



Dops and Digs

October Meeting

The next meeting of the Athens Rock and Gem Club will be on October 17th, 2023. 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.

Also if you have any items for grab bags please bring to the meeting. A good variety of material always helps to make nice grab bags.

The educational program for the October meeting will be Collecting in Colorado by Jim Maudsley. Members are encouraged to bring their Colorado specimens to the meeting.

Dues Are Due

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.

Be sure to print your email address carefully, so you can receive your Dops and Digs.

Make check payable to: Athens Rock and Gem Club

Send to: Kodi Book, Treasurer, ARGC, 13 Penny Lane, Lexington, GA 30648



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Laura Epps -October 13

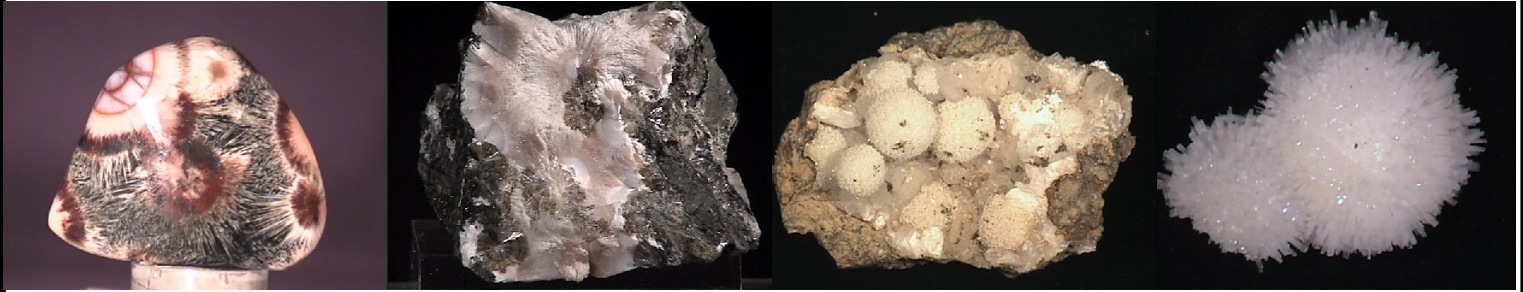
Kim Cochran -October 21



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

James and Tanja Strickler-Jefferson, GA

THE MINERAL THOMSONITE



Minnesota, U.S.A.

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Globe, Oregon, USA

Cape Grim, Tasmania, Australia

Chemistry: $\text{NaCa}_2\text{Al}_5\text{Si}_5\text{O}_{20} \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, Hydrated sodium calcium aluminum silicate.

Class: Silicates

Subclass: Tektosilicates

Group: Zeolites

Uses: Mineral specimen and chemical filter.

Thomsonite is one of the rarer zeolites. It forms tight acicular radiating clusters and sphericules as well as some blockier crystals that are found in the vesicles or bubbles of volcanic rock as are most other zeolites. Natrolite, another zeolite, is usually square in cross section but is otherwise difficult to distinguish from thomsonite. The color is usually colorless or white, but a few specimens have shown a lovely yellow color. Thomsonite is a rare mineral and is sought after by collectors of rare zeolite minerals.

Zeolites are known to have an openness about their structure that allows large ions and molecules to reside and actually move around inside the overall framework. The structure actually contains open channels that allow water and large ions to travel into and out of the crystal structure. The size of these channels controls the size of the molecules or ions and therefore a zeolite can act as a chemical sieve, allowing some ions to pass through while blocking others.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Color is clear, white and yellow .

Luster is vitreous.

Transparency: Crystals are transparent to translucent.

Crystal System is orthorhombic.

Crystal Habits include tight acicular radiating clusters and sphericules. Blocky, prismatic, fibrous and tabular crystals are also known.

Cleavage is perfect.

Fracture is uneven.

Hardness is 5 - 5.5

Specific Gravity is approximately 2.2 - 2.4 (light).

Streak is white.

Associated Minerals are quartz, calcite, chabazite, natrolite, heulandite, stilbite and other zeolites.

Notable Occurrences include Saxony, Germany; Italy; Faroe Islands; Kilpatrick Hills, Scotland and Kern Co., California and Cape Lookout, Oregon, USA.

Best Field Indicators are crystal habit, density, hardness and associations.



ROCK, GEM, AND MINERAL SHOWS



Shows that are listed for the previous year "generally" take place on the same weekends during the current year. Please call or email to verify.

Oct 20 – 22, 2023 Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society

8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923 The three -day 31st Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show opens October 20th at 10 am at the Rothchild Conference Center at 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923. Show times are from 10:00 am to 6 pm October 20th – 21st, Friday and Saturday; from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sunday, October 22nd. The Gem Show is open to the public and has an admission fee of \$8 a day for adults or \$15 for the whole show; children under 12 are admitted free. The Gem and Mineral Show will have many vendors that offer great products including a wide variety of jewelry, rare fossil and mineral specimens, meteorites, gems of all colors shapes & sizes, lapidary & jewelry equipment, and much more. Link(s): <http://www.knoxrocks.org/gem-show/>

Oct 21 – 22, 2023 Kanawha Rock and Gem Club

South Charleston Community Center 601 Jefferson Road South Charleston WV 25309 Oct. 21st 10am to 6pm and Oct 22nd 10am to 4pm \$2.00 Adults 12 years old and under are free Military ID = Free Link(s): <https://facebook.com/Kanawha-Rock-and-Gem-Club-222696581100304/>

Oct 21 – 22, 2023 St. Lucie Co. Rock and Gem Club

MidFlorida Event Center 9221 SE Event Center Place, Pt. Saint Lucie FL 34952 Our 46th annual club show. Featuring rocks, minerals, jewelry and gems. Displays and demonstrations by club members and kid's activities. This year we will be hosting the SFMS annual meeting. Link(s): www.slrockandgem.org

Nov 10 – 12, 2023 Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

The 34th annual "Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show" hosted by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society Inc. will be at the Jackson County Fairground Civic Center in Pascagoula, MS November 10, 11, & 12. Friday and Saturday from 10-6:00 and Sunday 10-5:00 There will be vendors selling gemstones, minerals, fossils, and jewelry from all over the world. Fun for the whole family. There will be a coloring contest for the kids. There will be a sand bags for kids to purchase and search for their own gemstone treasures! Our members will demonstrate how to make cabochons (shaped and polished gemstone). Our gem club members will be demonstrating many different jewelry making skills including Faceting, Cabbing, Pearling, Beading, Wire wrapping and more. Cost to get in is \$5. Kids 12 and under get in free with a paying adult. Door prizes will be given out hourly! There is a Raffle full of wonder prizes of jewelry, gemstones, art, mineral specimens and more. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets will be available at the Show and on our website. www.mgcmgs.org. The winner will be drawn at the end of the show. Winner need not be present to win. No need to leave hungry. The concession stand will be open, offering hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken gumbo, red beans and rice, potato salad and coleslaw. There will snacks available as well. If you get thirsty we will have iced tea, coke products or a fresh glass of lemonade. Be sure to check our displays of fossils, minerals, and gemstones from around the world. Come join the fun and shop for some treasures of your own! Link(s): https://www.mgcmgs.org/gem_show

Nov 11 – 12, 2023 Canaveral Mineral and Gem Society

Melbourne Auditorium 625 E Hibiscus Blvd , Melbourne FL 32901 \$5.00 entry fee for the whole weekend! SATURDAY 10-5 pm SUNDAY 10-4PM

Link(s): <https://www.facebook.com/Canaveralmg>

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.

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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: Kodi Book, Treasurer, ARGC, 13 Penny Lane, Lexington, GA 30648

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**ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB
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LEXINGTON, GA 30648**



Please deliver to:

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