

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS MAY 2025

May Meeting

Club rock swap and giveaway! At the May meeting we encourage our members to bring their extra specimens and tonnage to give to and exchange with other club members. Jim will be bringing specimens from his first trip to Graves Mountain and some things he picked up in Colorado amongst other things. Let's send people home with new items for their collections! We will also be planning the June picnic. Refreshments will be served.

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 on Tuesday May 20. 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!

James Strickler 25th

Sean Price 25th

Sara Kate Downs 26th

John Gogliano 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
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An Official Field Trip of the Gaston Gem and Mineral Club (Gastonia, NC) (HOST)

Saturday, June 7, 2025

9:00 a.m. Eastern Time
Private Dig Site

Conover, NC

Limit: 60 People

Registration Required (Link is below)

Fee: Ages 16 and up: \$30

Ages 15 and under: Free



TRIP: The selected 15+ acre site was a former open-pit mica mine. The mine operated during the 1950s providing high quality book mica used for industrial purposes. The site has several dig opportunities, described below.

COLLECTING: Minerals found on the site include small books of muscovite mica, smoky quartz crystals, feldspar, tourmaline, with some occurrences of green beryl, amethyst, and ilmenite found on the site.

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A tailings pile near the old open pit mine will yield some easy mica and other surface and loose-dirt mineral collecting. The beryl is found in a pegmatite formation at one side of the dig site (hard rock digging tools needed).

Within the dig site there is a small creek where gold has been found on several occasions. Mineral collection in the creek, as well as hand-held gold panning and dredging within the creek is permitted (no deep digging or disturbance of creek banks is allowed).

The hosting club will arrange for an excavator to unearth fresh digging material prior to the field trip day.

BRING: Hand Tools - Buckets, Hand-trowel, Shovel, Pick, Hoe, Gloves, Safety glasses, Knee pads. Hammer and Chisel if hard-rock digging. Gold pan or dredge if panning. Bring water, sunscreen, folding chair, and snacks/drinks.

The Gaston Gem and Mineral Club will provide a cookout lunch with hamburgers and hot dogs for our DMC guests. Bring your own drinks and, if possible, a side dish to share – there will be plenty of food for all!

REQUIREMENTS: All holes must be filled in before leaving. No drugs or alcohol. If you bring it in, pack it out.

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: We will be parking in an open field. There is some walking (15 minutes) up and down hills and across a creek to get to the open pit dig area. The mineral bearing veins are surrounded in red mud, so be prepared to get dirty. If we have had rain the digging will be easier.

FEE: Fee is \$30 per person for ages 16 and older. Free for ages 15 and under. A signed waiver is required; these will be provided during sign-in.

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 (Yes): This is a good site for children to learn to dig.

PETS (No): Sorry, no pets are allowed.

FACILITIES: There are no restrooms onsite. (We are trying to arrange for a portable toilet unit onsite – not confirmed yet.) The closest bathroom is about 6 miles away (at the meet point). Food and drink are also about 6 miles away.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Hotels are available in the Conover and Hickory NC area which are about 15-30 minutes away. We will have volunteers working to help identify, show you what to look for and how to dig for it.

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

CONTACT: Dodany Garcia, Phone: 786-424-5241, Email: motordanny@yahoo.com

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.**

[Click here for DMC Field Trip Attendance Policies](#)

[Click here for the DMC Field Trip Schedule](#)

Clubs scheduled to host DMC Field Trips in the next 6 months

2025

July - Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society (Jacksonville, FL)

August - Cobb County Gem & Mineral Society (Marietta, GA)

September - Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society (Murfreesboro, TN)

October - Columbia Gem & Mineral Society (Columbia, SC)

November - Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society (Knoxville, TN)

December - Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society (Melbourne, FL)

Email: dmc@southeastfed.org

Website: <https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program>

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

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"Earth first...we'll collect on the other planets later."

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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.

*Note from the editor, if you are a first time attendee it is much easier to call and register.

The website can be unwieldy and the fees are spaced out. There is the school fee, if you're staying there a room fee, instructor fee, possible materials and consumables fees. Make sure you know all of them.

Jerri Heer: Gem Trees – has reopened

Jeff Hunter: Opals All in One—wait list

Lance Andrus: Faceting

Bill Boggs: Intarsia I & II—wait list

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—wait list

Judi Wild: Wire I—wait list

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):

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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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