

**ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB
ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS FEB 2025**

February Meeting

52 Million Years in Western Wyoming

Jose Santamaria, Executive Director Emeritus
Tellus Science Museum

Take a journey through the geological wonders of western Wyoming with former Tellus director Jose Santamaria. Our discussion starts at the ancient lake beds of the Green River formation in southern Wyoming, where you can collect 52-million-year-old fish fossils. Then we travel north to experience the fascinating and sometimes explosive geology of Yellowstone National Park and discuss the seismic formation of the Grand Tetons. There's going to be plenty of eye candy as Santamaria shares plenty of photos from his travels in the area.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will be able to meet. Feel free to bring your holiday finds and purchases to share as well.

Wildacres and William Holland have announced their offerings for the summer and they are attached. Anyone who has been to the classes will tell you enthusiastically that they are great!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday February 18. 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.

Happy Birthday!

Lisa Harter 5th
Jim Maudsley 11th
Walt Sikora 20th

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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 Mobile Gem and Mineral Society (Mobile, AL) (HOST)

Saturday, March 8, 2025

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Eastern

Hogg Mine

LaGrange, GA

No Attendance Limit

Registration Required (Link is below)

Fee: \$35 per adult

****Children 16 & Under Dig FREE****

TRIP: Hogg Mine, located in LaGrange, Georgia, is home to a large pegmatite that was mined for beryllium from the 1940's to 1960. It has been reopened to the public in recent years for mineral and gemstone collection. The mine's pegmatite is a lensoidal graphic granite pegmatite with a narrow replacement zone between a rose quartz core and a beryl-rich area. Hogg Mine is home to the largest Aquamarine Deposit in the State of Georgia. Some of the beryl crystals found in the mine have weighed hundreds of pounds!!!

COLLECTING: The mine contains a large pegmatite with beryl, rose quartz, smokey quartz, tourmaline, muscovite, and kaolinite.

BRING: Be ready to get down and dirty. Pick, Shovel, Rock Hammer, Hammer, Chisels, Rock Bars, 5 Gallon Buckets (Limit one 5-gallon bucket of material per person and one yard rock per dig.) These are recommendations, most people are fine with just a small but sturdy pick and a small shovel. No power tools are permitted. Water and spray bottles will really improve your success at the mine. Generally recommended to bring about 2 gallons of water per person over the course of a day digging. (We don't have water onsite so bring enough to get you through the day).

REQUIREMENTS: Gloves, Safety Glasses and closed toe shoes.

TERRAIN: This is an open pit mine that covers many acres, be prepared to walk over rocks, and exposed tree roots. Some paths may lead to deep trenches, so there is always the potential for a wall to collapse. Please do not let children go unattended throughout the mine.

FEE: \$35 for Adults, Free for children 16 & under.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If you register and are unable to attend the trip, please let us know so we can update the registration list for an accurate head count.

CHLDREN (YES): If children are present, adult supervision is required at all times. This location is suited for children.

PETS (YES): Yes, on a leash.

FACILITIES: No traditional bathroom but there is an outhouse on site for those urgent moments. There is a convenience store within 5 minutes of the mine.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: There are plenty of hotels available in Lagrange with only 15 min drive to the mine. There are several campgrounds available within a 20 min drive of the

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mine. Blanton Creek (my personal favorite - Alison Ferniany), Schaefer Heard, or Whitetail Ridge.

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

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: Alison Ferniany, MRGS Fieldtrip Chairperson (251) 510-0040.

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.**

SFMS Week will be June 6-13 this summer.

SFMS William Holland Director

Rick Marshall

Below is a list of the great classes we have lined up this year. The Intarsia Class and Gem Trees are already full with a wait list. Opals and Wire I each have only one spot left. Soft Soldering has 2 spots left. The other classes have plenty of spots available. 34 students have registered. Pick your class and come join us!

Go to <http://www.sfmsworkshops.org> and sign up

Don't wait till it's too late to get in the class you want. Class sizes are limited. Go to <http://www.sfmsworkshops.org> and see the Class Descriptions and the Instructors Bios. Pick out your 1st and 2nd choices and register now. You will find Costs and the Registration form there also.

Jerri Heer: Gem Trees

Jeff Hunter: Opals All in One

Lance Andrus: Faceting

Bill Boggs: Intarsia I & II

Stephanie Danz: Stained Glass Boxes

Patricia Lillie: Metal Clay in Motion

Jim Hird: Chain Maille I

John Wild: Cabs I & II

Barbara Fields: Silver I

Zac Tedrow: Silver II - Silver & Stone Cutting

Deb Gates: Junior Jewelers-Beginning Metalsmiths (Ages 10-15)

Jodi Miller: Soft Soldering

Judi Wild: Wire I

Ken Valko: Soapstone Carving

Cindy Moore: Coin Jewelry - Changing Change

Hope to see you at William Holland!

Rick Marshall, SFMS William Holland Director

407-949-1416

Wh-director@southeastfed.org

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Wildacres Weeks are August 11-17 and September 15-21 this summer.

Wildacres Director

Gina Phillips

Hello fellow Rockhounds, crafters and artists! My name is Gina Phillips and I am honored to have been asked to serve as the Southeast Federation's Educational Director for Wildacres Retreat, located in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. For those who may be unfamiliar with Wildacres, the retreat is seated on just over 1200 acres atop Pompey's Knob (not too far from Mt. Mitchell and just off the Blue Ridge Parkway) at 3,300 ft above sea level. The conference center was founded in the 1900s and has been serving nonprofit groups conducting educational programs since 1946.

Twice a year, the SFMS reserves a week at Wildacres that is completely devoted to teaching specialized skills on a wide variety of topics. This year, the dates will be August 11-17 and September 15-21. We are fortunate to be able to host the following terrific teachers and their class(es):

August

1. Jason Hamilton - Silversmithing Plus
2. Jeff Sheer - Special Projects
3. Cindy Moore - Moving Metal
4. Reneé Runde - Steel and Bronze Metal Clay
5. Stephanie Danz - Stained Glass Boxes
6. Gail Deluca - Bead Embroidery
7. Bill Harr - Casting

September:

1. Jason Hamilton - Silversmithing Plus
2. Stephanie Savic Polk - Enameling and Acid Etching
3. Cindy Moore - Bracelet Blowout
4. Kristin Pietras - Micro-Macramé Jewelry
5. Stephanie Danz - Stained Glass Panels
6. Amber Dockery - Fantastic Leathercraft
7. Susan Brooks - Fun With Silver Metal Clay

The thrill of meeting new people and making new friends from other clubs all over the southeast while being able to completely immerse yourself in your craft of choice is exhilarating (and just downright fun!)

As you hone your skills and unleash your inner creativity amongst equally devoted peers, you are surrounded by panoramic natural views, two large lodges, class/lapidary rooms, a dining hall, auditorium and library. Housing is comfortable and on-site. Personal transportation within Wildacres is available for those with physical or mobility limitations.

Wildacres is a retreat like no other; whether it is the picturesque views of the Pisgah National Forest, the camaraderie of roasting marshmallows together around the amphitheater's fire pit, the delicious meals served family-style or just the laid back atmosphere, Wildacres has it all... and I am so excited to be able to help others experience the magic firsthand. Thank you for allowing me to be of service, I hope to see you there!

Gina Phillips, SFMS Wildacres Director

Wa-director@southeastfed.org

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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 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

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