

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS MARCH 2025

March (not going to be a) Meeting

The March meeting has been cancelled. Kim has had some medical issues come up and will reschedule. Jim Maudsley will also not be able to make it due to unexpected circumstances. So, we'll meet in April!

Another thank you to Jose Santamaria for the presentation on the Green River Formation last month. I'm ready to go!

Wildacres and William Holland have announced their offerings for the summer and they are attached. Classes are selling out and I have updated the list below to the best of my ability. Anyone who has been to the classes will tell you enthusiastically that they are great!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday April 15. 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!

Chris Whitcomb 5th

Alice Rose 16th

Christina Gannon 7th

Rachel Kennedy 9th

Tanja Strickler 24th

Ian Allen 9th

Happy Anniversary Donna and Kodi Book!

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DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
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**An Official Field Trip of the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
(Jackson, MS) (HOST)**

An Official Field Trip of the Georgia Mineral Society

Saturday, April 5, 2025

8:00 AM Central

Bayou Pierre, Hazlehurst, Copiah County, MS

Limit: 40 People

Registration Required (Link is below)

Fee: None



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TRIP: The Bayou Pierre River is a tributary to the Mississippi River, joining the mighty muddy near Port Gibson. The field trip site is on the eastern portion of the river. Don't be misled by the name "Bayou." It's a free-flowing river. Native Americans lived in villages near the river before European settlers migrated to the area.

COLLECTING: Extensive deposits of Citronelle Formation gravel are exposed in the stream bed and along the banks of the Bayou Pierre River as it meanders through rural Copiah County, Mississippi. Expect to find agates, petrified wood, fossil brachiopods, bryozoans, coral, crinoid stems, and other gravel.

BRING: Bring lunch and plenty of water. Bring a bucket, backpack or bags in which to collect rocks. A garden wagon or bucket on wheels will make it easier to haul your collected rocks back to your vehicle. Bring a lightweight chair and beach umbrella for shade during breaks. Wear shoes or boots suited for walking on sand and, if you go near the river bank, mud. Bring sunscreen and insect repellent, and wear a hat. There are no facilities at the river.

REQUIREMENTS: None.

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TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: We will be traveling a dirt road with limited parking. **Carpooling will be appreciated.**

FEE: No fee.

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).

CHILDREN: Children must be at least 6 years old and supervised by a relative at all times. The hunt site is beside a river. Please keep close watch on children around the river at all times. The current is swift.

PETS: No pets please.

FACILITIES: There are no restroom facilities at the site. Recommend taking a restroom break at the meeting location.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: No firearms allowed. Contact the host club for recommendations about lodging accommodations.

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: Allan Purvis, 228-213-6831, fieldtrips@missgems.org.

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.**

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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—SOLD OUT

Lance Andrus: Faceting

Bill Boggs: Intarsia I & II—SOLD OUT

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—SOLD OUT

Judi Wild: Wire I—SOLD OUT

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

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

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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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