ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB
ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS OCT 2026

October Meeting

DATE CHANGE!! ATTENTION!!

WE ARE MEETING OCTOBER 27TH

Io will be giving us a run down on their trip to Scotland this summer! Io is a new speaker to the club! We will be taking nominations for officer positions, so we need a big turn out to make suggestions.

October Birthdays

Kim Cochran 21st

Minutes from September meeting: We continued to discuss the building of the new bylaws. The refinement is nearly complete. We continue to look for educational presentations so if you have something in mind please bring it to our attention.

Our next regular meeting will be October 27th. 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.

Please take note that this field trip has some specific rules

DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve

www.southeastfed.org

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An Official Trip of the Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Clarkesville, GA) (Host)

Saturday, October 24, 2026

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB
ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS OCT 2026

10 AM – 4 PM Eastern
Clay County, NC
Limit: 35 People
Registration: Required (Link Below)
Fee: None

TRIP: There will be 2 sites for collecting. Each area has safety precautions and will be supervised by members of the Northeast GA Mineral Society, so please cooperate with them.

COLLECTING: Location 1) *Difficulty Level: Moderate*. This is a creek known for small red almandine garnet chips. Rocks with hornblende and garnets, the source of the garnet chips in the creek, can be found nearby. Rarely, blue corundum and red corundum can also be found in this area. **Location 2)** *Difficulty Level: Hard*. This area requires a steep hike up a wooded area. It is known for its large deposit of smaragdite, a variety of the amphibole mineral actinolite, that gets its green color from chromium. It often contains small red corundum crystals and garnets. You can confirm the corundum with a longwave UV light (365nm).

BRING: If you intend to collect in the creek, bring some sort of scoop that is **not** a shovel (for example a 1-gallon bucket); a ¼ inch or smaller mesh screen; footwear suitable for wading in water; and a change of clothes. For collecting smaragdite, wear hiking boots with good ankle support, and bring a rock hammer, chisel, scratching tools, backpack or 5-gallon bucket, a UV light for verifying corundum, and paper for wrapping specimens. You should also bring sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, gloves, water, electrolytes, and snacks. **DO NOT BRING A PICK, SLEDGE, SHOVEL, SLUICE, OTHER LARGE TOOLS, OR MECHANICAL TOOLS.**

VERY IMPORTANT – Please Read Carefully. The whole area is supervised by the Tusquitee Ranger District so **all forest service rules apply**. Forest Service rules state, **"Removal is limited to surface collection only. Digging for materials is not permitted. Large tools like shovels, picks, and motorized equipment like suction dredges are prohibited as they cause damage to natural features."** Click here for general rules for rock and mineral collecting in national forests. **Please read the rules carefully.**

REQUIREMENTS: All registered attendees must sign in at the meeting site, sign a waiver of liability, and will receive a list of all forest rules plus an explanation of the areas of interest. Parking is limited in these areas. **If you can't walk unassisted, this will severely limit the areas where you may collect**. **Your safety is our priority.**

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Wooded terrain is steep and rocky and will be difficult for people with mobility issues. Attendees should be able to cross and work unassisted in cold streams with swift currents up to 2 to 3 feet deep and climb steep hills. There is poison ivy, snakes, ticks, mosquitos, and wild animals in the area. There is **no cell phone coverage** in the area.

FEE: None

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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).
CARPOOL: If you are interested in carpooling on this trip, 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 and email address 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 for this trip.**
CHILDREN (No): Not unless they are over 12 years of age and under adult supervision at all times. For everyone's safety, adult attendees with unsupervised children will be told to leave. Parents or guardians should seriously consider their child's interest and abilities before attending this trip.
PETS (No): No pets are allowed. This is a wild area and interactions with wild animals pose a safety risk for your pet and all participants.
FACILITIES: No bathrooms. The nearest convenience stores are several miles away. If you wish to stay overnight, Franklin has several great locations to choose from. The Chamber of Commerce in Franklin can help you out.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The Northeast Georgia Mineral Society will provide bottled water and a snack until supplies are exhausted. Club members will be monitoring all activities in all areas to help you out.
DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Directions and meeting place details will be emailed to registered participants only.
CONTACT: Robin & Jennifer Findley
BEFORE THE DAY of the fieldtrip, we can be reached at **info@negms.org** or 706-754-0401
ON THE DAY of the fieldtrip, please **ONLY** use (678) 230-5503 or (706) 949-8414, and **keep in mind that cell service may be unavailable after we depart from the meeting spot.**
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

There is no November trip for SFMS

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB
ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS SEPT 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.

Our annual membership fee is $25 per year. It is the same fee for a family and an individual.

Family memberships cover: The primary member, their spouse or significant other, and their legal dependents. It includes one electronic copy of our monthly newsletter.

Our Membership year begins on Oct. 1 and ends on Sept. 30th of the following year. New members joining after May 1 are paid up through Sept. 30th of the following year.

THE ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____ Name: _____

Spouse's name: _____ ___ Children: _____

Address: _____ _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Addresses: _____ _____

Hobbies, Birthdays (optional): _____ _____
Make check payable to: Casey Gordon, Treasurer, ARGC *(this is a temporary adjustment)*
Mail to: Casey Gordon, Treasurer, ARGC, 135 Curtis Drive, Athens, GA 30605

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB
ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS OCT 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

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