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

November Meeting

Io will be giving us a run down on their trip to Scotland this summer! Io is a new speaker to the club this time with pictures! We will also be discussing the month's birthstone topaz. Bring any examples from your collection to discuss.

We will also be voting on club officers. Any person currently in office that is not voted out will continue in that office.

November Birthdays

Dave Smith 5th

Minutes from October meeting: Io discussed their trip to Scotland this summer with UGA to educate children about agriculture. Nominations were taken for club officers.

Our next regular meeting will be November 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.

There was no November trip for SFMS.

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 Field Trip of the Rome Georgia Mineral Society (Rome, GA) (HOST)

Sunday, December 13, 2026

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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 December, 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.

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.

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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: Tim Hellinger at rogamsfieldtrip@gmail.com or Ph# 614-940-2416

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

2027

January - Tennessee Valley Rock & Mineral Society (Chattanooga, TN)

February - Western South Carolina Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (Greenville, SC)

March - Georgia Mineral Society (Norcross, GA)

April - Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. (Hickory, NC)

May - Athens Rock and Gem Club (Athens, GA)

June - Emerald City Rock & Gem Club (Greenwood, SC)

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.

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

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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

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Make check payable to: Athens Rock and Gem Club
Send to: Casey Gordon, Treasurer, ARGC, 135 Curtis Drive, Athens, GA 30605

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