

ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS WINTER 2026

We had a great Christmas party in December! Thank you, Dee, for hosting! There was lots of good food, conversation, and gift exchange.

At the January meeting business regarding the transition to a new treasurer and bank was discussed. It's tough to get banking accounts for small nonprofits. Walt, Jim, and Don brought in some nice finds and things dug out of their basements for us to look at and discuss.

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

Our next regular meeting will be February 17th. 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.



January Birthdays



Greg Davis 2nd

Kodi Book 6th

Alex Downs 11th

Terri Maudsley 20

Clay Downs 24th



February Birthdays



Lisa Harter 5th

Jim Maudsley 11th

Walt Sikora 20th

February Meeting

We're working on a program, but to get the info on the field trip out we had to go to publishing without this info.

ARGC FIELDTRIP

Due to insurance requirements only ARGC members in good standing may attend field trips.

We're going to Summerville, GA on Sunday February 8th to collect crazy lace agate. We will meet in the westside Walmart (1911 Epps Bridge Pkwy) parking lot near the Cracker Barrel to carpool at 7:00am to beat the Atlanta weekend traffic. There is no fee to collect here.

Once there, everyone will have to sign the liability waiver provided by the mine. This is an open pit mine that is active during the week, please stay away from all heavy equipment. This will be surface collecting so there's no need to bring a bunch of tools.

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There are no facilities on site so we will stop at a gas station near the mine on the way there. Please bring sunscreen, drinking water, and any food you may need. As Jim and Nordic peoples like to say, “there’s no bad weather, just bad clothing.”

Address will be given once we arrive Sunday morning. This mine is open to the public on Sundays only.

Please email

KallieBrunson@yahoo.com if you are attending and include your telephone number in case we have to cancel at the last minute or if you don’t show up I’ll call and see if you’re running late.



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 Aiken
Gem Mineral and Fossil Society
(Aiken SC) (HOST)**

**Saturday, February 28, 2026
10:00 AM Eastern Time
Diamond Hill Mine
Abbeville, SC**

**Limit: 40 People
Registration Required (Link is
below)
Fees: See Below**

TRIP: This is a well-known fee collecting site for various types of quartz crystals.

COLLECTING: You will be digging in loose dirt looking for loose quartz crystals and crystal plates. Varieties of quartz which can be found include milky, smoky, amethyst, drusy, vuggy, and skeletal. Some rocks show coatings of black manganese oxide, some of which tend toward botryoidal texture. Loose muscovite flakes up to 1 inch can also be found, and there are rare small beryl crystals. Spots of low-quality epidote are present at one end of the pit.

BRING: The only tool you really need is a shovel and/or [mattock](#). It is advisable to bring a bucket for specimens, and paper for wrapping. Crystals will be caked with dirt and clay, so you may consider bringing a brush and water. If you use a hammer, wear safety glasses. Part of the collecting area is 100 yards from the parking lot. Some people bring little carts or wagons. If it has rained recently, be prepared to walk through mud. Bring your own drinking water and lunch.

EDUCATION: For those interested, a geologist affiliated with the Aiken club will give a short presentation at **12 noon** at the parking lot, on the site’s geologic environment and history. The Aiken club will provide participants with a geologic map of South Carolina.

REQUIREMENTS: If you leave for any reason, you must pay again to re-enter. Keep what you find, but you are not allowed to load trucks with more than two large rocks.

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FEE: Fee is \$20, \$15 for veterans, \$10 for seniors over 65 and kids under 13. Kids under 5 free.

CHILDREN (Yes): Children are allowed. It's a kid-friendly site.

PETS (Yes): Pets are allowed.

FACILITIES: The only facilities at the mine are a port-a-pot, and a couple of picnic tables. There is no drinking water at the site.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: There is a café in Antreville, 4 miles NE of the mine. Many restaurants and stores are available in Abbeville, 16 miles SE.

REGISTRATION: Click [here](#) to fill out a registration form. If you 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).

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Directions and meeting place details will be emailed to registered participants.

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: Walt Kubilius (Aiken Gem Mineral and Fossil Society), 803-443-1209, wkkw@bellsouth.net

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

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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: Casey Gordon, Treasurer, ARGC, 135 Curtis Drive, Athens, GA 30605

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Executive Board

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Jim Maudsley
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Athens, GA 30605
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706-549-3160
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Athens, GA 30605



Please Deliver To:



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Website: www.athensrockandgemclub.org