

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS NOV 2025

November Meeting

****ARGC Fieldtrip is Cancelled****

We had a rapid pivot for the October meeting. Due to a domino effect of circumstances we met on the church steps but then went to Mark's house for the meeting which was a presentation on his gem show circuit this summer. Thank you to Mark and the Mrs for allowing us into your home and to view your collection!

November meeting: "Love that Lapidary" -- Have you ever thought about faceting gems, creating cabochons, or casting your own silver jewelry? Casey Gordon has done it all. He will share his knowledge and experiences with you at this month's meeting. You will not want to miss it.

Our club treasurer is retiring! So, a portion of the business meeting will be devoted to finding a replacement. No experience necessary. Kodi is willing to work with the new person and bring them up to speed. Think about it.

Our next regular meeting will be November 18th. 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!

Dave Smith 5th

*****CANCELLED*****
ARGC FIELDTRIP!!!
November 8, 2025
Mason Mountain Mine
Franklin, NC

Saturday, November 8th, we will meet at Grainger just outside the loop at 1205 Commerce Rd Athens at 7:30am and will carpool from there. Cost is \$50 a day per person for limitless native dirt and there are salted buckets

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available for different costs. Our intention is to be there at opening and stay all day, with the mine closing at 4pm. Please bring water and snacks. This is a native material mine and is known for sapphires and garnets. You will collect material in buckets and bring it to the water flume for washing and sorting. Please dress accordingly and bring gloves.



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 Knoxville
Gem & Mineral Society
(Knoxville, TN) (HOST)**

Saturday, November 22, 2025

11:00 AM Eastern Time

Norris Lake, TN

Limit 50 People

Registration Required (Link is below)

Fee: None



TRIP: We will be collecting Upper Ordovician marine fossils along the shore of Norris Lake. The Stromatolites are large, unfortunately they are gray colored like the limestone they are weathering out of. The brachiopods are on plates with the inside of the shell displayed, however If you look closely, you can find complete shells that have weathered out of the limestone.

**COLLECTING: Marine Fossils:
Stromatolite, Brachiopods,
Bryozoans.**

BRING: Geology Hammer or small scratching tool, bucket. Fossils are loose and easy to pick up.

REQUIREMENTS: We will be collecting along the banks of Norris Lake. Digging is not allowed, only surface collecting.

**TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS:
The site is within easy walking distance from the parking area.**

FEE: FREE

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If you register and are unable to attend the trip, **please be**

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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).

CHLDREN (Yes): Children allowed.
Children need to be under adult supervision at all times due to the proximity of the lake to the collecting area.

PETS (Yes): Are pets allowed. Pets must always be on a leash while at the site.

FACILITIES: There are no facilities at the collecting site, however there is a small country store/gas station within 0.1 miles of the parking lot that has clean restrooms.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Food and drinks are available within a short driving distance from the parking lot.

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

CONTACT: Daniel Miller Field Trip Chairman KGMS, 423-273-0487

daniel.miller@jtekt.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

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

2026

January - Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society (Birmingham, AL)

February - Aiken Gem Mineral and Fossil Society (Aiken, SC)

March - Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society (Macon, GA)

April - Middle Tennessee Rockhounds (Nashville, TN)

May - Kanawha Rock and Gem Club (South Charleston, WV)

Email: dmc@southeastfed.org

Website:

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

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TRIP: Travel by canoe through pristine Florida wilderness on the beautiful Peace River to reach some of the most promising fossil collecting areas in Florida.

**An Official Field Trip of the the
Canaveral Mineral and Gem Society
(Melbourne, FL) (HOST)
Saturday, December 6, 2025
9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Peace River
Wauchula area, FL
Limit 23 adults and 12 children (5-12)
Registration Required (Link is below)
Fee: \$125, (12 and under \$90)**



COLLECTING: We will be sifting through gravel deposits in the riverbed to find fossilized teeth and bones of sharks, whales, and mammals such as ancient horses, camels, sloths, mammoths, and mastodon.

BRING: Water, packed lunch (small coolers are ok), bags or small bucket for your finds, clothes and shoes that can be worn in water, plus an extra set of dry clothes to change into later, towel, dry bag or ziplock to hold your phone, wallet, etc., hat, sunglasses, sunscreen. You will be walking in sand and gravel, in water, so closed water shoes or dive boots are recommended. Optional: Snorkel, mask, and swim fins. Also, it's a good idea to bring a sweater or jacket. It can sometimes be cool in December, even here in Florida.

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE PROVIDED BY OUR GUIDE: Canoes, life vests, shovels, sifting screens, and the required Florida fossil collecting permit (which will cover the whole group).

FACILITIES: No facilities.

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REQUIREMENTS: Be prepared to paddle on scenic, natural rivers and shovel and sift through gravel deposits.

TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS: We will be in and out of canoes and wading in water. Come prepared to get wet.

FEES: \$125 per adult, \$90 for kids 12 and under. Payable to our guide the morning of the trip via cash, check, Venmo, or Zelle.

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): Children 5 and older are allowed, but must be supervised by a parent/adult guardian at all times. **NOTE:** There will be 12 canoes and only one child (12 or under) is allowed per canoe. You must register at least one adult per child.

PETS (No): Pets are not allowed.

LODGING: Hotels, campgrounds, and RV sites are available in the Wauchula area.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO

MEET: We will be leaving from one of several spots, all in the Wauchula vicinity. The exact location will be determined the week of the trip after

evaluating current conditions, and registered attendees will be sent directions at that time.

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: James Hislop, (407) 797-2391, jameshislop672@gmail.com

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Field trip chairs and newsletter editors: If you need this notice in Word format, please contact Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator, at dmc@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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Executive Board

President

Jim Maudsley
400 University Circle
Athens, GA 30605
706-353-1792
48maudsley@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kodi Book
13 Penny Lane
Lexington, GA 30648
706-340-1790
kodi@mykodi.com

Newsletter Editor

Kallie Brunson
200 Maple Forge Dr
Athens, GA 30606
706-201-6171
KallieBrunson@yahoo.com

Librarian

Walt Sikora
630 Riverhill Drive
Athens, GA 30606
706-353-0287

Membership

Chairman
Don Brockway
255 Rollingwood Drive
Athens, GA 30605
706-549-3160
dlbrockway@att.net

Webmaster

Casey Gordon
135 Curtis Drive
Athens, GA 30605
706-543-2140
ccgordon1@gmail.com

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB
C/O DONNA BOOK
13 PENNY LANE
LEXINGTON, GA 30648



Please Deliver To:



Email: info@athensrockandgemclub.org
Website: www.athensrockandgemclub.org