



GEM SCOOPS



Vol. 53, No. 1

Pendleton District Gem and Mineral Society

January 2015

The Geology of Southern Utah

President's Remarks

Happy New Year to All!

I am honored to have been elected to be President for 2015. That said, we have some goals to accomplish this year, and I will need assistance and participation from everyone.

Our January event is "A Geologic Field Excursion: The Colorado Plateau in Southern Utah" on Tuesday, 1/20 at 7 pm at OLLI. Our speaker, Scott Brame, is an assistant professor at Clemson who has led several geologic field trips to Southern Utah. He organizes and creates geologic field trips for the annual Clemson Hydrogeology Symposium and mentors an undergraduate mapping research group. The Utah talk will focus on the geology of the Colorado Plateau, mainly that of national parks and monuments in southern Utah. With its slot canyons and salt flats, Utah is arguably the most geologically diverse state in the continental U.S.

We will be working on the "Beneath Your Feet" display at the Bob Campbell Geology Museum; the Botanical Gardens are so gracious to allow us to build such a display and promote our club. We have talked about this for a good while; now is the time to put this together. Showy specimens need to be assembled. Please consider what

DECEMBER MEETING

WHEN: January 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Olli Classroom Building

SPEAKER: Scott Brame, Asst. Professor at Clemson

TOPIC: A Geologic Field Excursion: The Colorado Plateau in Southern Utah. The talk will focus on the geology of the Colorado Plateau, mainly that of national parks and monuments in southern Utah.

you may be able to loan to the display. Let us seize this tremendous opportunity and make the most of it.

Just one more note...the Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase is Jan. 31 through Feb. 15, 2015. It is reputed to be the largest event of its type.

Looking forward to working along side of all of you,

Carol

Our Dues are Due this Month

Our Federation dues must be paid this month and our Treasury needs a boost. We also will be paying for the Club liability insurance that covers us on field trips. If you have not paid your dues at the meeting, please send a check to the Treasurer at the following address:

John Ishler
12000 Lake Ridge Ln
Seneca, SC 29672
Tele. # [864-885-9126](tel:864-885-9126)

Abbreviated Minutes

The December club meeting was a pot-luck dinner at the Olli Classroom Building. About thirteen members were present and enjoyed an excellent meal of ham and other goodies. Our new President, Carol Lund, and other officers were elected by unanimous approval of the Nominating Committee slate of officers. We learned that the new Secretary would not be able to take office due to health problems and President Elect Carol Lund will appoint an Acting Secretary.

Before and during the meeting Fred Sias showed some YouTube videos about Cabochon making.

Officers for 2014

Carol Lund, President...864-247-8204
John Palmer, V. Pres....941-545-3713
Secretary.....To be appointed
John Ishler, Treasurer.864-885-9126

2014 Directors

John Deney.....864-878-5342
Fred Sias.....864-654-6833
Teresa Smith.....864-885-9098
Ted Wallenius.....864-882-3940

FEBRUARY MEETING

The next meeting of the PDGMS will be on February 17, 2015. Put it on your calendar.



New Digging Site

The Dixie Mineral Council (DMC) is sponsoring a field trip to a recently opened Dig Site in South Carolina in February. The DMC is a part of The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies of which our Club is a member. The new site is known as the Amos Cuninghame Farm and is located between Due West and Abbeville. Our club must become a member of the DMC in order to participate in sponsored field trips.

The new site is a Fee Site. Children 12 and under pay a daily fee of \$10 and must have adult supervision. The adult daily fee is \$20. Pets are welcome if controlled on a leash.

COLLECTING: Good sized beryl crystals, amethyst and smokey quartz are found. This site has the best South Carolina beryl specimens of any site that I know how to get access to. The crystals are well

shaped hexagons with flat ends. The color is green though most have a blue cast. The beryl ranges from translucent to opaque. Most crystals are specimen quality though some gem quality is present.

Digging Conditions: The site is flat to rolling land of South Carolina red clay. The digging areas have been machine trenched down to white kaolite veins that have the beryl and quartz crystals. Dirt and rock removed from the trenches and piled up, also contain beryl and are good places to search especially after a rain. Beryl is often found by breaking open quartz rocks.

Diggers should bring picks, shovels, rock hammers, scratching tools, and screens. Large hammers will not be very useful. Food and drinks are not available locally.

This site is between the Diamond Hill Mine in Antryville and Due West that has produced

magnificent Amethyst specimens in the past. Due West Amethyst specimens have been on display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Interested club members will find this a very attractive field trip site.

Regional Shows

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2015 MELBOURNE, FLORIDA--GEM-JEWELRY-BEAD SHOW
Melbourne Auditorium • 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd., Melbourne, Florida.
Show Hours: 10am-5pm daily. Admission: Adult \$4.00.

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1, 2015 SARASOTA, FLORIDA--GEM-JEWELRY-BEAD SHOW
Municipal Auditorium • 801 N. Tamiami Trail (Hwy. 41), Sarasota, Florida. Show Hours: 10am-5pm daily. Admission: Adult \$4.00.