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MAGS Newsletter is published monthly by and for the members of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments and articles to Mike Baldwin, 367 N. Main St., Collierville, TN 38017.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY



MEETING: 7:30pm, May 10, 2002 (Doors open at 7:00)

at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5530 Shady Grove Road, in Memphis, TN • Don't forget to bring your

favorite snack or dessert to share with everyone and bring a

display. One adult winner and one youth winner are selected from the displays each month. The monthly winners are eligible for prizes at the end of the year.

ADULT PROGRAM: "Myan and Mississippian Symbolism" presented by Dr. Kent Reilly

YOUTH PROGRAM: "Mother's Day Presents" presented by Don Blalock

ROCK SWAP/POTLUCK: May 11, 2002 at the home of Charley McPherson

MAGS FIELD TRIP: May 25-27, 2002 to Mark Twain National Forest, Potosi, Missouri (see page three for details)

DMC FIELD TRIP: May 25, 2002 trip hosted by Cotton Indian Gem and Mineral Society, Stockbridge, Georgia (see page four for details)

GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ!

I hope you enjoyed the Rock Show as much as I did. I don't know how we do it, but it seems like every year gets better. Thank you W.C. and the Show Committee for all your hard work. It really paid off. And a great big "Thank You" to all of our club members who came out and helped with the show, and everyone who came to the show. You just don't realize how much work goes into making it all run smooth until you get involved in it.

I am proud to announce that MAGS will have a new group starting in June. Roger Van Cleef will be starting the Micromounters. Several members have already expressed an interest in joining this group which will meet at Roger's house. You have to be a member of MAGS in order to be a member of the Micromounters. There are some space limitations, so get in touch with Roger soon if you are interested. Look on page eight for more information about micromounting.

Spring is finally here, and it's time for our Rock Swaps to start back. The first one is this month at Charley McPherson's house (see page three). I hope to see you there.

See you at the meeting, and bring a friend (or two)! *Lou White*

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SUNSHINE REPORT

FRANK & FRANCIS WALKER—It was good to see Dr. James Cole at the April field trip, and to hear good reports of test results. It is also good to hear good reports from Roger Van Cleef after a recent stay in the hospital. We wish Bill Scheffer well with upcoming knee replacement surgery. Continue to remember Dr. Cole, Roger, and Bill.

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members to MAGS:

- (1) Carl Warren
- (2) Ken Burke, Kristina McLean and Alex Burke

BE A REPORTER

Send your articles and ideas to Mike Baldwin, 367 N. Main St., Collierville, TN 38017 or rockclub@earthlink.net



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May Birthstone is EMERALD

- 4—Kevan Seamans
- 6—Ellen Everett
- 8—Beth Graber
- 8—Jean Helt
- 8—Paula Holliday
- 9—Erin Parker
- 10—Caitlin Cannito
- 22—James Parker
- 25—Doris Latham
- 27—Kelly Baldwin
- 28—Carl Warren
- 29—Faye Smith
- 30—Michael Cannito
- 31—Linda Blanton

WEB STATISTICS

Here's a brief look at our website (www.memphisgeology.org) from 01.21.02 through 04.23.02:

Visits*	4,226
Hits**	31,532
Average visits per day	46

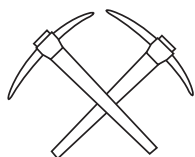
* visit= every time someone comes to the site
** hit= every page viewed on the site

New articles on the website for April:

- (1) Bioturbation; and (2) Earthshine

UPCOMING MAGS FIELD TRIPS

- May 25/26 Mark Twain National Forest, Potosi, Missouri
- June 29/30 Quartz Crystal Mines, Mt. Ida, Arkansas
- July 27 Magnet Cove, Malvern, Arkansas
- August 24 Tunnel Mine, Yellville, Arkansas
- September 21 MAGS Host DMC, Vulcan Quarry, Parsons, Tennessee
- October 26 Richardson Landing, Millington, Tennessee
- November 23 Birmingham Ridge, Tupelo, Mississippi



MAGS FIELD TRIP POTOSI, MISSOURI

SAT-MON, MAY 25-27, 2002 – FIELD TRIP LEADER DAVID McILWAIN (901) 465-7388

Collecting site: Missouri Mark Twain National Forest and private property that was leased for mineral rights and abandoned in the 1950's. Both locations are near Potosi in Washington County, Missouri.

Minerals: We will be collecting druse quartz and bladed barite at this site.

Motel Accommodation: Rosener's Motor Lodge & Restaurant, 3411 Rosener Road & Highway 67, Park Hills, MO 63601. Contact Rhonda at 1-800-888-4241 or 573-431-4241. Please make your reservations ASAP! A group rate of \$25.00+tax for Single, \$31.95+tax for queen size bed (based on double occupancy) and \$40.50+tax for 2 queen size beds (based on double occupancy) will be available for all MAGS members.

Meeting Time/Place: Each day at 8:30 a.m., at Rosener's Restaurant located next to Rosener's Motor Lodge. Please come earlier if you plan to have breakfast. We will be leaving promptly at 9:00 a.m., for the collecting site.

Driving Directions: From Memphis take I-40 West towards Little Rock, then take the I-55 North exit number 277, towards Blytheville/Jonesboro. Take the MO-32 West exit number 150, then go left towards Farmington. Go straight onto US-67 North, then go right onto Rosener Road, the restaurant and motor lodge is on the left. Allow approximately 5 to 5 * hours driving time. Collecting area maps are available upon request.

Tools: We will be surface collecting and materials are abundant. Bring leather gloves and buckets. If desired, rock hammer and chisels for breaking specimens, also shovel and small pry bar as some digging may produce some interesting specimens. Small wagon or two-wheel cart for transporting larger specimens would be helpful.

Saturday's Agenda: We will be driving to the Mark Twain National Forest to collect druse quartz, just off MO-Z. Around noon, we will break for lunch. Please bring a sack or

picnic lunch, as we will be traveling about 15 miles from the nearest town. Later we will drive to a second location to collect more drusy quartz .

Sunday's Agenda: We will be driving to the Cadet area to collect druse quartz and bladed barite. Around noon, we will break for lunch. Please bring a sack or picnic lunch, as we will again be traveling about 15 miles from the nearest town. Later we will drive to a second location to collect more drusy quartz.

Monday's Agenda (Optional): We will be driving to the Mark Twain National Forest to go prospecting for other varieties of druse quartz, bladed barite and galena. (For the serious rockhound)

Difficulty Level: 1 to 3 on a scale of 1 (easy) to 10 (hard). Please be advised that there is always a possibility for injury, also poisonous snakes at this site. So, any young members must be supervised at all times.

Field Trip Leader: David McIlwain

Home: (901) 465-7388 • Cellular: (901) 266-1446
email: davidmcilwain@netscape.net

If you want to go, please sign the list. If you sign up and decide not to go, please contact: David ASAP.

PLEASE NOTE: This trip is open only to MAGS members and their guests.



Smoky Druse Quartz from Potosi, Missouri

MAGS ROCK SWAP SATURDAY, MAY 11, 10-2

Bring pot luck dish, dessert or snack food and chairs. Bring a table if you plan to swap.

The first MAGS Rock Swap of 2002 will be at the home of Charley McPherson, 295 Hilltop Circle, Brighton, TN. Take Paul Barret Pkwy (TN 385) to Brunswick Road. Go north to Tracy Road; turn left on Tracy Road, then right on TN 14, and left on Hilltop Circle.



DMC FIELD TRIP KYANITE, GARNETS, AND STAUROLITE

AN OFFICIAL FIELD TRIP OF THE COTTON INDIAN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY (HOST) TO THOMASTON, UPTON COUNTY, GA
10:00am Central, Saturday, May 25, 2002

We will be looking for single blades of blue kyanite, some of which may contain zircon inclusions. The staurolite occurs as single prisms which are often terminated and usually garnet red in color! The garnets found here are very weathered and well rounded. Some will be rhodolite and can be faceted into small gemstones.

TOOLS: You will need a shovel, pick, and 1/2" screen. Surface collecting with a scratching tool can be rewarding! Don't forget your gloves, sturdy shoes, hat, bug repellent, sun screen, lunch and plenty of fluids. May can be very warm in southern Georgia!

DIRECTIONS: To get to our meeting place take I-75 south from Atlanta. About 4 miles south of the I-75/I-285 south interchange, Exit I-75 onto US 19—US 41 and follow to Griffin. After Griffin, turn right onto US 19 and follow to Thomaston. In Thomaston, stay on US 19 and drive a short distance south of town to the Flint River Technical Vocational School. Turn left into the school's parking lot.

INFORMATION: For Further information contact: Kim Cochran, 770-979-8331

PLEASE NOTE: DMC field trips are exclusively for DMC member clubs! This trip is closed to non-DMC clubs, their members, or members of the general public.



GRAVES MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA ROCK SWAP, BBQ AND DIG

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
May 3-5, 2002

8am-6pm each day

The BBQ will be on Saturday.

This dig is open to all SFMS clubs and members. Collecting will be from 8-6 all three days. Participants must stop at the gate and sign liability (and make a small contribution). Special area in the parking lot designated for "rock swap" all three days. Call Junior Norman @ 706-359-2381 or email dmc@gaminal.org if you plan to attend and if you need "rock swap" table space.

MEMPHIS STONE AND GRAVEL YOUTH FIELD TRIP REPORT

ABBEY RANDOLPH (MAGS Youth Member)—Our Camp Carver Field Trip to Memphis Stone and Gravel began at 8:00am Friday, August 10, 2001. Alan Parks told us that they scrape off the top layers of ground (overburden) to get to the gravel that they need. We drove to a farmer's field and climbed up a hill of gravel and when we got to the top, if you looked straight ahead, you could see the dragline. A dragline is a giant crane on tracks with a large scoop at the end. The line with the scoop at the end of it was let down over the side of a steep hill. The scoop was then pulled up the hill slowly and filled with gravel. The gravel was then dumped into a huge pile and the scoop went back to drag more gravel.

We drove across the excavated field to get closer to the dragline. This is a hardhat area because the men are operating heavy machines. So with our hardhats and safety goggles on, we all fit into the bucket of a bulldozer for a group picture. Being this close to the dragline you can't imagine how big this machine is. The tracks it sat on were taller than our heads. We lined up and took turns riding inside the cab of the dragline. Three of us at a time fit inside

with the driver and Alan. Behind the dragline was a hopper that the bulldozer was scooping the huge pile of gravel into. Underneath the hopper was a conveyor belt that carried the gravel back to the plant. As the gravel arrived after its mile-long ride it got dumped into a giant shaker and was washed with water. If the pieces were too big, they were tossed out onto the ground. The water they use to wash the gravel is saved in three different lakes, recycled, and used again to wash more gravel. After the gravel was washed and sorted it was dumped into large piles according to size (from baseball size to pea gravel and then as small as sand). Alan said it takes 85 tons of gravel to make one mile of roadbed.

We then drove to a reclamation area. This is where Memphis Stone and Gravel takes out the gravel they need and then restores the land. They planted grass and made a lake for birds and wildlife. They put everything back together better than it was before.

Then we went to a park for lunch. Alan provided us with a wonderful lunch. Thank you Alan and Don for such a great field trip. *Editor's Note: Thanks for the article Abbey!*

DO BOMBS CAUSE EARTHQUAKES?

Did the heavy aerial bombardment of Afghanistan in March cause the devastating earthquake in the Hindu Kush Region, or was it a coincidence?

Scientists said No. First of all, scientists don't like the word "cause." An earthquake is the sudden release of built-up stress in the Earth's crust, but stress builds up from several different events: movement of the crustal plates, the weight of sediments shifting from erosion or deposition, changes in the fluids underground, and more obscure factors like mineral phase changes in the mantle. Since all of these are involved, we simply can't single out one of them as the 'cause'. Scientists prefer to talk about what might trigger an earthquake.

OK, then, let's ask again. Did bombing trigger the quake? From a century of experience, we can confidently answer No. Some human activities do trigger earthquakes, but bombing (like that in Afghanistan) is not one of them.

The question is easy to test: just look at the seismic record and see if earthquakes increase after episodes of bombing. Unfortunately, there have been plenty of episodes in the last hundred years. No increase in quakes—not even small ones—follows bombing campaigns.

There are other short-period natural mechanisms that you could compare with bombing: stresses from the tides, storm winds blowing against mountain ranges, the shaking of nearby earthquakes. These mechanisms involve a great deal more energy than bombing, and they're more coherent—less random. Even so, they don't relate to earthquakes either, except that sometimes a large earthquake can trigger smaller ones.

So the forces exerted by ordinary bombs don't cause earthquakes. The amount of energy involved in bomb explosions is microscopic compared to the energies of earthquakes. It's like the difference between playing on a piano and dropping the piano off a truck.

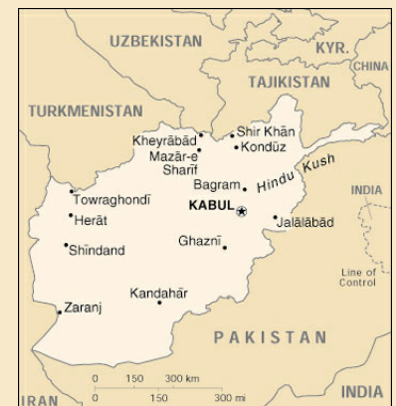
There are examples of human activities triggering quakes. One occurs when fluids are pumped out off or into the ground. Oil-producing districts, for example, or areas where toxic wastewater is pumped into deep disposal wells experience small shocks that are sometimes strong enough to feel. Another happens where new water reservoirs are created. One famous example of this was after the Hoover Dam created Lake Mead in southern Nevada. Hundreds of earthquakes up to magnitude 5 happened in the decade after 1934. Both of these types of human-induced seismic activity happen from long-term changes, not the sort of crude shoving motions you get from bombs.

Underground mines disrupt the natural stress state of underground rocks. The wall of a mine passage has all the weight of the rock above it pressing down, but none on the side facing the mine. Sometimes the wall bursts from the strain, spraying the passage with rock bits and destroying anything nearby. Seismograph records of rock bursts look just like those of earthquakes. The largest known rock burst happened in a German potash mine in 1989 and had a magnitude of 5.7. It demolished the mine openings and damaged most of the town of Volkershausen. Another kind of mining-induced quake happens as the ground subsides into the mined-out space. These are smaller, gentler events than rock bursts.

Information from www.geology.about.com (March 31, 2002)

EARTHQUAKE STRIKES HINDU KUSH REGION

On March 25, 2002, a series of earthquakes of magnitude up to 6.1 destroyed several towns in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan. This mountainous area is frequently struck by earthquakes, with roughly five quakes with a magnitude of 5.0 or greater occurring each year. The Hindu Kush is near the margin of the colliding Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates. This collision causes the frequent earthquakes, and also shaped the rugged terrain and high mountains. The quakes' relatively shallow depth of 33 km below the Earth's surface contributed to the severe damage in local towns. A nearby earthquake on March 3, 2002, with a larger magnitude of 7.4 caused much less damage, in part because it occurred at a depth of 256 km.



The Asian country of Afghanistan (slightly smaller than Texas) includes the following natural resources: coal, copper, chromite, talc, barites, sulfur, lead, zinc, iron ore, precious and semi-precious stones.

MAGS YOUTH

MAGS DAY CAMP

JUNE 17-21, 2002

8:00am - 5:00pm daily

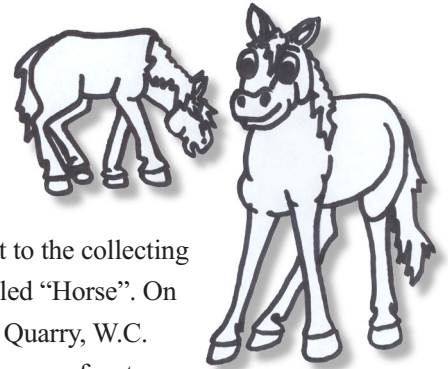
MAGS Youth Members, the First MAGS Day Camp (for boys and girls 6 to 9 years old) is scheduled for the week of June 17-21, 2002. That's five days of geology fun! You will enjoy three days of field trips to fossil and mineral locations around the Mid-South, and two days of rock-related arts and crafts. The camp is limited to 12 day campers, so parents, check your calendar and sign your junior geologist up today. Don Blalock will have more information at the May meeting or give him a call at 662-342-0903 today.

Cost for the Day Camp is \$75.00 for MAGS members and \$100.00 for nonmembers.

ROAD GAME HORSE

Let's face it . . . some of our MAGS field trips take us through some pretty barren land! Here's a road

game to help you make it to the collecting site, ready to dig! It's called "Horse". On the March trip to Vulcan Quarry, W.C. and Cornelia introduced some of us to this one. The rules are simple. All of



Horses by Kelly Baldwin

you that are sitting on the passenger side of the car, count all the horses you see on your side. All of you that are sitting on the driver side, count all the horses you see. (If you're sitting in the middle, you have to choose a side.) Each horse counts one (1) point. The person with the most horses at the end of the trip wins. Except there's one little catch . . . if you pass a cemetery on your side of the road, you loose all your horses and have to start over. Kelly came up with another little twist. If a horse has a rider, that horse counts two (2) points. You're on your honor not to count more horses than you really see, and don't close your eyes when you pass a cemetery! Ready? Go!

POLISHING STONES

One reason for polishing a stone all over (front, back and edges) is that the polishing acts as a sealer. Polishing seals and keeps the water in opal. It prevents natural corrosion (as in rhodonite) and it helps stop the absorption of harmful substances (such as perspiration). Learn to polish the back of your cabs. Polishing translucent cabs is very helpful when you set them in an open-backed setting. A piece of jewelry can be worn with any outfit, since the color of the translucent stone will be coordinated with the outfit every time.

From High Country Gleamings 03.02; Show Me Newsletter via Rock Buster News 02.01, and Lodestar 12.01

YOUTH NOTES

MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS

The May program will be "Mother's Day Gifts", lead by Don Blalock. Call Don and let him know you'll be there and wear clothes you don't mind getting a little bit dirty.

FRANKSTOWN, MS FIELD TRIP

A youth field trip to Frankstown, MS has been planned for June 15, 2002. Mark your calendars and sign up at the May meeting!

PETRIFIED WOOD SPECIMEN FOR MAY

MAGS Youth Members: come to the May meeting to get a petrified wood specimen for your collection.

DINOSAUR FACTS GIGANOTOSAURUS

Pronounced: Jig-an-o-toe-Saw-rus

Diet: Carnivore (meat-eater)

Name Means: “giant southern lizard”

Length: 43 feet (14 m)

Height: 17 feet (5.5 m)

Weight: 7 tons (6,800 kilos)

Time: Late Cretaceous–100 mya



Giganotosaurus was one big meat-eater! It may have been the biggest one of all, even bigger than T. rex. It lived in South America at a time when there were still large sauropods for it to eat. It had a very strong body and a mouth full of teeth like steak knives. Just its head alone was almost 6 feet (2 m) long!

A recent discovery in Argentina suggests that *Giganotosaurus* may have been as large as 46 feet (15 m). What is interesting is that there was another dinosaur found

in North Africa, called *Carcharodontosaurus* that is almost identical—in fact, it may be the same genus. Since South America and Africa were still connected back then, it is possible they are very close relatives.

Like T. rex, the *Giganotosaurus* hunted in warm and swampy areas. Some of the sauropods of that time had armor on their backs in order to protect them from an attack from above and that kind of attack could only have come from a predator as large as *Giganotosaurus*.

SPECIMEN OF THE MONTH

PETRIFIED WOOD ARAUCARIA

To become petrified, wood must first be covered with such agents as volcanic ash, volcanic mud flows, sediments in lakes and swamps or material washed in by violent floods (any means which would exclude oxygen and prevent decay). A number of mineral substances (such as calcite, pyrite, marcasite) can cause petrification, but the most common is silica. Solutions of silica dissolved in ground water seep into the buried wood and through a complex chemical process are precipitated and left in the individual plant cells. The silica may take a variety of forms (such as agate, jasper, chalcedony or opal). The beautiful and varied colors of petrified wood are caused by the presence of other minerals that enter the wood in solution with the silica. Iron oxides stain the wood orange,



rust, red or yellow. Manganese oxides produce blues, blacks or purple. Petrified wood can be found worldwide, but the most famous location in the United States is the Petrified Forest, Holbrook, Arizona. The trees of the Petrified Forest are thought to have been moved there by rivers from the nearby mountains. The Araucarian Pine comprises approximately 90% of the petrified wood found at the park.

Name: Araucarian Pine
 Scientific name: Araucarioxylon arizonicum
 Age: Triassic Age (+220 Million years old)
 Formation: Chinle Formation
 Location: Holbrook, Arizona, U.S.A.

COMING SOON MAGS MICRO- MOUNTERS



A micro mount is a fossil or mineral specimen (usually in crystal form), that requires magnification in order to be viewed and identified properly. Micro - mounts are securely mounted in a box for protection.

Micromounting is the collection of small fossil and mineral specimens (usually in crystal form), 1/2 inch or smaller in size. The crystals in these small specimens are often fresh, clean, and more perfect than crystals in larger specimens. In addition, many mineral species only crystallize as micro crystals. Because of their small size, these small specimens require magnification to be seen properly.

Roger Van Cleef will be starting a micromounting special interest group in June. Check the *MAGS Newsletter* for updates. The MAGS Micromounters will be part of MAGS, not a separate organization. Micromounters will still attend the monthly MAGS meetings and participate in all MAGS club activities, but they will also have their own meeting night for micromounting activities.

MEMPHIS IN MAY PRESENTS GIGANOTOSAURUS

Giganotosaurus, the world's largest meat-eating dinosaur, comes to Memphis on May 10 & 11 as part of Memphis In May's tribute to Argentina. The skeleton cast measures over 13' tall and 47' long and will be accompanied by paleontologist Don Lessem, who evacuated the dinosaur in Argentina and also served as consultant for "Jurassic Park". Giganotosaurus will on display at Audubon Park on Perkins Ext., across from Theater Memphis. Friday is reserved for school groups and Saturday for general public. There might be an admission charge.

MEMPHIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY STARGAZING AT VILLAGE CREEK

MAS will meet at Village Creek State Park, Arkansas to view the night sky on May 11 at 7:30pm. During May Mercury, Venus, Mars and Saturn will form an eye-catching cluster in the constellation Taurus. Jupiter will hover above them in Gemini, just one constellation away. No binoculars or telescopes are required to see them. All you need are your eyes and a clear view of the western horizon. You are invited to join MAS on May 11. Rain date will be May 18 at 7:30pm.

5th ANNUAL MISSOURI MINES ROCK SWAP JUNE 14-16, 2002

Missouri Mines State Historic Site, Park Hills, Missouri
(South side of Hwy. 32, 1.5 miles west of US Hwy 67)

SWAP-SELL-BUY • ROCKS-MINERALS-FOSSILS-JEWELRY-CRAFTS

- Modest Space Fee • Bring Your Own Tables • Limited Area Under Canopy
- Primitive On-Site Camping • Nearby Motels and Campgrounds
- Anticipate Large Local Attendance • Potluck Dinner Saturday Evening
- Tour Mining-Mineral Museum Free • Auction To Benefit Museum

SPONSORED BY: Mineral Area Gem and Mineral Society; Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs; Missouri Mines State Historic Site; and, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources

SWAP INFORMATION:

- Merchandise offered should be earth-science related
- No admission (entry to swap area is free) • Hours of Swap (9-6 Fri/Sat; 9-5 Sun)
- 15' x 35' open-air space \$6.00 (1 day) or \$15.00 (3 days)
- 9' x 7' under-canopy space \$6.00 (1 day) or \$15.00 (3 days)
- Swappers are responsible for their own merchandise
- Each swapper will be asked to donate one item/day for the auctions

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Missouri Mines, PO Box 492, Park Hills, Missouri 63601 or call Lloyd & Betty Marler (573) 431-2951 • Jim & Freida Reynolds (573) 756-7710 • Willis Smith (314) 521-8896 • David McIlwain (901) 465-7388

APRIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

RAYNEE RANDOLPH--The April board meeting of MAGS was held April 4, 2002 at Perkins, Eastgate. The following were present: Mike Baldwin, Dr. and Melba Cole, Nancy Folden, W.C. and Cornelia McDaniel, Dick McKitrick, Park and Terry Noyes, Alan Parks, Bill Scheffer, and Lou White.

No reports were given tonight as this was a work meeting for the Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show. Next month's board meeting place will be at Perkins in the Eastgate Shopping Center, same time. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

APRIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

RAYNEE RANDOLPH--The April meeting of MAGS was called to order by President Lou White at 7:35pm on Friday, April 12th, 2002 at the Shady Grove Presbyterian Church.

There were 60 members and 12 visitors present. Our visitors were: Doris Parsons, Sherry Barton, Emily Barton, Charles Hill, Emily Fox-Hill, Rick and Jared Rogers, Christopher and Anna Marsh, Kevin and Adam Hooper, and William Conner.

1st VP REPORT--April 13th we will be going to the Arlington site of Memphis Stone and Gravel. There will be an overview of the mining operation, a plant tour, and a visit to a reclamation area. Collecting will be permitted after the tour. Lunch will be provided.

PROGRAM--Craig Johnson will be our speaker tonight from the Crater of Diamonds State Park (see below).

SUNSHINE REPORT--Roger is doing much better and will be going home on Monday.

SHOW REPORT--Volunteer sheets are available tonight. Please, please, sign these sheets wherever you can help. Bring LOTS of food Friday evening!!! We can get the Pipkin building Thursday afternoon. Call W.C. if you will be available to help transport material from storage to the Pipkin Building.

EDITOR'S REPORT--Names for the newsletter have been narrowed down to the top eleven. Please vote tonight for ONE of those names that you would like the newsletter to be called.

DISPLAYS--Allen Helt: Quartz from Brewster's Mountain

DISPLAY WINNER--Allen Helt

DOOR PRIZE WINNER--Tess Cannito

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm followed by refreshments.

CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK ARKANSAS

Among the tall pines of southwest Arkansas visitors from around the world search for diamonds in a 37-acre field.

Here a unique geological occurrence brings diamonds to the surface in their natural matrix. This is the only diamond area in North America open to the public.

Over 75,000 diamonds have been found at "the Crater," an eroded volcanic pipe. An average of 600 diamonds are found each year. The Strawn-Wagner Diamond, a cut-white diamond weighing 1.09-carat was found at "the Crater" in

1998. This diamond was graded as "D" Flawless 0/0/0 perfect diamond by the American Gem Society (AGS).

Although genuine diamonds are the chief attraction to "the Crater", other semiprecious stones can be found. Amethyst, agate, jasper, quartz, calcite and barite are a few gems and minerals that make this a rockhound's treat. "The Crater" also provides two winding trails (the 1.3 mile River Trail and the 1.2 mile Prospector Trail) which offer visitors a firsthand view of the park's unique geological features.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, and aren't already, send your request to rockclub@earthlink.net. We will be voting on a name for the MAGS newsletter at the May MAGS Meeting on May 10. Which one do you prefer? "MAGS Written In Stone"; "MAGS Rock Talk", "MAGS Rockhound News", or "MAGS Explorer".

COMMUNITY HELP

WEBELOS GEOLOGIST ACTIVITY BADGE

MAGS was contacted recently, via the website, by a Collierville Webelos leader who asked if we could present a geology program to help his Webelos earn the Geologist Activity Badge. MAGS members W.C. McDaniel, Kelly Baldwin, and Mike Baldwin attended the Webelos meeting on April 8 and presented them with a geology program which included a look at mineral and fossil specimens from around the Mid-South and a brief look at plate tectonics, mountain building, and the rock cycle.



14 scouts and 7 adult leaders attended the meeting, asked lots of questions, and had an opportunity to examine several mineral and fossil specimens.

Each scout was given either a piece of pyrite from Starkville, Mississippi, mica schist with embedded garnets from Wetumpka, Alabama, or a crinoid stem from Parsons, Tennessee to help them start their collections. All the scouts and their leaders were invited to attend the Mid-America Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show.



SFMS:

- New Editor 1st Place-86
- New Editor 2nd Place-88, 97
- Certificate of Excellence-89, 90, 91, 92, 93
- Large Bulletin-87 • Art-77, 80, 81, 82, 86
- Original Articles-(4) 85, (6) 87, (2) 89, (2) 90, (5) 91, (3) 92

AFMS:

- New Editor 7th Place-95
- Jr. Article 3rd Place-98

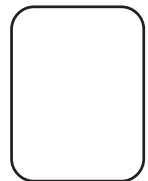
DUES:

- 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 mining, identification, cutting, polishing and mounting of gems, minerals and fossils to the utmost of our geological and lapidary capabilities.

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MAGS
2959 Sky Way Drive
Memphis, TN 38127-7417



MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY

MAGS Meeting
May 10

MAGS Rock Swap
May 11

SFMS Rock Swap
May 3-5

MAGS Field Trip
May 25-27

DMC Field Trip
May 25

