

# ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB

## ATHENS, GA DOPS AND DIGS SEPT 2026

### September Meeting

Our first meeting back from summer will be a show and tell. Please bring all your finds and purchases from this summer break to show off and talk about.



### September Birthdays



Don Brockway 5<sup>th</sup>  
Jessica Jones 10<sup>th</sup>

Thank you to the Gordons for hosting the June picnic! We had a great time! The food was wonderful as always and the AC was greatly appreciated!

Our next regular meeting will be September 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**\*\*Please take note that this field trip has some specific rules\*\***



### 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 Trip of the Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Clarkesville, GA) (Host)**

**Saturday, October 24, 2026**

**10 AM – 4 PM Eastern**

**Clay County, NC**

**Limit: 35 People**

**Registration: Required (Link Below)**

**Fee: None**

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**TRIP:** There will be 2 sites for collecting. Each area has safety precautions and will be supervised by members of the Northeast GA Mineral Society, so please cooperate with them.

**COLLECTING: Location 1)** *Difficulty Level: Moderate.* This is a creek known for small red almandine garnet chips. Rocks with hornblende and garnets, the source of the garnet chips in the creek, can be found nearby. Rarely, blue corundum and red corundum can also be found in this area. **Location 2)** *Difficulty Level: Hard.* This area requires a steep hike up a wooded area. It is known for its large deposit of smaragdite, a variety of the amphibole mineral actinolite, that gets its green color from chromium. It often contains small red corundum crystals and garnets. You can confirm the corundum with a longwave UV light (365nm).

**BRING:** If you intend to collect in the creek, bring some sort of scoop that is **not** a shovel (for example a 1-gallon bucket); a ¼ inch or smaller mesh screen; footwear suitable for wading in water; and a change of clothes. For collecting smaragdite, wear hiking boots with good ankle support, and bring a rock hammer, chisel, scratching tools, backpack or 5-gallon bucket, a UV light for verifying corundum, and paper for wrapping specimens. You should also bring sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, gloves, water, electrolytes, and snacks. **DO NOT BRING A PICK, SLEDGE, SHOVEL, SLUICE, OTHER LARGE TOOLS, OR MECHANICAL TOOLS.**

**VERY IMPORTANT – Please Read Carefully.** The whole area is supervised by the Tusquitee Ranger District so **all forest service rules apply**. Forest Service rules state, “Removal is limited to surface collection only. Digging for materials is not permitted. Large tools like shovels, picks, and motorized equipment like suction dredges are prohibited as they cause damage to natural features.” Click [here](#) for general rules for rock and mineral collecting in national forests. **Please read the rules carefully.**

**REQUIREMENTS:** All registered attendees must sign in at the meeting site, sign a waiver of liability, and will receive a list of all forest rules plus an explanation of the areas of interest. Parking is limited in these areas. **If you can't walk unassisted, this will severely limit the areas where you may collect. Your safety is our priority.**

**TERRAIN/SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Wooded terrain is steep and rocky and will be difficult for people with mobility issues. Attendees should be able to cross and work unassisted in cold streams with swift currents up to 2 to 3 feet deep and climb steep hills. There is poison ivy, snakes, ticks, mosquitos, and wild animals in the area.

There is **no cell phone coverage** in the area.

**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).

**CARPOOL:** If you are interested in carpooling on this trip, 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 and email address will be shared with other members who also choose one of the options. Then,

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you can communicate with one another to arrange carpools. **Parking is limited, so carpooling is highly recommended for this trip.**

**CHILDREN (No):** Not unless they are over 12 years of age and under adult supervision at all times. For everyone's safety, adult attendees with unsupervised children will be told to leave. Parents or guardians should seriously consider their child's interest and abilities before attending this trip.

**PETS (No):** No pets are allowed. This is a wild area and interactions with wild animals pose a safety risk for your pet and all participants.

**FACILITIES:** No bathrooms. The nearest convenience stores are several miles away. If you wish to stay overnight, Franklin has several great locations to choose from. The Chamber of Commerce in Franklin can help you out.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The Northeast Georgia Mineral Society will provide bottled water and a snack until supplies are exhausted. Club members will be monitoring all activities in all areas to help you out.

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

**CONTACT:** Robin & Jennifer Findley

**BEFORE THE DAY** of the fieldtrip, we can be reached at [info@negms.org](mailto:info@negms.org) or 706-754-0401

**ON THE DAY** of the fieldtrip, please **ONLY** use (678) 230-5503 or (706) 949-8414, and **keep in mind that cell service may be unavailable after we depart from the meeting spot.**

**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  
2026**

November - Upper Abbeville Gem & Mineral Club (Due West, SC)

December - Rome Georgia Mineral Society (Rome, GA)

**2027**

January - Tennessee Valley Rock & Mineral Society (Chattanooga, TN)

February - Western South Carolina Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (Greenville, SC)

March - Georgia Mineral Society (Norcross, GA)

April - Catawba Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. (Hickory, NC)

Email: [dmc@southeastfed.org](mailto: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."

# 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 held 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.

Our annual membership fee is \$25 per year. It is the same fee for a family and an individual.

Family memberships cover: The primary member, their spouse or significant other, and their legal dependents. It includes one electronic copy of our monthly newsletter.

Our Membership year begins on Oct. 1 and ends on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. New members joining after May 1 are paid up through Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.

### THE ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies, Birthdays (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Casey Gordon, Treasurer, ARGC (*this is a temporary adjustment*)

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

# **ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB**

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### **Executive Board**

#### **President**

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#### **Librarian**

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#### **Webmaster and Treasurer**

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#### **Membership Chairman**

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Please Deliver To:



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