



# Dops and Digs

## IT'S PARTY TIME!



The annual Athens Rock and Gem Club Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 10th, 2023 at the home of Dee and Tom Pelewski. They are located at 120 Salem Church Road, Lexington, GA 30648. The hours are 2-5 p.m.



If you plan to attend the party, please RSVP with Dee and Tom by December 8th so Dee will know how many are coming to the party. Also, you should plan to bring food (pot luck -- can include meat, casserole, veggies, dessert, etc.). Please let Dee know what you are bringing for the pot luck so we have a good variety of different dishes. Don't bother bringing any smoked meat, because yours will pale compared to Walt Sikora's smoked turkey!

The Club will provide , plastic plates and eating utensils, cups, drinks, ice and napkins.

Dee says if you would like wine you are welcome to bring your own bottle.

We will have our usual pirate gift exchange. Everyone knows what fun “stealing” can be! If you would like to participate, then bring a gift (with a mineral/gem/lapidary theme) with a value in the \$5-20 range. (No one would complain if it was worth more.) Wrap or bag the gift so it cannot be recognized. If it is most appropriate for a male or female, child, or anyone then specify this on outside.



RSVP to Dee -770-364-4206



To get to the Pelewski's, please refer to the map on page two.



## A Letter from Jose Santamaria

My Dear Friends

As many of you know, I stepped down as executive director of Tellus Science Museum, and before that the Weinman Mineral Museum, this past October first. I had the privilege of serving in that position for 27 years and felt it was time for me to slow down a bit. I'm excited that Adam Wade, formerly our director of development, is taking over in my stead. He and I have worked together for almost twenty years to make Tellus the success that it is today. Many of you know him, and although he is not a rockhound per se, he is very appreciative and respectful of the importance of the collection and has a good working relationship with our curator Ryan Roney.

I am not going away, however. The museum has a number of projects underway and I plan to remain at the museum part-time as executive director emeritus to help with these projects, to fundraise for them, and to help with the collection. There's a good chance that I'll see you on your next visit.

During the past 27 years, the museum grew from a small local museum into a nationally recognized Smithsonian-affiliated institution. We have expanded the collection and exhibits to world-class status; we have provided sound science education to our youth, families, collectors, and life-long learners; and we have become part of what makes living in our region a pleasure. An important part of the museum's success has been our relationship with the mineral clubs in the region, especially many members of the Athens Rock and Gem Club. I was a mineral and fossil collector before I first stepped through the doors as director of the Weinman, and I still am. I'm staying on in part to continue to help grow the collection. Many of you have also contributed outstanding specimens to the museum's collection, and I want to assure you that our relationship with collectors and mineral clubs is important and will always remain so.

Thank you so much for your friendship and support of the museum over the years, and I ask that you continue your support of Tellus with Adam at the helm. In the meantime, I'll see you at the next field trip!

Sincerely,

Jose

**Jose Santamaria**

**Executive Director Emeritus**

**Tellus Science Museum**

100 Tellus Dr | PO Box 3663 | Cartersville GA 30120

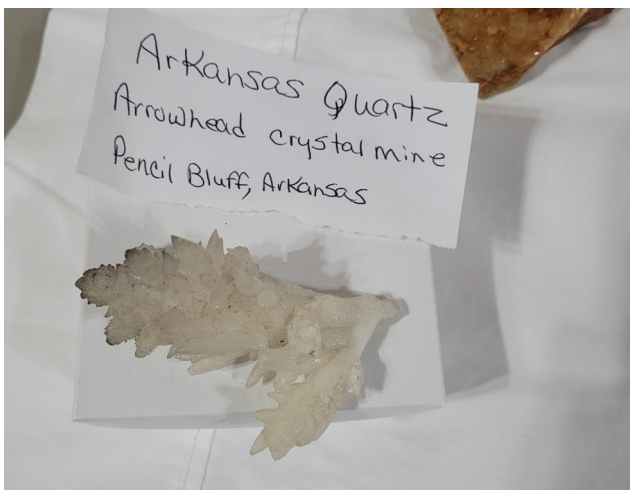
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# Last Month

Last month we had a very nice program on Arkansas Quartz presented by Jim Maudsley. Thanks you Jim !



# THE MINERAL CONICALCALCITE

**Chemistry:**  $\text{CaCuAsO}_4(\text{OH})$ , Calcium Copper Arsenate Hydroxide

**Class:** [Phosphates](#)

**Subclass:** [Arsenates](#)

**Group:** [Adelite](#)

**Uses:** A minor ore of copper and as mineral specimens.



Conicalcalcite has a sparkling grass green color that once observed is hard to mistake for any other mineral. It is often encrusted onto limonitic rocks that have a red to yellow color and the two produce a very colorful specimen. Conicalcalcite forms in the oxidation zone of copper ore bodies. Oxygen rich ground water that might react with copper sulfide and/or copper oxide minerals produce a wonderful assortment of attractive and colorful minerals in a zone called the oxidation zone. Conicalcalcite is just one of these minerals. Other oxidation zone minerals include malachite, azurite, linnarite, etc.

Conicalcalcite forms a solid solution series with the mineral [calciovolborthite](#). A solid solution series occurs when two or more structurally identical minerals can interchange elements within their chemistries without dramatically altering the crystal structure. In the case of conicalcalcite and calciovolborthite the two elements are arsenic and vanadium. Conicalcalcite is the arsenic rich end member of the series and calciovolborthite is the vanadium rich end mem-



## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Color** is grass green to light green.
- **Luster** is vitreous.
- **Transparency:** Crystals are transparent to translucent.
- **Crystal System** is orthorhombic
- **Crystal Habits** include the crusts of acicular to almost fibrous crystals. Also as botryoidal masses and compact crusts.
- **Cleavage** is absent.
- **Fracture** is uneven.
- **Hardness** is 4.5
- **Specific Gravity** is approximately 4.3 (heavy)
- **Streak** is green.

**Associated Minerals** are [limonite](#), [malachite](#), beudantite, [adamite](#), [cuproadamite](#), [olivenite](#) and [smithsonite](#).

- **Notable Occurrences** include Juab Co., Utah, Nevada and Arizona, USA; Mexico; Chile; Poland and Zaire.
- **Best Field Indicators** are crystal habit, color, associations and density.

## 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

Make check payable to: Athens Rock and Gem Club

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

# Executive Board

## President

### **Jim Maudsley**

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**ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB  
C/O DONNA BOOK  
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LEXINGTON, GA 30648**



**Please deliver to:**

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Website: [www.athensrockandgemclub.org](http://www.athensrockandgemclub.org)*