabled cursed Hope Diamond. The fossil and meteorite collections are equally spectacular. True rock hounds need to put this on their bucket list!

Robert

Have you paid your Dues?

Short Bio of Speaker Russ Ligeikis

I've had a lifelong interest in traditional Astronomy since Dad bought me my first refractor telescope from Sears for Christmas when I was 5-years-old. My interest in meteorites was piqued when I helped Dad and Mom build our house in the late 1960s and early 1970s after being given three rocks

Continued on Page 2

Officers for 2014

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Speaker Bio (Continued) Regional Gem and Mineral Shows

by locals that were said to be "tektites" (they looked absolutely nothing like tektites, but it's the thought that counts - a thought I dismissed entirely until 1992). In the late Winter/early Spring of 1992, while working as the press liaison, local public relations specialist and photographer for the Tugaloo Environmental Education Center I had to photograph a student from Jupiter, FL finding a tektite during a TEEC hike on one of the local mountain ridges! I know exactly where we were when he found it and will be glad to lead a Spring field trip if there is enough interest and if I can get permission from the new owners of the property.

From that point, I was HOOKED on meteorites and tektites. Unfortunately, I didn't even have a "coin shooter" at the time, so meteorite hunting would have been hopeless. Since buying a Bounty Hunter II metal detector several years ago, I have found several "Hot Rocks" but the only meteorite I've ever "found" was the Stony Iron It was identified by examination and scratch testing. It is evidently a Mesosiderite -- the rarest of the rare in the meteorite world -- much more rare than Achondrites!

After that, I watched every show I could on meteorites and meteorite hunting (including every episode of *Meteorite Men* at least twice) and now keep my magstick in my car - ready for action!

I am a former member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, an ex-reporter (Pensacola Journal and freelance journalist). I have worked for the Federal Government as well as a the Georgia Department of Revenue as an auditor.

March 7-9 – St. Petersburg, FL. 44th Annual Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show and Sale; THE SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY; Fri: 10 AM to 6PM; Sat: 10AM-6PM; Sun: 10am-5PM The Minnreg Building 6340 126th Ave., N., Largo, FL 33773

HOURLY DOOR PRIZES! GRAND DRAWING AT END OF SHOW! \$1.50 GRAB BAGS, FREE PARKING; 15+ Dealers; Demonstration exhibits on Beading, Wire Wrapping, Cabbing, Faceting, Metal Work. Club display cases and exhibits. Refreshments available. Show contact: Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, Email contact:

SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com

<http://www.sgams.com/Shows/show.htm>



March 7-9 – Augusta, GA 25th Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show.

Dealers, Gem Dig, Geode Cutting, Treasurer Dig, Hourly Door Prize, Grab Bags, Grand Door Prize, Demonstrators. Sponsoring Clubs: Aiken Gem, mineral and Fossil Society and Augusta Gem and Mineral Society. Fri & Sat 10AM-7PM / Sun 10AM-4PM. Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St., Augusta GA. Admission: \$3/Adults; Children under 16 Free with an Adult. Co-Chair: Richard McNutt and Chris Glass.

March 15-17 – Rome, GA. The 34th Annual Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show; Sponsored by the Rome Georgia Mineral Society. Friday and Saturday – 10 am – 6 pm Sunday 11 am – 5 pm. The Forum Rome, GA. FREE ADMISSION! **Gems, Jewelry, Minerals, Crystals, Geodes and Fossils. All visitors will be eligible for free Door Prizes and a Grand Prize drawing. Club members will offer mineral and fossil identification, exhibits, and demonstrations. Hope to see you there! For more information:**

Jose Santamaria, Show Chair
rogams.show@gmail.com

April 26-27 – Memphis, TN. Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show. Archaeological and Geological Society "The Earth Wide Open," International Agricenter, Saturday, April 26, 9-6:00 and Sunday, April 27 10-5; Dealers, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Kids Area with Rockzone featuring Gem Dig, Geode Bowling, Rocks Around the Clock. Adults \$5.00, 2-day pass \$8.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00.

web: www.TheEarthWideOpen.com, email info@theearthwideopen.com.

Show Chair James Butchko 901 743-0058.

April 27-28 -- Dothan, AL Dothan Gem and Mineral Club 6th Annual Show and Sale. James Grant Recreation Center at Westgate Park, 501 Recreation Road, Dothan, AL. Hours: Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 10-4. Free admission, exhibits, demonstrations, hourly door prizes, silent auction, kids' activities, etc. Contact Arnie Lambert 334-792-7116 or e-mail alambert@comcast.net.

See www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

May 4-5 – North Charleston, SC. Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show,

"Art by Nature". Charleston Area Convention Center; Exhibit Hall A. Hours: Sat. & Sun 10-5.

FREE admission and FREE parking; hourly door prizes, demonstrations, fossil dig, geode cracking.

Contact Karen Havenstein of Charleston, SC at (843) 795-2956; e-mail: fossils@comcast.net;

Web site: www.lowcountrygemandmineralsociety.org