

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS MARCH 2026

March Meeting has been cancelled

Note from the President:

For the month of March the Athens Rock and Gem Club will be closed for “renovations.” While close, we still have decisions to make as a club with regards to acquiring a new bank. Unfortunately, Casey (our new treasurer) will not be able to attend the March meeting. In addition, we are in the middle of drafting new (updated) by-laws, but they are not ready yet. Add to this the fact that my part-time teaching job was going to make me late to the meeting, prompted me to make the decision to postpone our next regular meeting until April.

That being said, **it will be critical for as many club members to attend the April meeting as possible.** We will have an educational program (Kim Cochran will most likely be the presenter), but most important, the membership will be needed to provide input and vote on several issues such as ratifying the updated bylaws. And yes, you will finally be able to pay 2026 membership dues if have not already done so! So, enjoy month off and I'll see you in April. – The pres.



March Birthdays



Chris Whitcomb 5
Christine Gannon 7
Ian Allen 9
Rachel Kennedy 9
Alice Rose 16
Tanja Strickler 24

February Meeting

Thank you Jim for the Fabulous Fluorite presentation at the February meeting! Several great specimens were brought in for members to see and hold in person. Also, we had the triumphant return of our member Kim Cochran! Our trip to Summerville was cancelled but the next chance to go is around the corner. We can set up our own trip if the DMC trip fills up.

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS MARCH 2026

Our next regular meeting will be February 17th. We meet at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 800 Westlake Drive, Athens GA 30606.

From Broad Street, turn south onto Alps Road. One block south of Colonial Promenade (a.k.a. Beechwood) just past Alps Road Elementary on the left. The room we meet in is down the hall to the right.

The business part of the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. The educational program begins at about 8:00 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend the business meeting, but some may prefer to attend only the educational program.



DMC Field Trip Sharing Program
The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
www.southeastfed.org
Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of the Mid-GA Gem and Mineral Society (Macon, GA) (HOST)

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Time 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Summerville Lace Agate

Summerville, Georgia

Limit: 70 People

Registration Required (Link is below)

Fee: None

TRIP: This is a great site for children and adults of all skill levels. Summerville Lace Agate, found near Summerville, Georgia, is a unique, banded agate formed from silica-rich groundwater filling cavities in older limestone (chert) layers, creating intricate patterns, often grey, white, and smoky. It's a type of cryptocrystalline quartz that is known for its delicate lacy textures, druzy pockets, and oolitic structures (tiny calcite spheres) from ancient tropical beaches, making it prized for lapidary work despite being found in accessible but often private areas.

COLLECTING: This location is known for its colorful lace banded chert/agate. You can also find some druzy quartz and oolitic material. Some of the material is good for lapidary use and some of it makes great specimens.

BRING: Rock hammer, small/big sledge, chisel, scratching tools (for example a small hand rake), buckets, and a spray bottle or bucket with water to wet or rinse the rocks to see the color better. You will also need a hat, safety glasses, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and gloves. A small cart or hand truck is great for hauling larger pieces. We will have water, donuts, and chips, but you may also want to bring more water and lunch. This is March so please bring warm clothes, be sure to check the weather for Summerville for the day of the dig and dress as needed.

REQUIREMENTS: Please have this safety equipment: hard hat, safety glasses, sturdy shoes (no open toe shoes), and gloves. No power tools.

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS MARCH 2026

IMPORTANT: This is an active quarry. STAY AWAY from all heavy equipment and quarry machinery and any places that the trip lead has declared off limits. Anyone who violates these rules will be asked to leave because any violation could jeopardize future access to this site. Stay away from and don't climb any high walls.

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Be careful of climbing on loose rocks and stay away from high walls.

FEE: There is no fee.

CHILDREN (Yes): Children 5 and up are allow on this field trip. All children must be supervised by their Adult at all times.

PETS (Yes): Pets must always be on a leash and with the owner.

FACILITIES: No facilities are available at the site. The nearest facility for restrooms and food/drinks is 1.2 miles away.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The club will have some donuts, chips, and water for people to eat and drink.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If you register and are unable to attend the trip, **please be considerate** to your fellow rockhounds and let us know as soon as possible so someone on a potential waiting list can take your slot(s).

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Directions and meeting place details will be emailed to registered participants.

CARPOOLING: The registration form has a place for you to indicate if you **need** a ride; if you can **offer** a ride; or if you would like to **drive or share** a carpool ride. If you choose any of these options, your name, email address, and club name will be shared with other members who also choose one of the options. Then, you can communicate with one another to arrange carpools.**CONTACT:** Jay Batcha at Batcha.jay@gmail.com, 478-957-5002 or Bill Mayer at 678 621-3457. If there is no answer, leave a message and we will get back to you. **IMPORTANT:** DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs in the SFMS DMC field trip sharing program. SFMS DMC club members are covered by liability insurance and they are bound by the AFMS code of ethics (click [here](#) to read them), but the general public is not and could jeopardize access to a collecting location. **Please do not post DMC field trip information where the general public can access it.**

[Click here for DMC Field Trip Attendance Policies](#)

[Click here for the DMC Field Trip Schedule](#)

An Official Field Trip of the Middle Tennessee Rockhounds (Nashville, TN) (HOST)

Saturday April 25, 2026
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Central Time
Coon Creek Science Center
Adamsville, TN
Limit: **30** people

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS MARCH 2026

Registration Required (Link is below)
Fee: \$20 CASH ONLY!!

TRIP: The Coon Creek Science Center has been a long time favorite of many clubs for its diversity and ease of collecting.

COLLECTING: Upper Cretaceous marine fossils in a sand/clay matrix.

BRING: Small digging tools, trowel, small pick or shovel, etc., paper to wrap fragile specimens in, bucket, bug spray, etc. I will have water. Clothes and shoes you don't mind getting wet and muddy.

REQUIREMENTS: Common sense safety rules apply. This will be in a creek setting so be aware of slippery conditions, poison ivy, snakes and the like. **No open toe shoes or sandals please.**

FEE: \$20 per person. CASH ONLY! No other form of payment accepted.

CHILDREN: Children 8 and older are welcome but must be supervised at all times.

PETS: No pets are allowed.

FACILITIES: There are restroom and shower facilities on site.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If you register and are unable to attend the trip, **please be considerate** to your fellow rockhounds and let us know as soon as possible so someone on a potential waiting list can take your slot(s).

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Directions and meeting place details will be emailed to registered participants.

CARPOOLING: The registration form has a place for you to indicate if you **need** a ride; if you can **offer** a ride; or if you would like to **drive or share** a carpool ride. If you choose any of these options, your name, email address, and club name will be shared with other members who also choose one of the options. Then, you can communicate with one another to arrange carpools. **CONTACT: Randy Gentry - (615) 332-5696 - rgentryrockhound1@gmail.com**

IMPORTANT: DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs in the SFMS DMC field trip sharing program. SFMS DMC club members are covered by liability insurance and they are bound by the AFMS code of ethics (click [here](#) to read them), but the general public is not and could jeopardize access to a collecting location. **Please do not post DMC field trip information where the general public can access it.**

[Click here for DMC Field Trip Attendance Policies](#)

[Click here for the DMC Field Trip Schedule](#)

Clubs scheduled to host DMC Field Trips in the next 6 months

DMC Coordinator: Lori Carter DMC e-mail: dmc@southeastfed.org

Website: <https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program>

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Copyright © All rights reserved.

"Earth first...we'll collect on the other planets later."

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS MARCH 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Athens Rock and Gem Club is a non-profit organization. Its objective and purpose is "to promote the recreational, educational, and scientific aspects of lapidary arts, rock and mineral collecting, and earth sciences, for adults and children".

Meetings are usually the third Tuesday of the month, excluding July and August. Locations of the December (Christmas party) and June (picnic) meetings are announced.

We meet at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 800 Westlake Drive, Athens Ga 30606. From Broad Street, turn south onto Alps Road. One block south of Colonial Promenade (a.k.a. Beechwood) just past Alps Road Elementary on the left. The room we meet in is on the left side of the church. The business part of the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. The educational program begins at about 8:00 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend the business meeting, but some may prefer to attend only the educational program.

Annual dues are \$15.00 (single adult) and \$17.50 (family of two); \$20.00 (family of three or more). Dues are due by the October meeting of each year. Checks should be made out to the Athens Rock and Gem Club and sent to the Treasurer. If a family membership, provide the names of all individuals in the family who will take part in any club activities.

THE ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____

Name: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Address: _____

Children's names: _____

Ages, Schools: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Addresses: _____

Occupations, hobbies, interests: _____

Birthdays/ Anniversary (optional) _____

Please circle one:

Annual Dues: Single - \$15.00 Family of Two - \$17.50 Family greater than Two - \$20.00

Renewal Dues Single - \$15.00 Family of Two - \$17.50 Family greater than Two - \$20.00

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS MARCH 2026

Make check payable to: Athens Rock and Gem Club

Send to: Casey Gordon, Treasurer, ARGC, 135 Curtis Drive, Athens, GA 30605

Executive Board

Webmaster and

President

Jim Maudsley
400 University Circle
Athens, GA 30605
706-353-1792
48maudsley@gmail.com

Treasurer

Casey Gordon
135 Curtis Drive
Athens, GA 30605
706-206-8026
ccgordon1@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Kallie Brunson
200 Maple Forge Dr
Athens, GA 30606
706-201-6171
KallieBrunson@yahoo.com

Librarian

Walt Sikora
630 Riverhill Drive
Athens, GA 30606
706-353-0287

Membership

Chairman

Don Brockway
255 Rollingwood Drive
Athens, GA 30605
706-549-3160
dlbrockway@att.net

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB
C/O Casey Gordon
135 Curtis Drive
Athens, GA 30605



Please Deliver To:



Email: info@athensrockandgemclub.org
Website: www.athensrockandgemclub.org