

# **ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB**

## **ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS JUNE 2026**

### **June Picnic**

Our picnic will be held at the Gordon House on June 28<sup>st</sup>, 135 Curtis Dr., Athens, GA 30605. When you turn onto Curtis Drive, go one block and turn right onto Curtis way which is a short cul-de-sac. The driveway and porch are off Curtis Way. It's a red brick house. If possible, please park in the cul-de-sac. Picnic starts at 2pm and runs until 5. The club will supply the main course, drinks, plates, and drinks so please bring a side. If you have something that can be added to the auction to benefit the club please bring it as well.



to Hennessy 5th

### **May Meeting**

Thank you to Jim for finding the program on 7 Abandoned Gem Mines That Are Now Open To The Public. It was very informative and gave a lot of good ideas for summer adventures.

Our next regular meeting will be September 15th. 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.

The Athens Rock Show will coincide with Athfest. If you're attending be prepared for closed roads and potential parking challenges. Please see flyer below.

**ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB**  
**ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS JUNE 2026**



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



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve  
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**An Official Field Trip of the Lowcountry Gem and Mineral Society (Charleston, SC)**

**Saturday, June 13, 2026**  
**Meet at 10 a.m. Eastern Time**  
**Tour is 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Morris Island, SC**

**Limit 30 People**  
**Registration Required (Link is below)**  
**Fee: \$65 per person**

**TRIP:** Hop aboard for a family-friendly adventure that takes you straight to the sandy shores of a wild barrier island. This tour is part boat cruise, part beach day—and all fun. Naturalists and captains will guide you through a salt marsh and Charleston Harbor, sharing stories of the Lowcountry along the way. Keep your eyes peeled for bottlenose dolphins, brown pelicans, and (in summer!) gentle manatees as we cruise past iconic sights like the Ravenel Bridge, downtown Charleston, and Fort Sumter. Once we arrive on Morris Island, you'll have plenty of time to explore, hunt for fossils and shells with a tour guide, or just relax on the beach with a picnic and good company. This tour is a

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summer favorite—laid-back, scenic, and perfect for all ages.

**COLLECTING:** Beachcombing for sharks' teeth, shells, and fossils. We will also have a naturalist joining us to tell us all about the area and any of our finds.

**BRING:** Drinking water, sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks/bagged lunch.

Shoes that you don't mind getting wet (Teva style shoes are best), a hat, and synthetic clothing (it will dry faster than cotton). Swimsuits optional! Also be sure to bring some containers for your treasures!

**REQUIREMENTS:** All trip participants must fill out an online waiver for the tour company or you will not be allowed on the boat. The link will be in the registration confirmation email.

**TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** We will be on the boat and beachcombing, so the terrain is relatively flat, but unfortunately not conducive to wheelchairs or strollers.

**FEE: \$65 per person**

**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).

**CHILDREN (Yes):** There is no official age limit for this trip, but we will be on the boat and beach for most of the day with no facilities and adult supervision will be required at all times.

**PETS (No):** Pets are not allowed.

**FACILITIES:** There are no bathrooms or shelters on the island.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** If you are traveling into Charleston for this trip and are looking for a place that is close, try lodging in Mt. Pleasant or Charleston. Since it is the summer, unfortunately this can get a little pricey, but if you are okay with a bit of a drive, North Charleston will have some less costly options and you can be at the meeting site in about 20-25 minutes.

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:** Registered participants will be sent a confirmation email with directions and meeting place details.

**CARPPOOLING:** 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:** Olivia Cramer 843-247-3414 [olivia.ruxton@gmail.com](mailto:olivia.ruxton@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.**

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## ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS JUNE 2026



### DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



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### An Official Field Trip of the High Country Gem and Mineral Society (Hendersonville, NC) (HOST)

*\*Wednesday\**, July 22, 2026

9:00 am to 5:00 pm Eastern time

Mason Mountain Mine

Franklin, N.C. 28734

**Limit 30 People**

**Registration Required (Link is below)**

**Fee: \$50 per person**

**TRIP:** In the late 1800's, a mine was discovered in northern Macon County, North Carolina that was rich in Rhodolite garnets and six other minerals. The mine was a well-known treasure to the county's earliest inhabitants and in 1965, when Tom Johnson was just six months old, his father purchased the mine. Today, the mine is still in the family with Tom and his wife, Ginger, continuing the family's legacy now known as Mason Mountain Mine and Cowee Gift Shop. The family mining tradition has remained, making the mine a popular gathering site for families and miners from all over the world who come to Macon County still searching for gems.

**COLLECTING:** 100% native dirt (unsalted – nothing added) from the mine site located atop Mason Mountain is brought down to the water flume for miners to sift through. In addition to Rhodolite garnets, the property has six other minerals – Corundum (Ruby and Sapphire, Kyanite, Moonstone, Smokey Quartz, Garnet, and Cordierite (a form of lolite).

**BRING:** Closed-toed shoes are required. Gloves that will help you sift through the dirt and long pants are highly recommended. If it is raining, bring a rain jacket with a hood or a hat, hand towels, towels, and a change of clothes and shoes. The flume is covered but the dirt is in a separate, private, dig pile located about 150 feet from the flume area.

# ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

## ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS JUNE 2026

Participants will shovel the native dirt into buckets and bring it over to the flume area for sifting. Shovels, trowels, screens, hand trucks, and native dirt will be supplied by the mine. The mine will also furnish each participant a hotdog, chips, and a drink, but you are welcome to bring your own lunch/snacks and drinks. Make sure to have plenty of water. A longwave UV light (365 nm) can help participants pick out rubies in their screen.

**REQUIREMENTS:** **Payment must be made by cash only the morning of the trip.**

Participants are required to stay within the dig and flume area. Digging and climbing on the surrounding hills and mountains is not allowed. No motorized tools. Other than closed-toed shoes, there are no specific safety requirements. It is highly recommended to wear long pants and bring gloves for shoveling and sifting dirt. Boots and a change of shoes are highly recommended if it is raining or is muddy in the area.

**TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** The flume area is down a somewhat steep asphalt hill from the parking lot. It is flat going from the flume to the dirt pile. Extremely muddy conditions can exist if it is raining or has been raining. Dirt gets heavy especially when it is wet. The mine does provide hand trucks to bring the dirt to/from the flume and dirt pile.

**FEE:** \$50 per person (we will have a private dig pile).

**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).

**CHILDREN (Yes):** Yes! The mine allows children of all ages! Adult supervision at all times is strongly advised.

**PETS (Yes):** Mason Mountain Mine is Pet-Friendly! The mine specifically states all pets should be kept on leash at all times, well-behaved and cleaned up after!

**FACILITIES:** Restrooms, Handicap Access, On-site Identification & Lapidary services, Gift shop, Covered Flumes.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The mine is located approximately 5 miles north of Franklin, N.C. which is known as the "Gem Capital of the World." Franklin has many restaurants, convenience stores, grocery stores, and fun things to do during your visit.

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:** Registered participants will be sent a confirmation email with directions and meeting place details.

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## ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS JUNE 2026

**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. **Parking is limited, so carpooling is highly recommended in general and from the meeting site.**

**CONTACT:** For additional information, contact James Graham at 828-708-1000 or [jamesdoesjewels@gmail.com](mailto:jamesdoesjewels@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.**

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## ATHENS, GA    DOPS AND DIGS    JUNE 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 held 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); \$25.00 (family of three or more). Dues are due by the October meeting of each year. Checks should be made out to the Treasurer, Casey Gordon, with "Athens Rock and Gem Club" in the memo line (this is temporary, due to an officer change). 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

Make check payable to: Athens Rock and Gem Club

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

# ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

## ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS JUNE 2026

### Executive Board

#### President

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

#### Webmaster and

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@athensrockandgemclub.org)  
Website: [www.athensrockandgemclub.org](http://www.athensrockandgemclub.org)