

# **ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB**

## **ATHENS, GA   DOPS AND DIGS   DEC 2025**

Thank you to Casey Gordon for the presentation on cabbing and faceting at our November meeting! Casey walked us through the step-by-step process of shaping stones and some alternative methods for doing so. Suggestions for classes were William Holland Lapidary School and the SFMS events at Wildacres. I'll include those in the newsletter when the dates are posted.

Casey also volunteered to be the new treasurer as Kodi is retiring after many years of service. Thank you Kodi!

We have no birthdays in December

### **December Party!**

Our December meeting will be the annual holiday party!

The annual Athens Rock and Gem Club Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 7th, 2024, at the home of Dee and Tom Pelewski. They are located at 120 Salem Church Road, Lexington, GA 30648. The hours are 2-5 p.m.

If you plan to attend the party, please RSVP with Dee and Tom by December 6th so Dee will know how many are coming to the party.

RSVP to Dee -770-364-4206

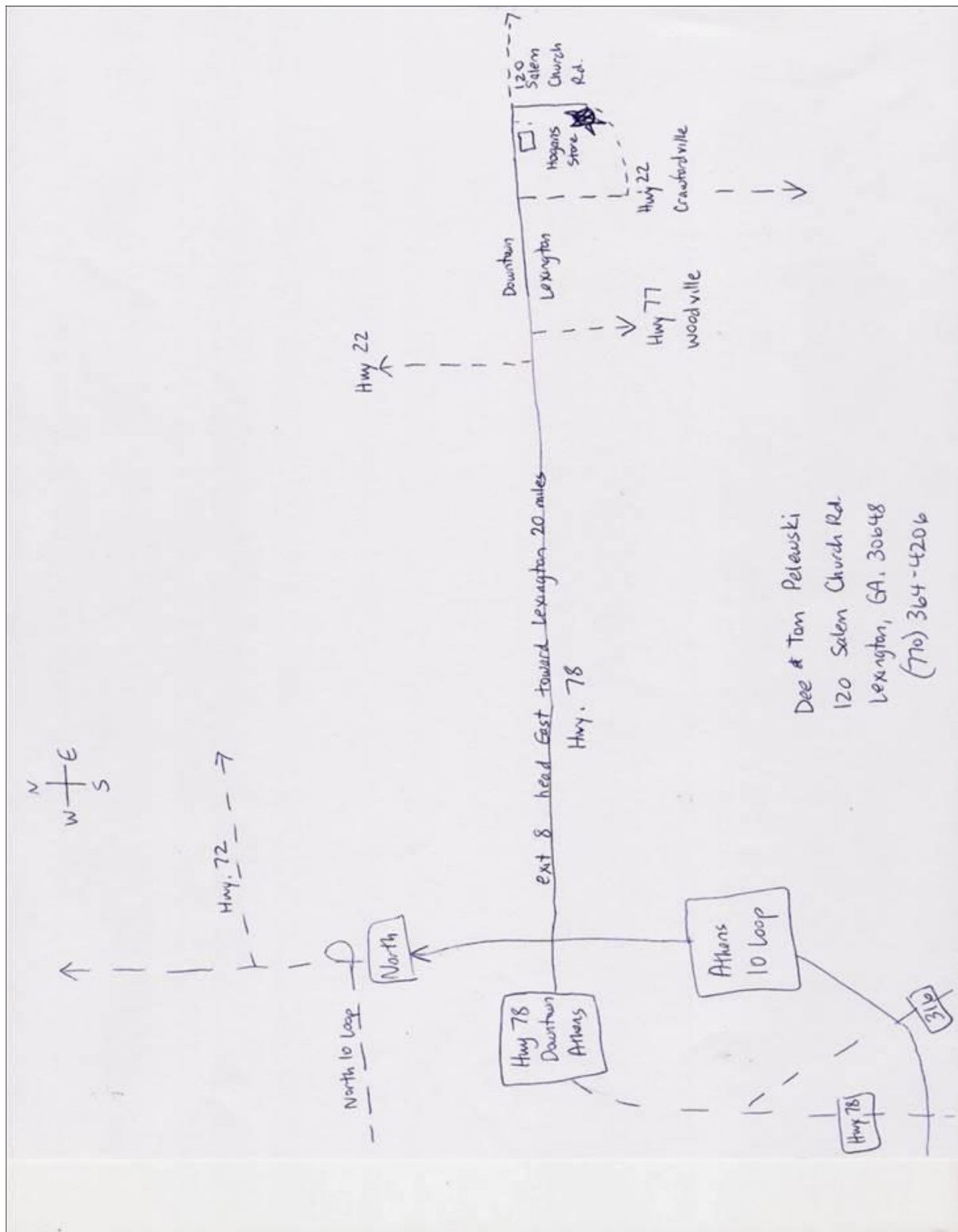
Also, you should plan to bring food (potluck -- can include meat, casserole, veggies, dessert, etc.). Please let Dee know what you are bringing for the potluck, so we have a good variety of different dishes.

The Club will provide ham, plastic plates, eating utensils, cups, drinks, ice, and napkins.

Dee says if you would like wine, you are welcome to bring your own bottle.

We will have our usual pirate gift exchange. Everyone knows what fun "stealing" can be! If you would like to participate, then bring a gift (with a mineral/gem/lapidary theme) with a value in the \$5-20 range. (No one would complain if it was worth more.) Wrap or bag the gift so it cannot be recognized. If it is most appropriate for a male or female, child, or anyone then specify this on outside.

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Our next regular meeting will be January 19th. 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.



**DMC Field Trip Sharing Program**  
The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.  
The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve  
[www.southeastfed.org](http://www.southeastfed.org)  
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**An Official Field Trip of 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)**



**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.

**COLLECTING:** We will be sifting through gravel deposits in the riverbed

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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.

**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.

**FEE:** \$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

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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](mailto:jameshislop672@gmail.com)

**IMPORTANT:** DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs in the SFMS 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.**

**Field trip chairs and newsletter editors:** If you need this notice in Word format, please contact Lori Carter, DMC Coordinator, at [dmc@southeastfed.org](mailto:dmc@southeastfed.org)

# ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

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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



# ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

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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  
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kodi@mykodi.com

#### Newsletter Editor

**Kallie Brunson**  
200 Maple Forge Dr  
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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](mailto: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](mailto:info@athensrockandgemclub.org)  
Website: [www.athensrockandgemclub.org](http://www.athensrockandgemclub.org)