

# MAGS EXPLORER



Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society Youth Newsletter

MAY 2006 ISSUE • MAGS Youth May Meeting will be Friday, May 12, 2006 at 7:30PM

## *What is Placer Mining?*

Placer is actually a Spanish word that means "Sand Bank." There are different types of placer mining. There are panning, using a rocker, dredging, sluicing and basically just picking up a rock off the ground. You didn't realize did you that when you pick up a rock, that you are actually mining.

Even the sea floor is mined for things such as sand and gravel. Countries around the world mine. This is a dredging ship in the North Atlantic. Dredging is also done to keep our rivers, canals, bays and other waterways clear so that ships can sail through them.



*Pictures courtesy of the BBC. In England  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/norfolk/content/articles/2005/07/27/coast\\_dredging\\_20050727.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/norfolk/content/articles/2005/07/27/coast_dredging_20050727.shtml)*

## **Portal 31 Kentucky's First Exhibition Coal Mine is slated to open August, 2006**

Located Lynch, Harlan Co., KY

Checkout their web site:

<http://www.portal31.org/>



*Photo Courtesy Portal 31*

## **Things to do in the Mid-South – Sherida Helms**

Showing at the IMAX Theatre/Pink Palace: (901) 320-6320

Magnificent Desolation: Walking On the Moon

Vikings: Journey to New Worlds.

Headed to the Buffalo River in Arkansas for some our door fun?

The Buffalo River is part of the National Park Service. Stop by the park ranger office for information on their Junior Ranger Program.

Parkin Archeological State Park, Parkin Arkansas

May 27, 2006, 1 pm - 4 pm, Native American Herbs and Remedies

Workshop, (870) 755-2500 . Cost \$10.

Mammoth Spring State Park

May 20 - May 21, 2006 , 1 pm - 8 pm, 2nd Annual Contest Powwow

Call for details: (870) 625- 7326

Visit the Tennessee River Museum

507 Main St., Savannah, TN (800) 552- 3866

## What is mining?

Mining is the extraction of valuable minerals or other geological materials from the earth, usually (but not always) from an ore body, vein, or (coal) seam. Materials commonly recovered by mining include bauxite, coal, copper, diamonds, iron, gold, lead, manganese, magnesium, nickel, phosphate, platinum, rock salt, silver, tin, titanium, uranium, and zinc. Other highly useful materials that are mined include clay, sand, cinder, gravel, granite, and limestone. Any material that cannot be grown from agricultural processes must be mined. Mining in a wider sense can also include extraction of petroleum and natural gas ... (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

## Mine Boogling Rocks

<http://www.rogersgroupinc.com/ourcommunities/rockology/special.htm>

This is a wonderful web site with mining facts and trivia by the Rogers Group Inc.

## Did You Know?

### Asphalt

In 1876, **Pennsylvania Avenue** was one of the nation's first asphalt paved roads.

In 1498, on his third voyage exploring the New World, Columbus wrote in the ship's log about stopping in Trinidad and using their natural asphalt reserve to waterproof and caulk his ships.

### Learn some other fun facts at the Rogers Group Inc web site

There is even a little geology involved in the contents of a back pack. Go to their web site to learn the facts. In June any junior with an answer will get a prize.

Looking for things to do with your family near home?

Check out the web site of the Tourism Association of Southwest Tennessee. This site lists events and attractions mid way from Memphis to Nashville off I40.

<http://www.tast.tn.org/>