



Volume 59 ♦ Number 01 ♦ January 2013 ♦ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

From A to Z

Archaeology at Ames (Tennessee) and Zippori (Israel)

Dr. Milton Moreland, Chair, Archaeology Department, Rhodes College



Top. Ames Plantation: (L) Dickens Site, (R) Ames Lab

Bottom. Zippori Site: (L) Sepphoris, (R) Sepphoris Acropolis

Eight years ago, with the founding of the Archaeology Department at Rhodes, a collaborative team began a new field school at the Ames Plantation land base. Working with the Ames Founda-

tion, Weaver and Associates, and the University of Memphis, we have completed six seasons of excavations. Over 200 students have been trained at the field school, gaining experience *Continued, P. 9*

In this issue

From A to Z	P. 1
Looking for Speakers	P. 1
President's Message	P. 2
MAGS and Federation Notes	P. 2
2013 Field Trip Schedule	P. 3
MAGS Archaeology Group	P. 3
The Mineralogy of Glass	P. 3
November Board Minutes	P. 3
Dues Notice	P. 4
Show Listing	P. 5
November Meeting Minutes	P. 5
MAGS Holiday Party	P. 6
W. C. McDaniel Honored	P. 7
Chucalissa Relic Run	P. 7
Volunteers Needed	P. 7
Chunky Gal Mountain Field Trip	P. 7
Jewelry Bench Tips	P. 8
Living Fossil	P. 9
California Meteorite	P. 9
Calendar	P. 10

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

MAGS is looking for speakers for our monthly meetings. Show us your collections and photos and tell us of your experiences in archaeology and geology. Almost any topic is valid (we are a family organization!) Program topics in the past include Biblical archaeology, the New Madrid Seismic Zone, Concretions, Spain's pyrite cubes, Coon Creek fossils, and Chucalissa.

We'd love to hear about your favorite mineral and fossil sites including Brilliant, Alabama, petrified wood; Starkville, Mississippi, area fossils and marcasite; the fossils of Crowley's Ridge, Arkansas; Illinois fluorite; Frankstown, Mississippi, vertebrate fossils; Texas and Oklahoma Cretaceous cephalopods, and Tennessee and Missouri quartz geodes, etc. We've enjoyed fascinating *Continued, P. 10*

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MAGS Rockhound News ♦ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Long live the presidency! I think someone famous stated that about George Washington. In one way or another we all carve our paths in the history of the world. January 1, 2013, will start a new page in history for me as the new MAGS President. After being a member for 27 years I finally decided to accept the nomination. My thanks go to all the members that voted me in as their President. For the next two years I'll do my best, with the support of the Board of Directors. I'm sure the educational part of MAGS will be exceptional. The field trip activities will be spectacular and fun for all ages. To all the previous Presidents of MAGS, thank you one and all.

As Charles Darwin may have said,

Origin-Ally yours,

W. Paul Sides

Please contribute articles or pictures (everybody likes pictures) on any subject of interest to rockhounds. If it interests you it probably interests others. The 15th of the month is the deadline for next month's issue. Send material to lybanon@earthlink.net.

Board Meetings

The January Board Meeting will be on January 3. Because the Board Meeting is always 8 days before the Membership Meeting, both the February and March Board Meetings will be on the last day of the previous month. The February Board Meeting will be on January 31; the March Board Meeting will be on February 28.

January DMC Field Trip

WHERE: Jackson Crossroads Amethyst Mine, Tignall, GA

WHEN: Saturday, January 26, 2013

INFORMATION: Lucy Miller, LucyAnn323@aol.com, (904) 838-5026

Links to Federation News

- ➔ AFMS: www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm
- ➔ SFMS: www.amfed.org/sfms/
- ➔ DMC: www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Experiencing the Earth Wide Open



Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society 2013 Field Trip Schedule

**-Specific trip information is available upon request via email or at membership meetings*

Date	trip destination	materiel
Saturday, Jan 12	Robert Duncan's Lapidary Shop Near Shelby Forest	Tour and check out rock saws, vibro laps, tumbling machines, polishing and grinding machines/ wheels, contour polisher
Sat, Sun Feb 16/17 Monday is holiday	Trip to Missouri brand new site(cleared) possible new lace agate site side trip to bottle dump	druse quartz lace agate barite large and good yard rocks bottles/glass
Tuesday, March 5	I-40 East exit tour near Parsons near Dickson About 360 mile round trip	Site 1-selenite and fossils Site 2-fossils
Saturday, March 16	Nonconnah Creek	bottles and rocks
Saturday, April 13	Sugar Creek near Millington	gravel bars, agates, petrified wood
Saturday, May 18 (tentative)	Frankstown, Ms	fossils
June	TBA	
July	TBA	

MAGS Archaeology Group

Ron Brister

Are you interested in learning more about archaeology? Doing is the best way to learn and Dr. Robert Connolly at Chucalissa is offering us a unique opportunity to use the collections, facility, and staff of the museum to study archaeology. Prior knowledge is not required, only the commitment of one Saturday a month and a strong desire to learn.

Robert invites MAGS members for exclusive use of Chucalissa labs, lecture room, and collections for an archaeology training program. We will have lectures,

demonstrations, and labs for learning archaeological theory, techniques, analysis, and interpretation. Dr. Connolly will be assisted by Guy Weaver and Ron Brister. Suggested hands-on projects include:

- Learning prehistoric technology through replication of prehistoric artifacts. These will be used in exhibits and education programs.
- Analyzing a collection from the Chucalissa repository and developing a traveling exhibit based on our findings.
- Excavating and analyzing 500 year old artifacts from areas of Chucalissa threatened by erosion.

We will have a short meeting after the January program to assess interest in the MAGS archaeology group and discuss activities our members would enjoy. Please contact Ron Brister ((901) 388-1765 or bristerr@bellsouth.net) for additional details and any questions you may have.

The Mineralogy of Glass A Rock & Gem Article *Lori Carter*



So, what does glass have to do with mineralogy? Well, a few years ago I began a journey into the world of glass that would lead me to learn about the connection between minerals and glass. At the same time I gained an appreciation for the art of working glass. An article about my adventures is in the December issue of *Rock & Gem*. I hope you enjoy it and then perhaps you too will embark on a quest for glass knowledge.

November Board Minutes

Mike Baldwin

Attending: Lou White, Paul Sides, Doris Johnston, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, James Butchko, Mike Baldwin, and Tony Wells [visitor].

Continued, P. 4

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MAGS Rockhound News ◇ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

November Board Minutes President Lou White called the meeting to order at 1846.

Continued from P. 3

Secretary: Minutes approved with corrections. Guy Weaver, who presented the October program, was granted a one-year MAGS membership.

Nominating Committee: Mike reported that all positions, except Director-Youth, have been filled on the nominations roster for the November election. Nominations will be accepted from the floor on Friday night. Letters of Acceptance were distributed to and signed by all 2013-2014 nominees present tonight. Those not present will receive a copy of the letter via email.

Programs: Paul Sides reported that Anita Westlake will present the November program on meteorite identification. She is a member of the Meteorite Society of Georgia and has worked at the Tellus Museum in Georgia. Members may bring potential meteorites from their collections to be identified. Anita will have meteorites on exhibit as well as some for sale.

Treasurer: Doris Johnston reported that she found a mistake on the September treasurer's report. She corrected the error and presented a new September report as well as the October report. Motion made and seconded to accept both treasurer's reports. Motion carried.

Newsletter: Matthew Lybanon reported that he will have a list of the 2013-2014 officers and directors nominees in the November newsletter. The Dallas trip has been rescheduled to the extended Thanksgiving weekend. We have permission to collect on some very good sites..

Junior Programs: Carol Lybanon reported that the November program will be "Everything You Want To

HELLO MAGSTERS !!!

**IT'S ALMOST THE NEW YEAR,
SO, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR DUES, DEAR !
SO TO MAKE EVERYTHING PERFECTLY CLEAR,
AND SO WE WON'T HAVE TO RATTLE OUR SPEAR,
PLEASE SEND MONEY, AND SKIP ALL THE FEAR
OF MISSING THE FUN, AND THE TRIPS
AND THE CHEER !**

Individual dues are \$20.00, Family dues are \$25.00.

**You can mail dues to MAGS, 3982 Glendale Dr.,
Memphis, TN 38128, or bring them to our monthly
meeting.**

THANKKEW VURRY MUCH !!!

Know About Crinoids". Holiday gifts have been purchased for the Juniors. We usually have 20-24 youth in attendance at the December Party. Carol led a discussion on the budget and ideas for a gift for our previous president/show chair, W. C. McDaniel.

Webmaster: Mike Baldwin reported that October updates have been made to the website.

Show: James Butchko volunteered to be the Director-Youth for 2013-2014. His name was added to the nominee roster. The roster is now full. James suggested that we choose something from our Theobald Mineral Collection as the Grand Prize for 2013. He will be at the Show storage shed on Saturday morning if anyone would like to look at the collection. A discussion of the Show followed. We need to decide how to designate funds. Every expense of doing the show has in-

creased. Should we give a large percentage of our income from the show to any organization? We need to determine how much would be appropriate to continue to be good partners with Ronald McDonald House. We currently use RMH affiliation on our show postcards and ads as a publicity incentive. MAGS members should be informed about our criteria for supporting other not-for-profit organizations. We are currently paying full price to rent space at the Agricenter. Dealers absorb the Agricenter increase but all other costs have also increased. Jim will contact RHM to determine the minimum donation we need to contribute in order to continue our relationship with them. There was a brief discussion on the possibilities for relocating the show [possibly to the Great Hall in Germantown]. There was also a discussion about our align-

Continued, P. 5

April 27-28, 2013
Memphis, TN
Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show
Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society
"The Earth Wide Open"

Memphis Agricenter International, Expo Center, West Pavilion & A-Wing
7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN

Saturday, April 27, 9:00-6:00 and Sunday, April 28, 10:00-5:00

Dealers, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Kids Area with Rockzone featuring Gem & Fossil Dig, Geode Bowling, Rocks Around the Clock

Adults \$5.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00

web: www.TheEarthWideOpen.com, email: info@theearthwideopen.com

Show Chair James Butchko (901) 743-0058
Dealer Chair W. C. McDaniel (901)-274-7706

November Board Minutes Continued from P. 4
Memphis and Chucalissa Indian Museum.

Membership: Carol reported that all new members have been processed and the roster has been updated and distributed.

Historian: In Nannett's absence, Carol talked about the December Party. Nannett will get the turkeys. Juniors gifts will be provided. Adults bring a gift valued around \$10 to exchange. We need someone to do table decorations. Suggestion was made to purchase poinsettias. Lou will call Nannett and Bonnie to see if they need help with party prep.

An inquiry was made about the progress of the Plaza House at Chucalissa. The house is almost complete. An experienced carpenter supervised the final construction.

Having no further reports or business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2009.

November Meeting Minutes

Mike Baldwin

30 members and 4 visitors were in attendance at tonight's Membership Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 1930 by President Lou White.

Membership Director Neville Mayfield welcomed and introduced visitors. Paul Sides welcomed our guest speaker.

Mike Baldwin read the list of nominees for the 2013-2014 Officers and Board of Directors. The nominees are: President-Paul Sides; 1VP [Field Trips]-W. C. McDaniel; 2VP [Programs]-Ron Brister; Secretary-Carol Lybanon; Treasurer-Bill Gilbert;

Director [Assistant Field Trips]-Charles Hill; Director [Assistant Programs]-Guy Weaver; Director [Youth]-James Butchko; Director [Assistant Youth]-Bonnie Cooper; Director [Membership]-Neville Mayfield; Director [Historian]-Nannett McDougal-Dykes; and Librarian-Ron Brister. Lou White asked for nominations from the floor. Having none, Lou called for a vote. The slate of officers and directors were elected by unanimous vote.

Lou told the membership about the November Chucalissa Work Day. Continued construction on the Plaza House will begin at 10:00 am.

Marc Mueller reported on upcoming field trips and events. Thanksgiving weekend will be the extended field trip to Dallas, Texas. Matthew provided details. The trip will be November 22-24 to collect mostly large ammonites on the

Continued, P. 6

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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November Meeting Minutes
Continued from P. 5

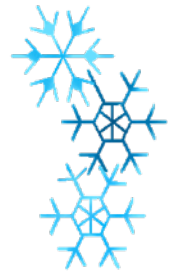
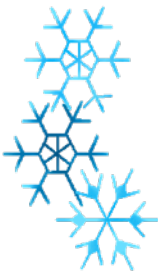
surface. Our field trip leader has located an additional collecting site containing various Pennsylvanian age fossils near Valley View, Texas. Pick up information sheets at the sign-in table. You might want to bring a sled for transporting your finds in the streambeds. December 15 will be the Middle Tennessee DMC trip to War Trace, TN, for horse mount agates. This site is about 45 miles south of Nashville. November 10 will be the catfish fry/rock swap at the home of Alan and Alishia Parks from 11:00 until 3:00.

Neville Mayfield reminded members that he has membership cards for each member. These cards can be used as proof of membership when attending DMC field trips.

Lou introduced the displays for this evening: 5 juniors and 2 adults; 1 meteorite on display. The juniors were dismissed to their program on crinoids, presented by Carol Lybanon.

Paul Sides reported on the Ralph Hasto estate sale, which was recently held west of Harrisburg, AR. The family of Mr. Hasto wished to give thanks to all the MAGS members who came to the estate sale. Paul introduced tonight's program on meteorites, presented by Anita Westlake, who was with the Tellus Meteorite Museum of Georgia at one time.

The membership meeting was adjourned at 2045, followed by fellowship and refreshments.



MAGS Holiday Party



W. C. McDaniel Honored at Holiday Party

Lou White presents W. C. McDaniel with a plaque and honorarium, in honor of W. C.'s years of service as MAGS President and Show Chair.



Chucalissa Relic Run

In keeping with their reputation as a pillar of the Memphis museum community, the C. H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa remains committed to providing accessible learning opportunities for local schools. For the 15th year, the site will host its Relic Run 5K to benefit youth programming on Saturday, March 2, 2013. All proceeds will go toward lowering the cost of educational visits to the Southwest Memphis site.

For more information, check *MAGS Rockhound News* closer to the race date, or contact Rachael Bogema at (901) 785-3160, ext. 10, or resouth@memphis.edu.

Volunteers Needed

"Weavers of the Earth: Native American Baskets" Exhibit (January 24–May 12, 2013) at the Pink Palace

Learn the story of Native American basket weaving, showing items used from the cradle to the grave. You can help visitors explore this important pre-industrial commodity, from simple basket

weaving to complicated weaving patterns built on symbolism and design. Share the importance of this dying art, from information on the raw materials and native plant species used to the ceremonies surrounding basket weaving. Volunteers will train Thursday, January 24 or Saturday, January 26, 9 A. M.–12:30 P. M. Commitment is one 3½ hour shift weekly on weekdays or two shifts monthly on weekends.

To volunteer, complete & submit volunteer application. See the website:

www.memphismuseums.org/be_a_volunteer/, call (901) 636-2438, or email diane.mckinna@memphistn.gov

to schedule interview or obtain further information.

Chunky Gal Mountain Field Trip

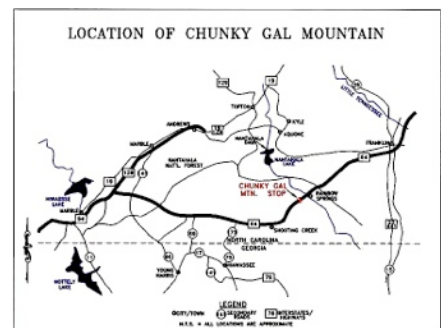
Charles Hill

Hello Again MAGSters,

We are going to North Carolina again! A few of us want another crack at the corundums and zoisite on Chunky Gal Mountain.

This time we will be gone for only three days, February the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th We are traveling out on Friday. Emily and I plan to camp on the mountain. I don't know how many takers there will be for camping in February, but I can't wait. For those who don't want to camp, the city of Franklin is about twenty miles from the dig. We will dig all day Saturday and spend one more night. Then Sunday morning, we'll strike the tent and head home. It will not be a long trip, but hopefully a productive one. As always, if you want to come, call me or e-mail me. My number is (901) 626-4232 my e-mail address is

hunter3006@aol.com.



For those of you who want to come and stay in *Continued, P. 8*

*Chunky Gal Mountain Field Trip
Continued from P. 7*

Franklin, I will drive down the mountain and lead you to the dig site. I will also mark the road that leads to the camp/dig site. This is a hard rock mine. Heavy tools are required. Tools needed are shovels, picks, a crack hammer, a sledge hammer, gloves, eye protection, heavy boots, and buckets. The dig site is less than a quarter of a mile from the parking site. The path to the digging site is well worn, but it has one or two tricky spots.



I have talked to the North Carolina Park Service; and they informed me that unless something out of the ordinary happens, the road will

be open. I will be keeping in contact with them and keeping my fingers crossed. When we went back in June, the back road was closed due to a landslide. Anyway, I hope to see you guys and gals on Chunky Gal in February.

Bye for now.

Charles.

Jewelry Bench Tips by
Brad Smith

**ADJUSTABLE CHUCK
FOR DREMELS**

Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addi-

tion of one inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.

The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all—only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.



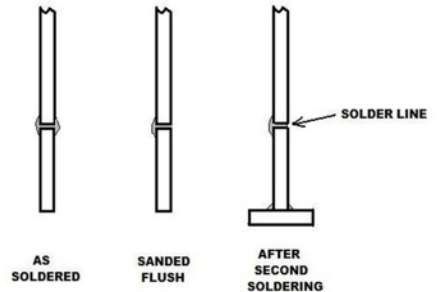
A simple and inexpensive (\$10) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or model making outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.

AVOIDING SOLDER LINES

After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear when you solder the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature that solder flows, the liquid solder dissolves a little bit more into the base metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra sol-

der on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering.



Of course, this isn't always possible as when a soldering operation will prevent you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. In that case I coat the finished solder joint with ochre to prevent a furrow.

DRAGON CROSSBOW

It's always fun to make something that's functional. Sometimes it's a handle for your favorite hammer, other times it's a custom stamp or punch for special task, but if you're heading out to slay a dragon, you might need a crossbow. Here's how Hans Meevis built his Dragon Bow:

ganoksin.com/blog/meevis/2012/07/12/the-dragon-bow-start-to-finish/

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips.



From A to Z in Woodland, *Continued from P. 1* Mississippian, and 19th century archaeology. In addition to the field school at Ames, for the past 20 years Moreland has excavated the site of Zippori in central Galilee. Although there are many differences between the sites, numerous similarities can be found in the key goals of both excavations. While many excavations focus on public space and monumental architecture, the interdisciplinary teams at Ames and Zippori have concentrated their efforts on the material culture of private spaces. While excavating common households, these archaeological projects have revealed significant information about daily life in past cultures. This presentation will report on both excavations, and compare the results from Ames to Zippori.

Editor's Notes:

1. Dr. Moreland will present the adult program at the January 11 meeting.
2. Zippori and Sepphoris are alternate spellings; Sepphoris is the Greek version of the Hebrew Zippori.

Living Fossil

The pygmy right whale is a mysterious and elusive creature that rarely comes to shore, and which looks different from other living whales. A study published December 18 in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* suggests it is the last living relative of an ancient group of whales long believed to be extinct.

"The living pygmy right whale is, if you like, a remnant, almost like a living fossil," said Felix Marx, a paleontologist at the Uni-

versity of Otago in New Zealand. "It's the last survivor of quite an ancient lineage that until now no one thought was around."



The relatively diminutive pygmy right whale, which grows to just 6.5 meters long, lives out in the open ocean. The elusive marine mammals inhabit the Southern Hemisphere and have only been spotted at sea a few dozen times. As a result, scientists know almost nothing about the species' habits or social structure.

DNA analysis suggested pygmy right whales diverged from modern baleen whales such as the blue whale and the humpback whale 17-25 million years ago. But the pygmy whales' snouts suggested they were more closely related to the family of whales that includes the bowhead whale. There were no studies of fossils showing how the pygmy whale had evolved, Marx said.

Marx and his colleagues carefully analyzed the skull bones and other fossil fragments from pygmy right whales and several other ancient cetaceans. The pygmy whale's skull most closely resembled that of an ancient family of whales called *cetotheres* that were thought to have gone extinct around 2 million years ago, the researchers found. *Cetotheres* emerged about 15 million years ago

and once occupied oceans across the globe. The findings help explain how pygmy whales evolved and may also help shed light on how these ancient "lost" whales lived.

California Meteorite

Almost 1 kg of fragments have been collected from a carbonaceous chondrite meteorite that fell in California in April 2012. Carbonaceous chondrites are carbon-rich and make up only 3% of known meteorites. The California find, known as the Sutter's Mill meteorite, belongs to a subgroup particularly rich in organic molecules. Researchers from the University of California, Davis, found more than 70 different chemical elements in the meteorite and were able to date it to the formation of the solar system. However, the mix of compounds suggests that it was part of an asteroid formed by the aggregation of a large number of smaller asteroids. Based on the effect of cosmic rays on the material, researchers have deduced that the meteorite was broken off of the asteroid approximately 50 000 years ago. It also appears to have followed an unusual path before striking Earth. Peter Jenniskens, from the SETI Institute in California, says that the meteorite likely came from a family of asteroids in the belt between Mars and Jupiter. The wear markings on it suggest that the asteroids have experienced more collisions than expected. And the way it reflects light is similar to the asteroid that will be visited by Japan's Hayabusa-2 spacecraft in 2018.

Looking for Speakers (continued)



talks by local academicians and professionals but it would be good to intersperse them with experiences of our own club members.

Each discussion can range from 30 to 45 minutes. If you feel you can't talk that long, team up with a friend and do a double topic program. Please contact

Ron Brister at bristerr@bellsouth.net or (388) 1765 for details.

The Georgia Mineral Society has invited MAGS to join them on a March 9 field trip to the Wells Creek meteor impact site in central Tennessee. If you are interested, contact Charles Carter, GMS Field Trip Chair,

Telephone: (770) 998-7949

Cell Phone: (770) 891-5947

e-mail: fieldtrips@gamineral.org.

Charles needs a head count before the trip.

Calendar

January 3, 2013

Board Meeting, St. Francis Hospital, Library, 6:30 P.M.

January 11, 2013

Membership Meeting, Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 7:30 P.M.

January 12, 2013

MAGS Field Trip, Robert Duncan's Lapidary Shop



January 26, 2013

DMC Field Trip, Jackson Crossroads Amethyst Mine, Tignall, GA

January 31, 2013

Board Meeting, St. Francis Hospital, Library, 6:30 P.M.

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society
2019 Littlemore Drive
Memphis, TN 38016

