

M A G S

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 48, Number 02

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

February, 2002

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Member Pages

From The President .....	1
Board Members .....	2
Sunshine Report .....	2
February Birthdays .....	2
Dues Are Due .....	2
Youth Florence Field Trip ..	2
MAGS Field Trip Schedule .	3
DMC Ashland AL Report ...	3
Specimen of the Month .....	5
Board Meeting Minutes .....	6
General Meeting Minutes ...	7
2002 Rock Show .....	8

### Feature Articles

Chucalissa .....	4
Abrietosaurus .....	5
Pyrite: FeS <sub>2</sub> .....	5



MAGS Newsletter is published monthly by and for the members of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments to Bill Scheffer, 2959 Sky Way Drive, Memphis, TN 38127

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY



**MEETING:** February 8, 2002

Shady Grove Presbyterian Church

5530 Shady Grove Road, Memphis, TN

Doors open at 7:00pm. Meeting starts at 7:30pm

**ADULT PROGRAM:** You won't want to miss the February program, "Chucalissa and the Early Days of MAGS" (see page four for related article)

**JUNIORS PROGRAM:** "Who Wants To Be A Rockhound?"

**DMC FIELD TRIP:** February 16, 2002 to Ashland, Alabama to collect almandine garnets (see article on page three for details)

**MAGS FIELD TRIP:** February 23, 2002 to Nonconnah Creek, Memphis, TN to collect agates, jasper, petrified wood, and gravels (see schedule on page three)

## GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ!

It's Show Time! I can't believe it's almost time for the 23rd Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show. Thanks to W.C. McDaniel and the Show Committee for all the hard work that has gone into planning the show already, but there's still a lot to do, and there's a place for everybody. You can help set up the show on Friday night, or you can help greet our guests at the front door, take their tickets, and help them sign up for door prizes. Maybe you would rather help work with the kids in the RockZone, or make sure our vendors get breaks and meals. Just see W.C. and get your name on the list. Tell all your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, scout troops, and everyone you see about the show.

We have a new home on the world wide web. We finally have a web address that's easy to remember . . . [www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org) You can read the latest newsletter on the website, or find out what field trips are coming up or read a book review or two. If there's something you would like to see on our website, send an email to [rockclub@earthlink.net](mailto:rockclub@earthlink.net) and Mike Baldwin will see what he can do to get your request taken care of.

If you were at the last club meeting, then you know that we have a new long range plan for MAGS. I hope you've been thinking about ways to make MAGS even better than it is. It takes the efforts of each and every one of us to accomplish all the things we want to do for our members and our community, so join in and make a difference.

See you at the meeting! *Lou White*

## 2001-2002 MAGS OFFICERS

**President--Louis White**

3805 Melanie June, Bartlett, TN 38135  
901-937-8522

**1st VP--David McIlwain**

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901-382-0344

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903 Wingfield Rd, Memphis, TN 38122  
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**Director--Dick McKittrick**

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**Membership--Cornelia McDaniel**

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901-274-7706

**Historian--Idajean Jordan**

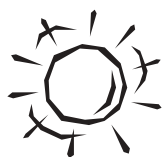
104 Plainview, Memphis, TN 38111  
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**Show Chairperson--W.C. McDaniel**

2038 Central Ave, Memphis, TN 38104  
901-274-7706

**Show Treasurer--Dick McKittrick**

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901-683-3235



## SUNSHINE REPORT

FRANK & FRANCIS WALKER--We trust everyone is well and healthy. No one has been reported as being ill at the time of this printing.

*If one of you, our members, becomes ill or knows of one of our members that is ill, please call Frances and Frank Walker at 372-6206 and let them know.*

## PAST FACTS

The first newsletter for the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society was published in January, 1955.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February Birthstone is AMETHYST

01--Harrison Horowitz  
02--Jane Roane  
02--John Stafford  
02--Devin Williams  
04--Zach Graber  
04--Bill Sipe  
10--Dennis Sanders  
11--Teresa Anderson  
12--Louis White  
17--Darryl Levitch  
18--Harold Idell  
20--Juanita Canada  
21--David Vaughn  
23--Julia Bailey  
26--Marge Hall  
28--Maxine Fulghum  
28--Cynthia Patton

## DUES ARE DUE

BILL SCHEFFER--Beginning October 1, dues for 2002 were due and should be paid by January 1, 2002. Please help by paying your dues as soon as possible by check. Your check should be made out to MAGS and mailed to: Bill Scheffer, 2959 Sky Way Drive, Memphis, TN 38127.

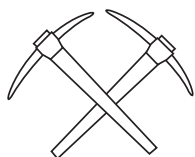
Single Membership: \$16.00 • Family Membership: \$20.00

Junior Membership: \$8.00 • Associate Membership: \$13.00

If you still have (\*01) behind your name on the mailing label for this newsletter, that means Bill has not received your dues for 2002.

## YOUTH FIELD TRIP FLORENCE, AL

DON BLALOCK--MAGS Youth, mark your calendar for Saturday, March 9, 2002. We will be traveling to Florence, Alabama to collect fossils, including blastoids and archimedes. Blastoids are small well-defined echinoderms (a group of invertebrates) which in life were attached to the sea bed by a thin stem. The compact theca is shaped like a rosebud. The rose bud part is what you will be collecting. The archimedes is a bryozoa which has a distinctive corkscrew appearance. Blastoids and archimedes were both alive in the Florence area 330 million years ago, during the Carboniferous (Mississippian) period of the Paleozoic era. Come to the next meeting to get on the list.



## 2002 FIELD TRIP CALENDAR SET FOR THE YEAR

1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT--DAVID McILWAIN

**Feb 23** Nonconnah Creek, Memphis, TN (Minerals)

**Mar 23** Vulcan Quarry, Parsons, TN (Fossils)

**Apr 20** Mississippian fossil beds, Florence, AL (Fossils)

**May 25/26** Mark Twain National Forrest, Potosi, MO (Minerals)

**Jun 29/30** Quartz Crystal Mines, Mt. Ida, AR (Minerals)

**Jul 27** Magnet Cove area, Malvern, AR (Minerals)

**Aug 24** Tunnel Mine, Yellville, AR (Minerals)

**September** MAGS host Dixie Mineral Council  
Date & location to be announced.

**Oct 26** Richardson Landing, Millington, TN (fossils and minerals)

**Nov 23** Natchez Trace fossil beds, Tupelo, MS (fossils)

**December** No field trip planned

**For information or suggestions, contact:** David McIlwain  
MAGS Field Trip Coordinator  
305 Caitlin Drive  
Oakland, TN 38060-4259  
Residence: (901) 465-7388  
E-mail: djmcilwain@earthlink.net



## DMC FIELD TRIP ALABAMA GARNETS

AN OFFICIAL FIELD TRIP OF THE MONTGOMERY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY (HOST)  
ASHLAND, ALABAMA — 9:00am, Saturday, February 16, 2002

**CHILDREN:** All ages are always encouraged to attend.

**PETS:** Only if kept under control.

**TRIP:** to Erin Road, Clay County to collect garnet crystals. There are no trip fees associated with this trip!

**COLLECTING:** Massive almandine garnet crystals; samples will be displayed before trip.

**COLLECTING AREA:** This area is in the Talladega National Forest. Our collecting will be along a dirt road that runs through privately managed forest land. We will be collecting on the road surface, the banks, and the area near the road. There are other materials that can be collected in this same area. No large holes are allowed, however there are plenty of easily collected garnets. Although the material is "poor" quality, it can be cabbed or used for spheres and eggs. The garnets have an interesting red/orange appearance with healed fractures and inclusions.

**BRING:** something to collect in, simple digging tools, lunch and something warm to drink.

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:** We will meet in the Winn Dixie Parking lot in Wetumpka, AL at 9:00am Central. Follow Highway 231 north from Montgomery into Wetumpka. Turn right into the Winn Dixie parking lot. We will be staging from there to go north to Ashland on Hwy 9.

If you wish to meet us in Ashland, you will pass 2 gas station/convenience stores as you go west out of Ashland on SR 77. We will meet at this last convenience store/gas station which is located about 1 1/2 mile from the town square on the south side of SR 77. The Wetumpka group is expected to arrive at the Ashland meeting location about 10:00 CT (+/- 20 minutes).

**Drive Time:** Approximately 4 hours from Memphis.

### CONTACTS:

Phone: James Mallonee (VP-Field Trips)  
Home: 334-567-0765 (6pm-10pm) or Work: 334-953-8508  
koldun@bellsouth.net; james.mallonee@maxwell.af.mil; or  
GoldenNuggetEd@aol.com

## CHUCALISSA ABANDONED HOUSE

### CHUCALISSA

(Choctaw word meaning "Abandoned House")

The ruins of this native American town sit on the Mississippi bluff five miles south of downtown Memphis. At one time the population of Chucalissa could have been a thousand to fifteen hundred.

The town existed into the seventeenth century, when its townspeople left and never returned. Hence the name Chucalissa. Since most native Americans north of the Rio Grande never developed a written language, we can never know the town's real name.

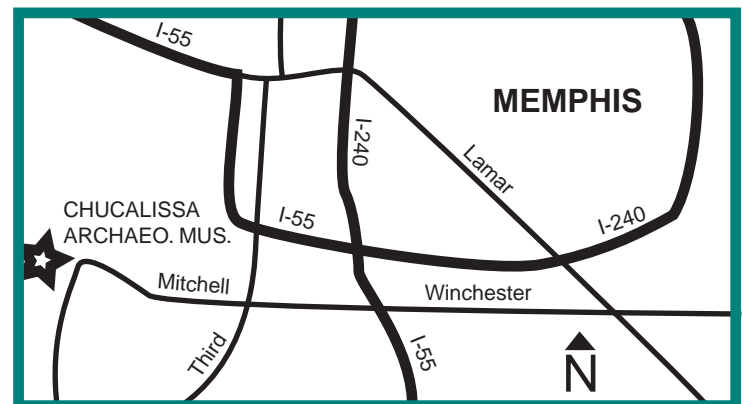


### MAGS INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHUCALISSA

"In December, 1951, the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society received the formal invitation from Mr. L.G. McLean, State Naturalist, to initiate and take charge of the excavations at the T.O. Fuller State Park site preliminary to its establishment as a State Archaeological Park." "These mounds were first called to the attention of the University of Tennessee in 1940 when the CCC project began clearing this area. During the summer of that year extensive testing operations were carried out to determine the nature of the site and its suitability for development into an exhibit. At this time, the national Park Service came into the picture, and plans were completed for a Natural Museum. All these plans and efforts were cancelled by World War II." "After the war years, the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society made repeated efforts to reactivate the program but with only moderate success until 1955, when Governor Clement granted a small appropriation which enabled the entire project to be resumed on a small scale." Actual work began in 1955 "The first actual archaeological work was started in July 1955. This work exposed the method by which this area was originally built up and gave a hint to the earlier period of occupancy of this site." Later visitors to the site could tell from this first excavation that there had been intense activity here by

the Middle Mississippian Indians over a long period of time. "Pottery seriation at this site revealed that this site was occupied from the earliest Mississippian period until the final disappearance of the Mississippian culture on the Mississippi River." By November 1955, a substantial amount of material had been removed from the site and the "lab" work of treating and cleaning specimens and skeletal remains had begun. At this point findings included ten pottery vessels and the burial remains of six individuals (two adults, one juvenile about twelve years old, and three infants). The early years were a huge success! On November 26, 1955 several members of the society began work on one of the Indian houses. An area fifteen feet square was leveled for the structure. The next step was to cut and set the wall poles, then bend them inward to form the roof. After three more sessions in December, 1955 and early 1956, society members had completed work on the house by weaving cane mats for the walls and plastering them with clay. Work on the earthlodge exhibit area and the pyramidal mound continued through 1956. Among the artifacts found in the burial sites were a toy effigy pot found in the infant graves, and the skeleton of a coon, with the arrow still in him, lying in a red and white bowl. Visitor attendance at the "far-from complete" Chucalissa Archaeological Museum during July and August of 1956 was in excess of 15,000. It was a huge success!

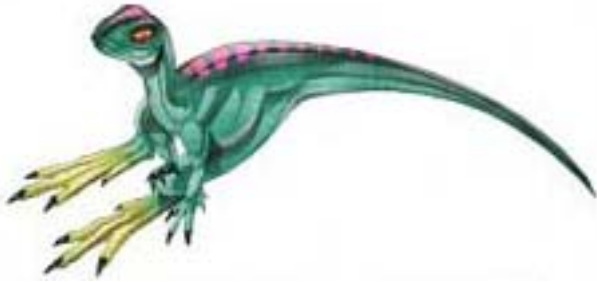
*Information for this article compiled by Mike Baldwin from reports and newsletter articles found in the MAGS archives . . .*



Map to Chucalissa Archaeological Museum



DINOSAUR FACTS ABRICTOSAURUS



**Pronounced:** ah - Brick - toe -Saw-rus  
**Diet:** Herbivore (plant eater)  
**Name Means:** “Wide Awake Lizard”  
**Length:** 4 feet (1.3 m)  
**Height:** 1.3 feet (35 cm)  
**Weight:** unknown  
**Time:** Early Jurassic 200 mya

Abrictosaurus provides more evidence that dinosaurs originated in or near what is now South America. This little plant-eating dinosaur lived at the very beginning of the Jurassic Period and looked like many of the early dinosaurs. It would have walked on its hind legs and been a swift runner. Although the fossils were discovered in South Africa, scientists know that this region was once attached to South America during the Jurassic Period. Paleontologists think that the dinosaurs spread out all over the region by migration, a type of travel

that spreads animals to different parts of the world. So far, the earliest dinosaur fossils have been discovered in South America and the surrounding lands that were connected to it during the Early Mesozoic.

What scientists know of Abrictosaurus comes mostly from the skull fragments of a single specimen. This specimen is believed to be a female of the genus Heterodontosaurus. It is believed to be of this genus because it possesses similar dentition, although it lacks large canines.

SPECIMEN OF THE MONTH

PYRITE FeS<sub>2</sub>

Pyrite is a metallic mineral composed of iron and sulfur. It forms in a wide range of environments including hydrothermal veins and igneous rocks, in slates, and in shales. The crystals appear in a variety of forms: striated cubes, pyritohedral crystals, radiated disk forms, and pyritized fossils. known as “Fool’s Gold”, it is the most common sulfide mineral and occurs worldwide. Pyrite was used by ancient Greeks and Romans for mirrors and jewelry. Sources include the United States, Spain, and Italy. MAGS members enjoy collecting pyrite from Magnet Cove, Arkansas and Starkville, Mississippi.

- Chemical Formula:** FeS<sub>2</sub>
- Composition:** Molecular Weight = 119.98 gm  
46.55% Fe (Iron) and 53.45% S (Sulfur)
- Environment:** Sedimentary, magmatic, metamorphic, and hydrothermal.
- Name Origin:** From the Greek, pyrites lithos, “stone which strikes fire,” in allusion to the sparking produced when iron is struck by a lump of pyrite.
- Synonym:** Cobaltian Pyrite; Fool’s Gold; Iron Disulfide, and Nickelian Pyrite
- Color:** pale brass yellow.                      **Luster:** Metallic
- Hardness:** 6.5 - Pyrite                              **Streak:** greenish black



MAGS YOUTH SPECIMEN OF THE MONTH CLUB

The MAGS Youth have begun a new tradition called the “Specimen of the Month Club.” Every youth member and youth visitor who attends the monthly meeting will go home with a new specimen, complete with an information card telling about the specimen and where it was originally collected. Come to the February meeting to get your piece of pyrite.

## JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

RAYNEE RANDOLPH--The January board meeting of MAGS was held 01.03.02 at McAlister's, Poplar and Highland. The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm by President Lou White. The following were present: Mike Baldwin, Don Blalock, Nancy Folden, W.C. and Connie McDaniel, David and Diane McIlwain, Park and Terry Noyes, Alan Parks, Raynee Randolph, Bill Scheffer, Anna Sisk, and Lou White. The minutes from the December Board and General meetings were accepted and approved with one correction.

### THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

**1ST VP REPORT--**No field trips for this month have been planned locally but the DMC (Dixie Mineral Council), of which we are a member, will have a field trip Saturday, January 26, 2002 to Louisville MS for fossil collecting. Please refer to the Jan. newsletter for more info. February 16, 2002 DMC trip will be to Ashland AL for almandine garnets. Suggestions for 2002 field trip locations are still welcome.

**TREASURER REPORT--**Bill Scheffer presented his reports for December and January. Motion made, seconded and carried to approve reports, subject to audit. It's time for the annual dues. You can pay your dues to Bill Scheffer by mail. To this date we have 56 members that have not paid their dues. Membership committee to call delinquent members and remind them of dues deadline.

**SECRETARY REPORT--**Minutes from the November newsletter of the mini board meeting during the General meeting were incorrect. The actual budget was not voted on. More discussion will follow in the old business report.

**LIBRARY REPORT--**It was noted that no funds had been allotted the library for the year 2002. More discussion will follow in the old business report.

**WEB REPORT--**Redesign of the website is near completion. The newsletter will now be accessible through the web. Check out the calendar of events and the other links to visit.

**JUNIORS REPORT--**Program for this month and Feb. will be the game "Do You Want To Be A Rockhound" (Move over Regis...). We should be very proud of our Juniors. It appears that we may have the top four or five young people in the Federation for the Junior of the Year program, 2001. We will keep you posted when we receive the results. This is the beginning of a new year and the Junior of the Year starts over. So, if you did not participate in 2001, then you can join us this year for some exciting

competition. A planning session for the year 2002 will be held at the home of the Randolph's Saturday January 12th, at 1:00pm. Lunch will be provided. Anyone interested may come. This is an open meeting.

**SHOW REPORT--**Start thinking SHOW!! January 14th will be the first committee meeting for this year. It will be at the McDaniel's home at 7:00pm. We have 24 signed contracts of returned dealers. It's time for members to be thinking of booth space. If you are interested in booth space please let WC know as soon as possible so your space can be reserved.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT--**Strategic planning committee has the first 3 goals in final draft. Discussions and suggestions were made and this report will be presented at the general meeting for the rest of the membership.

**OLD BUSINESS--**It was brought up that the board had not yet decided how to divide up the money from the sale of material donated by Harold Loeblein. A motion was made to remove the original proposal from the table, which was as follows: (1) 50% to the Don Green Fund; (2) 20% but no less than \$50.00 to buy a set of books in honor of the Harold Loeblein Family; (3) up to 20% to the General Fund; and (4) up to 10% to the Juniors Fund. The motion was seconded and past. Discussion was light. It was mentioned that we brought in more money than had been predicted and that the Don Green Fund has had large expenses over the past several years. Discussion was closed, the motion was voted on and passed.

**Next Item:** 2002 budget has not yet been approved. A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget as is. Discussion was opened. Mention was made that the library has never had a budget. Past expenses have been covered by donations and memorials. The following amendments were proposed and approved: (1) Item 9--Expenditures for pebble pups will be deducted from the pebble pups account; (2) Item 12--Lapidary Journal will now be renamed Library; (3) Item 20--Expenditures of awards for science fair projects will be deducted from the Don Green Fund.

**Note--**At the November mini board meeting a motion was made and accepted to supplement the 2002 budget with show funds in the event of a deficit.

**NEW BUSINESS--**Our wireless microphones and speakers have been to Radio Shack for repairs. We have not heard from them yet as to cost for repairs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

## JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

RAYNEE RANDOLPH--The January meeting of MAGS was called to order by President Lou White at 7:30pm on Friday, January 11, 2001 at the Shady Grove Presbyterian Church. There were 48 members present and 10 visitors. Our visitors were: Marjorie Gerald, Maria Holmes, Sarah Martin, Roman Novarese, Steve and Laura Ethridge, and Joey Ingram.

**1ST VP REPORT--**By February we will have a yearly itinerary of the field trips. Hopefully, by planning field trips in advance more members will be able to plan days off if needed to attend these field trips. On February 16th the DMC will host a field trip to Ashland Alabama for garnets. The March DMC trip will be in Louisville, Mississippi just south of Starkville. You can expect to find cretaceous invertebrate fossils, shark's teeth and some iron pyrite.

**2ND VP REPORT--**Tonight's program will be "AS PRESIDENTS COME AND GO". Our guest speaker is Marjorie Gerald, Director of the Wonders Series Speakers.

**PROGRAM--**Many presidents have come and gone through the White House. Some even before the White House was completely constructed. Thanks Marjorie for a great lesson in Presidential Trivia. See if you can remember some facts from the lecture.

1. First President to live in an unfinished White House.
2. One of the first jobs held by Andrew Jackson.
3. Father of the Library of Congress.
4. Father of the Constitution.
5. Caught pneumonia from his lengthy inaugural address.
6. Coined the phrase "Good to the last drop".
7. Got stuck in the bathtub.
8. Lost his teeth in the Mississippi River.
9. Responsible for the 7th inning stretch.
10. Great dancer, played the flute, and thought shaking hands was beneath him.

Check the answers at the bottom of this page.

**TREASURERS REPORT--**Dues for the year 2002 are due NOW! Please see Bill Scheffer.

**SHOW REPORT--**Monthly updates will be in the newsletter. Grab bag material is needed as soon as possible. We are sold out

of dealer space, but we need more exhibitor space. See W.C. if you are interested. There will be two grand door prizes this year. One is a rather large sharks tooth. And one will be jewelry.

**WEB REPORT--**Updates to the web site are complete. Don't forget to check out the articles and links.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT--**New member packet ready for Michael Kingsly.

**LIBRARY REPORT--**Library is open and located in the Jr's room. There is money in the budget to purchase new books. If you have any suggestions, please see Nancy Folden. Park Noyes donated a new book to the library: "Modern Metal Detectors" by Charles Garrett

**JUNIORS REPORT--**Planning meeting for the year 2002 will be at the Randolph's tomorrow at 1:00pm. Lunch will be provided. Please come and share ideas and suggestions for your children's program.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE--**Planning committee has decided on 19 goals for the club. Three goals were top priority as agreed upon by the board. These were as follows:

1. Develop a standard operating procedure for each of the board positions and regular operating procedures for the club itself.
2. Perpetual activity calendar for programs, field trips, swaps, etc.
3. All communication systems, and production of newsletter to be coordinated by web coordinator. Mailing and copying still remain the job of the editor.

**DISPLAYS--**(1) David McIlwain--Indiana Geodes and Fossils; (2) Dr. Cole--Australian Collection; (3) Alan Parks--Arizona petrified log (ironwood); and (4) Martha Rannels--Some of her personal collection.

**DISPLAY WINNER--**Martha Rannels

**DOOR PRIZE WINNERS--**Kimberly Prudhomme, Dr. Cole, and Maria Holmes

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm followed by refreshments.

ANSWERS TO PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA  
 (1) John Adams; (2) Andrew Jackson; (3) Thomas Jefferson; (4) James Madison; (5) William Henry Harrison; (6) Theodore Roosevelt; (7) William Howard Taft; (8) Woodrow Wilson; (9) William Howard Taft; and (10) George Washington

# MAGS PRESENTS THE 23RD ANNUAL MID-AMERICA MINERAL, FOSSIL, JEWELRY SHOW

Pipkin Building, Fairgrounds

Saturday, April 27 9:00am - 6:00pm • Sunday, April 28 10:00am - 5:00pm

**Dealers:** Stones and Bones; Treasure Chest; Criss, Inc.; Marble Gems; Exquisite Stones; McNeil Minerals; Terra Firma; C&N Rocks and Gifts; Austin Gem and Beads; Javeds; Mineral House; Gems and Crystals Unlimited; Janda Gems; Quest Crystals; B&J Mo' Rocks; G.P. Rock Company; Palmetto Designs; High Point Stone; Rock Barrel; Blue Chip Minerals; Sculptured Originals; J.R. Rocks; Laster Gemstones; Jim's Minerals; Nature's Art

**Exhibits:** (1) "Diamond, The Amazing Mineral" includes a display of over 50 uncut diamonds, representing every diamond mine in the world; (2) "Dinosaurs of Mississippi" from Franks town, MS--by Pink Palace; (3) "3,000 lb. petrified logs from Arizona"--rainbow colored; (4) "Replica of world's largest shark's tooth"--7.5" megaladon tooth from Peru; (5) "Pleistocene Fossils of the Lower Mississippi River"--by Delta State; (6) "Chucalissa Archaeological Museum; and (7) Memphis Stone and Gravel

**FOR MAGS MEMBERS:**

- Free admission to show (will need to sign in)
- Friday night dinner at 6:30pm (please BRING LOTS OF FOOD/DRINKS)
- A great time and opportunity to DONATE MATERIAL for the grab bags and ROCKZONE gem dig and dry sluice box (need lots of small tumbled material)
- A great time and opportunity to support the show, your club and our hobby by VOLUNTEERING to help during the show. Club tickets will be available at the February meeting.
- An opportunity to exhibit part of your collection or demonstrate a lapidary skill--if interested check with Darryl or W.C.
- An opportunity to possibly rent a club table to sell your material.--lots of preliminary interest, so let WC know by February if you are interested in a table. Note: as of 01.23, 7 of 8 tables were spoken for.

**BE A WINNER BY ANSWERING A FEW QUESTIONS!!!!**

Each newsletter leading up to the show (four) will contain a question. Answer each question and bring your answers to the Friday night dinner. Those who correctly answer the most (hopefully all four) questions will be entered into a drawing for show gift certificates (\$\$\$) to spend during the show.

**February's Question: What is the state fossil of Tennessee?**

**Show Will Benefit The Memphis Ronald McDonald House**



DUES: Family-\$20.00  
 Single-\$16.00  
 Junior-\$8.00  
 Associate: \$13.00

The Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society's main purpose is to promote and advance the knowledge of the Lapidary Sciences in the the mining, identification, cutting, polishing and mounting of gems, minerals and fossils to the utmost of our geological and lapidary capabilities.

MAGS  
2959 Sky Way Drive  
Memphis, TN 38127-7417

