

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS APRIL 2025

April Meeting

Chester Karwoski, in addition to being an avid mineral collector and long-standing member of the Athens Rock and Gem club, has been a successful mineral dealer for many years. We're pleased to announce that Chester will present the educational program for the month of April. He will speak on the ins and outs of importing minerals, especially minerals from India. Chester will have plenty of specimens for show as well as an assortment of quality material for sale. As always, Chester will contribute a percentage of any sales to the club treasury. So, bring a few bucks. You're not going to want to pass up this opportunity.

If you aren't going to be able to make the Mississippi agate trip and want some of the agates from that location, ask Kallie. She's got some spares.

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!

Casey Gordon 18th
Robert Walters 29th

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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 North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Tupelo, MS) (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the

Saturday May 17, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m. CDT

Smith County Lime Pit

Smith County MS

Limit: 40

Registration Required (Link is below)

Fee: None

TRIP: The Smith County Lime Pit is an Early Oligocene marine deposit of the Vicksburg group. It consists largely of fossiliferous limestones and clays. In decreasing age (and superposition) they are the Bucatunna Clay, Glendon Limestone, softer Marianna Limestone, and often fossil-rich residue of the Mint Spring Marl. It is an active agricultural limestone quarry, so please be mindful of the safety rules below and as reviewed on site by the field trip leaders.

COLLECTING: At this site, participants can collect a variety of shark teeth, mollusks (scallop & oyster shells, moldic gastropods & bivalves), echinoids like sand dollars and sea urchins, crabs, bryozoans, and other marine fossils.

BRING: Lunch, snacks, and water. Bucket, backpack, small containers for shark teeth and other small specimens, foil or tissue papers for wrapping fragile specimens, paper towels, handwipes, hat, sunscreen, bug spray, gloves, and safety glasses. Many of the fossils are on the surface, but you will also want to bring something for prying like a screwdriver, a chisel, and rock hammer. Wear sturdy shoes like hiking boots or mud boots. The site can be muddy and have pools of water. When it is very sunny, sunglasses help relieve the eyes from the glare off the white limestone. There is collecting on the flats, but the quarry is rocky. You can climb over some of the rocks or take a path around to reach some of the higher levels. Plan on carrying your gear from the parking area, maybe 200 ft or so.

REQUIREMENTS: Participants are expected to stay within the confines of the excavation site. No children under the age of 13 are allowed at the site. No pets please! The owner/operator may be present, so let's be on our best behavior.

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Parking is limited, especially if the site is muddy. Please consider carpooling for the trip or at least from your hotels (you can sign up for carpooling below). Also, we are hoping to secure a site in the town of Bay Springs

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where we can park some vehicles so we can carpool to the site from there. Participants need to be aware of snakes and spiders while in the rocky quarry. No venomous snakes have been sighted here, but there may be an occasional Black Widow spider. Cell phone service can be spotty.

FEE: None.

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: Only children 13 or older are allowed in this quarry. There are some high rock faces, and a water filled quarry pit.

PETS: No pets allowed.

FACILITIES: No facilities at the site, but the town of Bay Springs, MS, is not more than 10 minutes away.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Lodging available in the Pearl/Brandon, MS area, Meridian, MS, Hattiesburg, MS, or Laurel MS.

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: Nancy Roberts, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com 731-727-5574

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 8-14 this summer.

SFMS William Holland Director

Rick Marshall

Below is a list of the great classes we have lined up this year.. 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 - wait list

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 – wait list

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

1. Jason Hamilton - Silversmithing Plus

2. Jeff Sheer - Special Projects

3. Cindy Moore - Moving Metal

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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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