



Volume 62 ◊ Number 01 ◊ January 2016 ◊ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

Reelfoot Lake Geology

January Program



Alan Parks will present the first program of 2016, on the geology of Reelfoot Lake. This beautiful lake, in Lake County in northwest Tennessee, hasn't been there very long. The New Madrid Earthquakes, at the end of 1811 and the start of 1812, changed the geology of the Mississippi River Valley and created Reelfoot Lake

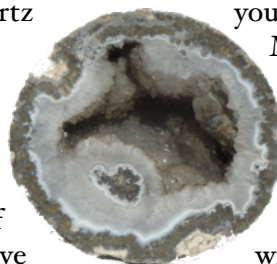
when the region subsided. The last of the three major quakes is estimated to be the strongest ever recorded on the North American continent. The rock that underlies the ground is soft sedimentary rock, which amplifies seismic waves, rather than igneous or metamorphic rock. Come to the meeting to learn more.

In this issue

Reelfoot Lake Geology	P. 1
Win This Prize!	P. 1
MAGS And Federation Notes	P. 2
MAGSters Win!	P. 3
High Tech{ish} Top 10	P. 4
Fabulous Tennessee Fossils	P. 6
Field Trip Report	P. 6
Upcoming Programs	P. 7
Earth's First Big Predatory Monster	P. 7
MAGS Holiday Party	P. 7
New Members	P. 8
January Birthdays	P. 8
November Board Minutes	P. 8
November Meeting Minutes	P. 9
Jewelry Bench Tips	P. 9
MAGS At A Glance	P. 10

WIN THIS PRIZE!

The picture shows a 5 inch geode, quartz lined with calcite, from Mexico. Anyone who **renews or has already renewed** their membership for 2016 will be eligible for a chance to win this geode. Anyone can renew at the MAGS Membership Meetings, including January, or by mail. If you do use the mail, made sure I will receive



your check before the January Membership Meeting. The address is **Bob Cooper, 8695 Baylor Road, Arlington, TN 38002**. The drawing will be held at the end of the January Membership Meeting and you do not have to be present to win. Also, if you live out of the area and you do win, I will mail the geode to you.

BOB COOPER

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

2015-2016 MAGS BOARD

President—W. C. McDaniel

2038 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104 ◊ (901) 274-7706 ◊ w.c.mcd@att.net

1st VP (Field Trips)—Charles Hill

1070 Park Swain Road, Grand Junction, TN 38039 ◊ (901) 626-4232 ◊ hunter3006@aol.com

2nd VP (Adult Programs)—Carol Lybanon

2019 Littlemore Drive. Memphis, TN 38016 ◊ (901) 757-2144 ◊ sgcarol@earthlink.net

Secretary—Mike Baldwin

367 North Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017 ◊ (901) 853-3603 ◊ mbaldwin05@gmail.com

Treasurer—Bonnie Cooper

8695 Baylor Road, Arlington, TN 38002 ◊ (901) 444-0967 ◊ rocks4us@hotmail.com

Director (Asst. Field Trips)—Kim Hill

4755 Royal Elm Cove, Memphis, TN 38128 ◊ (901) 388-7572 ◊ earthsis@aol.com

Director (Asst. Adult Programs)—Debbie

Schaeffer ◊ 6854 Corsica Drive, Memphis, TN 38120 ◊ (901) 753-8496 ◊ dayday91@aol.com

Director (Youth Programs)—James Butchko

4220 Dunn, Memphis, TN 38111 ◊ (901) 743-0058 ◊ butch513j@yahoo.com

Director (Asst. Youth Programs)—Leigh Scott

4220 Dunn, Memphis, TN 38111 ◊ (901) 743-0058 ◊ scottchris4481@gmail.com

Director (Librarian)—Marc Mueller

7784 Commodore, Millington, TN 38053 ◊ (615) 491-5110 ◊ skydancer2992@yahoo.com

Director (Asst. Librarian)—Jane Brandon

4384 Castle Avenue, Memphis, TN 38122 ◊ (901) 374-0366 ◊ jjbrandon@yahoo.com

Director (Membership Services)—Bob Cooper

8695 Baylor Road, Arlington, TN 38002 ◊ (901) 444-0967 ◊ rocks4us@hotmail.com

Director (Historian)—Vacant

Newsletter Editor—Matthew Lybanon

2019 Littlemore Drive. Memphis, TN 38016 ◊ (901) 757-2144 ◊ lybanon@earthlink.net

Webmaster—Mike Baldwin

367 North Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017 ◊ (901) 853-3603 ◊ mbaldwin05@gmail.com

Show Chairman—James Butchko

4220 Dunn, Memphis, TN 38111 ◊ (901) 743-0058 ◊ butch513j@yahoo.com

Past President—Paul Sides

1062 CR 739, Wynne, AR 72396 ◊ (870) 400-9060

MAGS AND FEDERATION NOTES

President's Message

I have taken the opportunity to do you a big favor. I am going to write your MAGS New Year Resolutions for 2016. So in each of these resolutions just insert your name in the blank and you will be off to a great and happy New Year and MAGS will benefit.

Continued, P. 3

Save the dates: The 37th Annual Earth Wide Open, April 23-24, 2016.

MAGS General Membership Meetings and MAGS Youth Meetings are held at 7:00 P. M. on the second Friday of every month, year round. The meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5530 Shady Grove Road, Memphis, TN.

MAGS Website: memphisgeology.org

We aren't kidding when we say this is a newsletter for and by the members of MAGS. If an article has a byline the author is a MAGS Member, unless explicitly stated otherwise (we welcome articles by nonmembers). If there is no byline, the article was written or compiled by the Editor (a MAGS Member). 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. **And don't miss the article at the top of P. 3!**

January DMC Field Trip

WHERE: Vulcan Limestone Mine, Brooksville, FL

WHEN: Saturday, January 9, 9:00 A. M.-2:00 P. M.

COLLECTING: Echinoids, druzy calcite crystals, chert

INFORMATION: Fred Hendershott, (813) 892-5864

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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MAGSters Win!



MAGS did well in the Federation's 2015 Bulletin (we call them newsletters) Editor's contest, covering publications in 2014. Here's how it worked: Entries in different categories went to our regional federation (Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, or SFMS). SFMS judges ranked all the entries, and sent the top three in each category to the national federation (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, or AFMS). The AFMS judged the SFMS submissions against the winners from the other six regional federations. There are awards both at the regional and national level.

That's how it worked, and here's how we did (months listed are the publication months in 2014):

Adult Articles	Bill Gilbert, "The Microscope—Another Great Tool," April SFMS: 6th Place	Charles Hill, "Happy Hunting," September SFMS: 9th Place
Advanced Adult Articles	Dr. Nina Baghai-Riding, "Morrison Formation Palynoflora," June SFMS: 3rd Place AFMS: Honorable Mention	
Written Features	Kim Hill, "A Rockhound's Mother's Day," June SFMS: 6th Place	
Special Publications	Matthew Lybanon, "MAGS Science Fair Awards," May SFMS: 2nd Place AFMS: Honorable Mention	W. C. McDaniel, "Everything you wanted to know about cleaning your finds," January SFMS: 3rd Place AFMS: Honorable Mention
Small Bulletins	<i>MAGS Rockhound News</i> , October issue SFMS: information unavailable AFMS: 6th Place	

Thanks to all the MAGSters who submitted articles and pictures, and helped make *MAGS Rockhound News* one of the top 10 club newsletters in the country. And congratulations to the winning authors—you did great! How about the rest of you MAGSters?

President's Message
Continued from P. 2

I, _____, will pay my 2016 dues by the January meeting. Don't forget you have the chance to win a nice prize if you do.

I, _____, will mark on

my calendar the show dates, April 21-25, and volunteer to help as needed and requested.

I, _____, will attend as many 2016 Membership Meetings as possible.

I, _____, will attend and participate in as many 2016

field trips as possible.

I, _____, will step up and help with special needs, events, and Membership Meetings.

Important Announcement

The club is in need of someone (hopefully you) to

Continued, P. 4

President's Message assume the position of Director-Historian/Rock Swaps. Your primary duties will be to coordinate rock swaps, maintain the club's historical records, and attend Board Meetings.

Continued from P. 3 It does not require you to do the hospitality at Membership Meetings and/or organizing the annual holiday party. Give me call at (901) 490-3575.

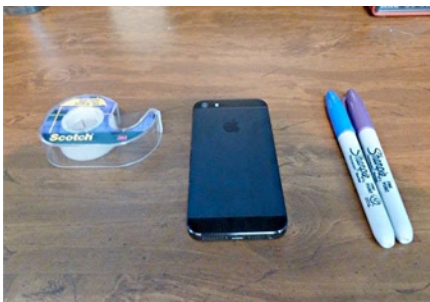
W. C. McDaniel

High Tech{ish} Top 10

Carrie Siems

Part 1 of a 2-parter

You've survived December, and with January comes new beginnings. My 10 year old son doesn't have your typical, run of the mill interests. Because of this I do most of my shopping online, and my searches lead me to stumble across some fascinating things. I'm always amazed at the ideas people come up with, and furthermore the ingenuity to implement them! Here are the top 10 high tech inventions that piqued my curiosity, yet could serve fellow rockhounds well:



Step 1: Get tape (transparent is best), smartphone, and blue and purple Sharpie markers.

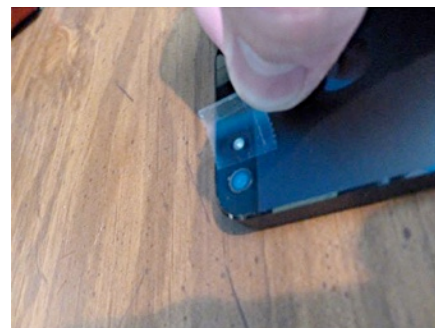


Step 2: Grab a small piece of tape and fold it over on the end so you can peel it off easily.

TOOLS

#1: Blue and Purple Sharpie Markers

Blue and purple sharpie markers? They're not new. They're not high tech. Other than color coded labeling, how could they possibly help with rockhounding? When combined with tape and your cell phone, it can help those of you looking for fluorescent minerals. Place a small piece of tape over your phone's flashlight, and color it with a blue sharpie marker. Place a second small piece of tape over your phone's flashlight, and color it blue too. Add a third small piece of tape over your phone's flashlight, and color it



Step 3: Apply the tape.



Step 4: Color the first layer of tape with blue.

with the purple sharpie marker. Now you have a small portable blacklight to help you find specimens with the best fluorescent properties in the field. I haven't tried this yet, but plan to with my kiddo over Christmas break.



Step 5: Put one more layer of tape with blue and then make the final layer of tape with purple.



#2: Meteorite Stick

Meteorite finder and walking stick in one, this *Continued, P. 5*

High Tech(ish) Top 10
Continued from P. 4



dual purpose tool has capabilities to find most types of meteorites. The telescopic shaft extends from 27.5" to 55", and is lightweight since it's made from carbon fiber. The removable magnet is composed of neodymium, iron, and boron, yielding an impressive pull force of 250 pounds! This pull force even attracts the LL chondrite, which only contain approximately 3% metallic iron. The Meteorite Stick comes with fusion crusted NWA 869 L3-4 Chondrite Meteorites for practice. Made by Outer Space Rocks, this product retails on Amazon for \$89.99 and so far has received nothing but 5 star reviews.



#3: Matchbox Treasure Tracker

This one is for those of you who have kids (or those of you who still act like kids). A metal detecting toy truck! Seriously, how cool is that? Don't you wish you had one when you were a kid?!? If your kids are into rock-

hounding alongside you, they can use this to help track down specimens containing metal. If your kids begrudgingly accommodate you in your adventures, let them play with this and they'll be helping you, unbeknownst to them! {Or better yet, convert them to an avid rockhound yet!} It's available on Amazon for \$29.99, and has received an average of 4.5 stars from 51 reviewers. You never know what may get dug up playing with one of these on a tailing pile!



#4: Smart Phone Telescope Attachment

Perhaps you prefer to look at the sky instead of the ground. If that's the case, hook your phone up to your telescope and discover new ways to explore the unknown. Take high resolution pictures, record the objects, or use it to track scientific observations. Coupling your cell phone to your telescope opens up lots of new ways to enjoy your telescope. There are loads of makes, models, and price points available - but you can get in on the fun starting around \$15.

Editor's Note: We're printing Carrie's #10 next, because of the time limit. The rest of her top 10 will be in next month's issue.



#10: Professional Pocket Microscope

Designed in Zurich, Switzerland, this may very well be the coolest thing yet! A motorized 4-element lens paired with illumination optics work together to produce high-quality images. The technology is controlled by an app to assist you in capturing laser sharp images. Mindful planning creates a wide range of uses. You can use the device to look at a specimen up close, view slides, make slides, take pictures, videos, or instantly share what you're seeing with friends. It can be utilized for scientific or artistic purposes. It's expected to retail for \$159.

You have until January 9th, 2016, to help this fantastic little gadget get funded and manufactured. If you'd like to help with the crowd funding, you can support this project by going to: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/754265265/peek-the-professional-microscope-that-fits-in-your-phone>. I'm heading there as soon as this article is finished.

To be continued ...

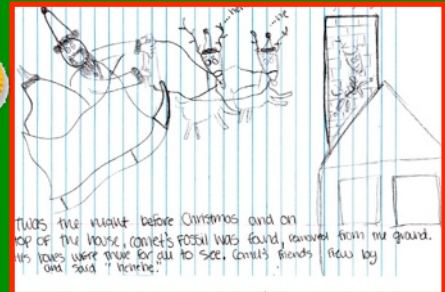
Fabulous Tennessee Fossils

Dr. Michael A. Gibson, University of Tennessee at Martin

Christmas Cheer



It is the Christmas season, so naturally I wanted this month's Fabulous Tennessee Fossils article to somehow relate Tennessee fossils and Christmas, but alas I am at a loss to do so, but have vowed to scour the fossil record from Tennessee for the proper connection for next year! I do have fossil tie-ins for other holidays, especially Valentine's Day, Easter, and Halloween. So I turned to my dual enrollment geology class at Westview High School in Martin for help, as this was the last day of their semester and we were celebrating the pending holidays. I have a talented group of kids eager to graduate and move into the "real world," as we say. So I challenged them to use their creativity and to have the opportunity to publish that creativity to share with my MAGSter friends. They were given instructions to be creative, involve fossils or geology, within the context of the Christmas holidays, and to make the reader smile. I also gave them only thirty minutes to get the job done. As extra motivation, the winning efforts would receive a Subway gift card. On the right are the best three of the submissions, placed in final winning order by our illustrious editor! Enjoy and Merry Christmas from UT Martin!



Field Trip Report

Charles Hill

This is the first field trip report for 2016. We started 2015 with a trip to dig for quartz crystals at the new Twin Creek mine in the Mt. Ida, Arkansas, area. On Saturday, January 16, 2016, we will be going to the Ron Coleman Crystal Mine, located a few miles north of Hot Springs in Jessierville, Arkansas. I think most of us have been there before. It is a nice, easy place to get things started for the year. I have called Coleman's, and they should bring up new dirt the night before and also on the day that we hunt.

For our newer Members, all MAGS Member Meetings will be held at the Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, located at 5530 Shady Grove Road. Those who wish to go on the January trip can pick up the trip information at the Member Meeting on January the 9th. I will also have waiver forms from the mine. You can fill them out ahead of time, but wait to sign and date them until we get to the Ron Coleman Rock Shop. We will meet there at 9:30 A. M. on Saturday, January the 16th.

The next trip will be to Pickwick Lake on February 9th for Upper Cretaceous fossils. We will

visit three sites within the State Park and one on the Tennessee River. The Tennessee Corps of Engineers will start refilling the lake in late February or early March, so this will be the ideal time to go. I will write more on this trip later. We will meet at the Post Office in the Pickwick State Park at 9:30 A. M. The information for this trip will be available at the Member Meeting on February 8th.

The March trip will be led by Carol Lybanon to the Native American Mounds and relic areas at Reelfoot Lake. More information in February,

Continued, P. 7

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Field Trip Report details at the *Continued from P. 6* Member Meeting on March the 12th. Hope to see you there, and happy hunting,

Charles

Upcoming Programs

- ✓ January: Geology of Reelfoot Lake, Alan Parks
- ✓ February: Egyptology, Dr. Patricia Podzorski, University of Memphis
- ✓ March: Archaeology of Reelfoot Lake, Bill Lawrence, Tennessee Division of Archaeology
- ✓ April: MAGS Show

Interested in having a particular type of program at a MAGS Meeting? Contact Carol and let her know your idea (how else will she know?). sgcarol@earthlink.net or (901) 757-2144.



Happy New Year,
Rockhounds

Earth's First Big Predatory Monster

Earth's first big predatory monster was a weird water bug as big as Tom Cruise, newly found fossils show.

Almost half a billion years ago, way before the dinosaurs roamed, Earth's dominant large predator was a sea scorpion that grew to 5 feet 7 inches, with a dozen claw arms sprouting from its head and a spike tail, a new study says. Scientists found signs of these new monsters of the prehistoric deep in Iowa, of all places.

Geologists at the Iowa Geological Survey found 150 pieces of fossils about 60 feet under the Upper Iowa River, part of which had to be temporarily dammed to allow them to collect the specimens. Then scientists at Yale University determined they were a new species from about 460 million year ago, when Iowa was under an ocean.

Then, all the action was in the sea and it was pretty small scale, said James Lamsdell of Yale, lead author of the study published in *BMC Evolutionary Biology*.

"This is the first real big predator," Lamsdell said. "I wouldn't have wanted to be swimming with it. There's something about bugs. When they're a certain size, they shouldn't be allowed to get bigger."

Technically, this creature—named *Pentecopterus decorabensis*, after an ancient Greek warship—is not a bug by science definitions, Lamsdell said. It's part of the eurypterid family, which are basically sea scorpions.

Those type of creatures "are really cool," said Joe Hannibal, curator of invertebrate paleontology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Hannibal wasn't part of the study, but praised it for being well done, adding "this species is not particularly bizarre—for a eurypterid."

Continued, P. 8

MAGS Holiday Party

If you missed our holiday get-together you missed another nice evening. More than 60 people showed up to join in the fun. Everyone left with both a gift (provided by MAGS) and a door prize or two.

A special thanks to W. C. for getting all the gifts, door prizes, and table stuff. Thanks to Carol for roasting turkey and making stars, to Bonnie for cooking ham and making snowflakes, to Paul for bringing a Christmas tree, to Matthew for the music, to Jim for getting poinsettias. And thanks to all our Members for cooking, baking and helping to set up and clean up, so we could have a great celebration. Everyone had a fun and delicious evening.



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Earth's First Big Predatory Monster *Continued from P. 7*

Unlike modern land scorpions, this creature's tail didn't sting. It was used more for balance and in swimming, but half this creature's length was tail, Lamsdell said.

There were larger sea scorpions half way around the world at the same time but those were more bottom feeders instead of dominant predators, he said.

Lamsdell could tell by the way the many arms come out of the elongated head how this creature grabbed prey and pushed it to its mouth. "It was obviously a very aggressive animal," Lamsdell said. "It was a big angry bug."

Editor's Note: Thanks to Charles Hill for finding this.

New Members

- Carl Warren
- Mark Bishop

January Birthdays

3	Linda Waddell Mary Kratz
5	Charles Randolph Joanna Kuc
6	Nick Fowler Julie A. Gilbert
7	Rosie Crawford
10	Noa Parks
11	Sarah Stockwell Grayson Hebert
13	Vincent Schultz Rud Moe
15	Lolita Kuyper
16	Brandon Hubble Francis Mitch Mitchell
18	Ricky Waters
21	Richard Gunter

22	Haley Wheeler
23	Amber Gonzalez
24	Dr. Jon Stanford
25	Randa Spears
31	Teressa Noyes Abigail Loyd

November Board Minutes

Mike Baldwin

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm. Present: W. C. McDaniel, Charles Hill, Bonnie Cooper, Bob Cooper, Paul Sides, Mike Baldwin, Matthew Lybanon, Carol Lybanon, Marc Mueller, James Butchko, and Leigh Scott.

Secretary: Email copy of October minutes distributed earlier this week for review by Board. Minutes accepted with no revisions.

Treasurer: Not much activity. Bonnie has September and October statements. Still missing 2 checks. Will keep tracking. Expense for SFMS insurance will be coming up. Motion carried to accept the report.

Membership: Since last meeting we have 4 new members and 2 renewals. Bob mentioned the geode that will be raffled for Members paying dues on time. Expect a flood of renewals in November and December. Mike has updated the membership ID card for 2016. Charles and Bob have recruited three new members.

Field Trips: Charles is working on a return trip to the Jonesboro Mine for late next year. Kim Hill will be leading the November trip to Richardson's Landing. Charles mentioned that the December trip to be Coleman's quartz mine. The December trip will be to Huntsville as part of the DMC trip. Charles is working on a Potosi trip for the first part of 2016. Richardson's Landing will be covered with a bit of fresh mud, so participants should bring a spray bottle.

Adult Programs: November will be

fluorescent minerals and December will be the holiday party. January will be Alan Parks. February Dr. Podzorski will present on semi-precious stones. In March will be Bill Lawrence talking about archaeology at Reelfoot Lake followed by a field trip the next day.

Junior Programs: November will be fluorescent minerals; DeeDee Goosens will be talking quartz in everyday life in January.

Rock Swap/Historian: Nanett will not be coming to the Board Meetings.

Library: Request for Lake Superior Agate book. Marc has found it for \$22.00 and asked if the Board would approve purchase. Approved.

Web: Web pages have been updated, will be sent to the server tonight.

Postal copies of the newsletter have been printed, will be collated, folded and mailed on Friday. Beginning in January the copying of the newsletters to be mailed will change. Comment: Kelly Baldwin's Parsons article comes up first in Google search.

Newsletter: Nothing new.

Show: Next meeting is November 9. We have 6 or 7 dealer contracts in. Proceeds from the sale of the Crystal Singing Bowl were presented to be deposited in the Show account.

Old Business:

- Mike reported on the progress of obtaining a pull-down projector screen for the Shady Grove Fellowship Hall. Tim Prudhomme [Shady Grove] and W. C. have reviewed three screens. Mike presented another option.
- Charles has purchased a rope to be donated to the club and it will included in the first aid kit.
- Holiday party: "Celebrate MAGS Holiday Party" mentioned by W. C. as new name of the party. W. C. suggested that we provide a gift for everyone. He said the club has enough gifts for this year. Carol mentioned that we

Continued, P. 9

November Board Minutes would need around 100 gifts. Responsibilities for the party will be by committee rather than one person. Bonnie distributed a list of ham and turkey prices from a variety of vendors. Costco or Sam's would provide a cost savings over traditional vendors such as Honey-Baked. We need someone to volunteer to decorate, someone to volunteer to get the cutlery, plates and cups. Bonnie will get the ham and Carol will get the turkey. Board Members should be there at 6:00 to help set up. Members will be asked to volunteer to help set up and break down. Carol will create a flyer for Friday night, emphasizing a change in the gift. We should put out a volunteer sign-up Friday night.

New Business: Matthew and Carol proposed a formal way to thank MAGS volunteers. We could have members nominate and document reason or Volunteer Committee to read nominations and pick two or three. W. C. would like to pick a monthly volunteer and then pick one at the end of the year from those monthlies. James—maybe we could select a digger or miner of the month. Perhaps Board Members should not be considered for doing thing pertaining to their jobs. Each Board Member should bring a suggestion to the December Board Meeting. Meeting adjourned 7:49 pm.

November Meeting Minutes

Mike Baldwin

Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm.

Membership: Bob Cooper introduced visitors and reminded Members that dues for 2016 are due between now and the first of the year.

Field Trips: Charles Hill reminded members that the November field trip will be to Richardson's Landing, led

by Kim Hill.

Displays: W. C. introduced the displays for this evening and encouraged Members to vote for their favorite.

Program: Carol Lybanon reminded Members that the holiday party will be the December program. The entrees for the party will be provided by MAGS. She announced that the juniors will be joining the adults for the holiday party, and they will also be joining the adults for tonight's program on fluorescent minerals. The program was presented by MAGS Members Mike Baldwin, Alan Schaeffer, and Bob Cooper. Mike introduced the program, which was divided into three segments: the science of fluorescence with Alan; a survey of collecting locations, UV safety, and a look at the colors and why they fluoresce those colors by Mike; and a look at the large specimen collection and where to find fluorescent minerals online and in the field by Bob.

Meeting adjourned 8:34 pm.

Jewelry Bench Tips by *Brad Smith*

DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part surface when the hole is deep enough.



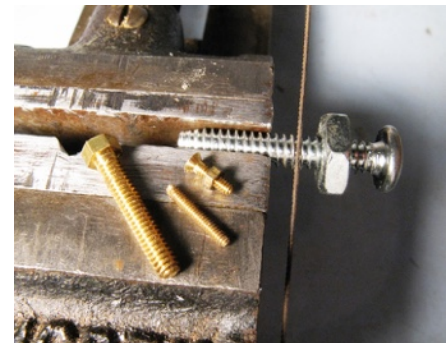
You can set the depth either

by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling to the correct depth, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level.

Note that a little extra tape left free on the end will blow away debris from the drilling.

CUTTING A BOLT

Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's often difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult it is to restore any distorted threads. The problem is easily solved with the use of a nut. Here's how I do it.



First, screw a nut onto the bolt before cutting it. Grip the bolt by the threaded section that is to be sawed off. Then saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt.

Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt will straighten out any damage that sawing and filing did to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece that will be thrown away.

Bench Tips for Jewelry Making and Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry are available on Amazon.

MAGS At A Glance

January 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016	2
3	4 Show Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Agricenter	5	6	7	8 Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm, Geology of Reelfoot Lake	9 DMC Field Trip, 9:00 am-2:00 pm, Vulcan Limestone Mine, Brooksville, FL
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 MAGS Field Trip, Ron Coleman Mine, Jessieville, AR
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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

