08 FEBRUARY 2008 VOL 54 / NO 2 A PUBLICATION FOR AND BY THE MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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# Agate

SHELBY HARTMAN: Whenever friends or coworkers as me about MAGS they usually ask, "so what kind of stuff do you look for?" I go through the list of standard stuff petrified wood, quartz crystals, fos-When I reach sils, agate.... "agate" the response is often, "you mean those dull rocks you find laying around all over the place? I don't think many people realize how beautiful those "dull rocks" can be when tumbled and polished.

Agate, which is a variety of chalcedony quartz, is quite common. People walk over it along gravel roads without realizing it. It's found all over the world, in Africa, Asia, Brazil, Egypt, Germany, India, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, and the United States.

Agate forms in concentric layers in a wide variety of color and textures. Each individual agate forms

by filling a cavity in a host rock — usually volcanic rocks, but a variety of metamorphic rock can also play host. of the Because manner of formation, agate is often found as a round nodule with concentric bands much like the rings of a tree trunk.

Many agates are hollow because deposits haven't proceeded far enough to completely fill the cavity. On the Mohs Scale, agate is around a 7. Because of its hardness, as well as its resistance to acid, it is often used to make pharmaceutical mortar and pestles. So yes, agate may be common, but it is certainly NEVER dull, at least not after it's been through a tumbler!

Any of you club members who haven't collected agate, I encourage you to do so. The next time you find yourself around gravel, kick it around and see what you find. When the club begins loaning out tumbling equipment, you may find a new passion when it comes to rock collecting!

W.C. McDaniel, who has collected, tumbled and polished more agate than there are grains of sand on the beach (okay, that may be a *slight* exaggeration) provided the following

(cont'd on page 9)



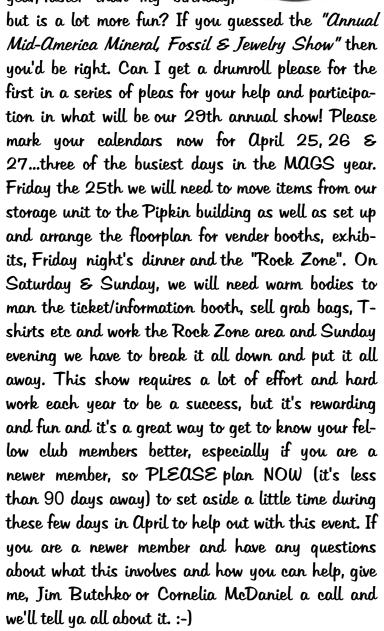
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Rockhound News is published monthly by and for the members of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments and articles to the attention of Shelby Hartman, 5116 Whiteway Drive, Memphis, TN 38117 or via email at magsnewsletter@comcast.net

## President's Corner

What's the only thing that seems to roll around each year, faster than my birthday,



Warmest Regards, Sandy

## **MAGS 2008 FIELD TRIPS**

**DAVID DAY:** This time of year, I find myself standing out in the cold sorting through rocks collected from the past years club activities that I spread out months ago after each trip for the rain to wash naturally. Irrationally, I am standing outside eying the water hose while wondering if it is still frozen contemplating finishing natures work. When my hands finally become so cold that I can no longer stand it, I duck back into my workshop while trying to remember what or why I seem to keep ending up back **outside** playing with frigid rocks.

Obviously, that primal hunting instinct which has manifested itself as an overwhelming urge to collect rocks in combination with the winter doldrums has me really needing a rock fix, and the consideration of the upcoming season of field trips have consequently fueled that impulse. While there are still dates to be pinned down and variables to be fully considered, we are planning trips to Missouri to collect druzzy quartz and barite, to revisit the Alabama (without the heat) Union Chapel mine, and to perhaps combine a Birmingham Ridge/Twenty mile Creek fossil hunt. Clearly a visit to Arkansas is required for quartz crystals, as is Richardson's landing when the Mississippi river level is low enough to be enticing, and of course to Dale Hollow/ Geode territory. Also a Coon Creek expedition

courtesy of the Pink Palace is about due as would a day at Memphis Stone and Gravel that was not perfect for the "Can you actually fry an egg on a rock" contest would also be nice. As with many rock hounds, my collecting impulse often trumps common sense and why I find myself often standing outside over a screen of gravel despite this winter weather wishing at least the water hose was not frozen since the collecting field trips are still more than a few **degrees** away.

When the details of our year are a little more hammered out, we will publish a tentative list with dates. Whenever possible our field trips are the weekend following the general membership meeting. We also try to schedule the more distant trips for a holiday/ three day weekend.

The February Field Trip will be an opportunity for club members to further inspect the fabulous mineral collection we bought last year. We will fully unpack, sort, and rate each specimen, and your input will help decide their future. This is a rare opportunity and we need your help. Further information will be provided at the February Meeting or by email. Do not forget to bring displays to share at the meeting. There are many new members who would greatly appreciate seeing a sampling of what they might find themselves at specific sites, and to learn more about our club's activities.



## Announcements & Tidbits

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Mark and Karen Cooper are our newest MAGS Members. Welcome! We look forward to meeting you at upcoming meetings and field trips. Feel free to use the Officer Director on page 2 of this newsletter to contact the officers with any questions you may have about MAGS.

# X-RAY DIFFRACTION SERVICES

Barry Gilmore wanted to pass along the following

information to any MAGS members who may be interested: Attards Minerals in San Diego, California offers X-Ray Diffraction Services at a cost of \$40 per sample of minerals or man-made crystalline materials. Rush rates are also available. For more information, go to the website: http://www. attminerals.com/x-ray diffraction service.htm or, you can call them at 6192752016 between the hours of 7am and 7pm Pacific Standard Time. Thanks to Barry for the information!!

\*\*\*\*

# 2008 SHOW VOLUNTEERS

There will be a sign up sheet at the next few membership meetings for Show volunteers. James Butchko asks that everyone be thinking of what they would like to volunteer for and their hours of availability. Cornelia McDaniel has agreed to coordinate the volunteers so see her or Jim Butchko at the upcoming meetings. Hopefully, the postcards will be ready to hand out at the February meeting. Jim thanks everyone for their help in putting on a successful 2008 Show!

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## 2008 MAGS 29th Annual Mineral Fossil Jewelry Show Update

### MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

29<sup>th</sup> annual Mid-America Mineral Fossil Jewelry Show Sat. April 26 9-6 v Sun. April 27 10-5 Pipkin Building- Midsouth Fairgrounds

#### DEALERS-as of 1/25/08

**Boutwell Tumbled Stones-Indiana** Stones and Bones-Georgia **Treasure Chest-Missouri Austin Gems-& Beads-Arkansas** Larsen's Minerals-Texas **Butterflies by God- Missouri Earthworks and Stones -Tennessee** McNeil Minerals-Mississippi FossilMall -Arkansas G.P Rocks -West Virginia **B& J Enterprises -Alabama** Gems and Crystals Unlimited-Georgia **Volunteer Gems-Tennessee** J.R. Rocks-South Carolina **Mineral House-Ohio** Javed's- Georgia Mo- Rocks- Missouri **Rock Barrell-Tennessee** Eagle's Nest-Mississippi **Custom Creations- Mississippi Geode Gallery-Illinois** Christopher's Crystal Mine -Florida Roy Hubbard Minerals- Missouri Mercer Crystals - Arkansas-new to show Fantastic Stones-Louisiana-new to show Carl's Slabs- Georgia Carved Obsidian and Opal- Texas more to be announced

#### **GRAND DOOR PRIZE**

We have decided on a grand door prize of a treasure chest filled with assorted goodies like you might have seen on the show "Cash and Treasures." In order to do this, we need the help of our members. At this time we are requesting more gem donations for the Grab Bags and Gem Dig. Please bring as much as you can carry to any regular meeting.

### **DEMOSTRATIONS**

To be announced

#### **EXHIBITS AS OF 1/25**

Delta State University
Mike Howard -Arkansas State geologist
Memphis Stone and Gravel Company
MAGS -rock food table
Selected specimens from the MAGS Collection
Selected specimens from the Charlie McPherson collection

#### **CLUB BOOTH as 1/25**

Grab Bags(only \$3 bucks a great bargain) MAGS- t-shirts, stickers, patches, cookbooks Door prizes every hour and sometimes more

### **ROCKZONE** as of 1/25

Gem Dig -cost only \$.0.25 for a three minute hunt for rocks, crystals, fossils and special prizes. Best bargain and activity for kids in the Mid-South

#### MAGS MEMBERS PROMOTE THE SHOW

Distribute poster size flyers
Distribute postcard size flyers
Provide show committee information about promotional opportunities

#### MAGS MEMBERS VOLUNTEER AT THE SHOW

Thursday- Show move in/setup
Friday-Show move in/setup
Friday night Show dinner
Saturday- 2 hour shifts Ticket/Info Booth, or ROCKZONE
Sunday- 2 hour shifts Ticket/Info Booth or ROCKZONE,
show move out

February's birthstone is

February's birthstone is amethyst.

**SHELBY HARTMAN:** Amethyst is the purple variety of quartz and is a popular gemstone. If it were not for

its widespread availability, amethyst would be very expensive. The name "amethyst" comes from the Greek and means "not drunken." This was maybe due to a belief that amethyst would ward off the effects of alcohol, but most likely the Greeks were referring to the almost wine-like color of some stones that they may have encountered. Its color is unparalleled, and even other, more expensive purple gemstones are often compared to its color and beauty. Although it must always be purple to be amethyst, it can and does have a wide range of purple shades.

- 2 Sonya Wheeler
- 2 Peggy Davis
- 7 Marcy Ouellette
- 8 Evan Parks
- 10 Ryan Bridges
- 10 Dennis Sanders
- 11 Teresa Anderson
- 12 Don Richardson
- 12 Louis White
- 13 Rosemary Crawford
- 14 Gayden Schwartz
- 18 Harold Idell
- 19 Kelly Rayne Gary
- 19 David Vaughn

- 20 Juanita Canada
- 21 Carol Baird
- 21 David Carter
- 22 Dean Griffin
- 22 Barbara Reed
- 22 Jane Roane
- 23 Julia Bailey
- 24 Hilarie Pulley
- 26 Kelsey Lyons
- 26 Harrison Parks
- 27 Leigh Butchko
- 28 Maxine Fulghum
- 28 Sidney L. Elliott

## Web Site Statistics for January 2008

a brief look at our website (www.memphisgeology.org) from 1/21/02-1/24/08

Total Visits & Hits			
Total visits to web site	290,004		
Total hits to web site	1,070,568		
Visits in past 30 days	7,530		
Hits in past 30 days	29,654		
Average daily visits (past 30 days)	242		
Top page views past 30 days			
homepage	652 hits		
rocknews1005	480 hits		
rocknews0108	338 hits		
rocknews0907	302hits		
explorernews0604	260 hits		
Note: A visit is every time someone comes to our web site. A hit is every page viewed once a user enters our web site.			

## 2008 Dates to Remember

Month	<b>Board Meeting</b>	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Submissions
February	Jan 31	Feb 08	Jan 20
March	Mar 06	Mar 14	Feb 24
April	Apr 03	Apr 11	Mar 23
May	May 01	May 09	Apr 20
June	June 05	June 13	May 25
July	July 03	July 11	June 22
August	July 31	Aug 08	July 20
September	Sep 04	Sep 12	Aug 24
October	Oct 02	Oct 10	Sep 21
November	Nov 06	Nov 14	Oct 26
December	Dec 04	Dec 12	Nov 23

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## The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of The Rome Georgia Mineral Society (Rome, GA)(HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

# Patty Construction Quarry Summerville Lace Agate Chattooga County, GA February 16, 2008 @ 9:30 AM EST

MEET: At the site, on US 27 in Chattooga Co. Ga. This is in the NW corner of the state of Georgia.

WHEN: February 16, 2006 TIME: 9:30 AM EST

Directions: From Summerville, Ga. follow US 27 South for 2.20 miles. The site will be on the right, between the county owned waste dumpsters and the US Forestry office. Coming north from the Rome area, the site will be on the left side of US 27, and approximately 3.0 miles beyond the intersection of Gore Subligna Rd.

Tools: Eye protection is a must for anyone wishing to break apart material with a rock hammer, or sledge. Chisels would be valuable, as would small ground shovels and rakes. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take home material. Much of the material is covered with a chalky white chert, and a pail of water is sometimes handy.

Bring plenty of fluids. This is a good site for children. Any pets MUST be on a leash at all times.

THIS IS AN ACTIVE QUARRY. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED NEAR THE MACHINARY ON THE PREMISES. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS RULE JEOPARDIZES THE FUTURE OF THIS SITE.

Weather: The field trip will be cancelled if there are any winter weather advisories (watches or warnings) issued for Chattooga Co., Ga. by the National Weather Service 12 hours in advance of the meeting time, or for the date of the trip.

DMC CONTACT: Jeff Deere, Rome Ga. Mineral Society Field Chair - Home: (770) 386-5447 E mail: wjdeere@comcast.net

"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

DMC Program / SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose:

To collect field trip information from it's member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.

World Wide Web site for the DMC is: http://www.gamineral.org/dmc.htm

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Copyright © All rights reserved.

"Earth first...we'll collect on the other planets later."

## SCHAEFFER SISTERS TAPPED FOR AWARDS



**CAROL LYBANON:** Karen Schaeffer and her younger sisters, Lauren and Danielle, have been honored by the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS). SFMS recently named Karen Schaeffer its 2007 Junior of the Year, while Lauren was awarded second place in the competition, and Danielle received honorable mention.

The trio, daughters of Dr. and Mrs. Alan Schaeffer, have been active members of MAGS for several years, as have their parents. Karen is the editor of *Explorer*, the society's newsletter for juniors. All three girls regularly participate in the club's monthly field trips to area collecting sites. They have also set up displays (some of them prize-winners) at the monthly club meetings, of specimens they have collected.

The girls are avid collectors. Some of their activities leading to their JOY points were field trips to Nonconnah Creek, Memphis Stone and Gravel, Pink Palace, 20 Mile Creek, Potosi, MO, Vulcan Quarry, and the Union Chapel Mine. This past summer the girls made a trip to Israel, during which they dug at the Beit Guvrin Archaeological Site, visited museums, and collected rocks and minerals whenever possible.

MAGS offers parents and grandparents an opportunity to do something fun and educational with their young family members. Girls like Karen, Lauren, and Danielle Schaeffer are the future leaders of the organization.

# Glub Room Update

Wire Wrapping	<b>Equipment Orientation</b>
cost \$20	cost- \$10
basic techniques	Learn basic usages of
includes all equip-	equipment. Required for
ment and supplies	usage
	of all equipment
Limit 6	
	Limit 4-6
Sat, February 9	date/time to be an-
9am to 1.00 pm	nounced- need to com-
Beth Day	plete motor & water in-
must pay at time of	stallation in combo unit
sign up	and oil for 16 inch saw

SHELBY HARTMAN: Saturday's beading class was a lot of fun and a big thanks to everyone who signed up for it. Lots of pretty pieces were made. I would have to say that new MAGS member, Jeff Oswalt, gets the award for "most original design" with his "stringer of fish" key lanyard! If you haven't had time to sign up for a class, please do so when a new list of upcoming classes is published. Class space is limited and fills up quickly. W.C. has indicated that a cabochon class will be announced soon so be on the lookout for that!

Additionally, a Club Room equipment orientation will be scheduled with the next week or two.

Also in the works for March....a special group for fluorescents and micro mounts.

The loaner program for tumblers and all in one grind/polish unit will be announced soon.

# December 2007 Board of Directors Meeting Notes: CAROL LYBANON

The MAGS Board of Directors met December 6, 2007, at the Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. Those present were: Sandy Ward, Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Mike Cannito, David Day, W.C. McDaniel, Ron Brister, Cathie Jacobs, Alan Jacobs, and Mike Baldwin. The minutes from the November Board and General Meetings were reviewed and approved as submitted. Treasurer's Report: Mike Cannito asked when he should send the church our proof of insurance. W.C. McDaniel answered: The gem show renews the club insurance, and at that time Mike will get a copy to send to the church. The Treasurer's Report included a provisional annual report and a revised planning budget. Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted, subject to audit. Field Trips: David Day asked for field trip suggestions for the coming year. We normally do not have outdoor field trips in January or February. One suggestion was the bead warehouse in Walnut Ridge, AR. W.C. McDaniel suggested going there in January to avoid a conflict with February's DMC field trip. Barry Burns suggested the Ornamental Metal Museum in February. Dates are to be decided. Adult Programs: W.C. McDaniel reported that there is no program in December, just the holiday party. The tentative schedule for later months is Ashley Allen (Union Chapel Mine) in January, Dr. Gibson in February, and rock tumbling in March. Youth Programs: Sandy Ward asked Mike Baldwin to become the 2008 Youth Programs director. Mike accepted. There will be no December youth program; the kids will join the adults at the party. We need to contact Melissa Johnston to get the youth program supplies. Mike plans to take the young people on several field trips during the coming year. and work toward the Junior of the Year program. He mentioned that Karen Schaeffer is editor of the Explorer, and her second edition is out today. Cathie Jacobs investigated the Future Rockhounds of America Merit Badge Program, liked it, and hoped Mike could use it. One youth field trip suggested was to the Birdsong Pearl Museum, if the cost is not too high. Mike will have a list of youth programs for January-June 2008 at the January Board Meeting. He asked whether anyone has information on the SFMS Junior of the Year results. Karen Schaeffer won first, Lauren Schaeffer won second, and Danielle Schaeffer received honorable mention. Library: Ron Brister presented an annual librarian's report. The MAGS library contains 595 books. We have added 150 books in the past year. He has removed 58 books from circulation, to become noncirculating reference books. We now need a new rolling storage cabinet. Ron is going to donate a number of books from his personal collection to fill gaps in the local geology holdings. Alan Jacobs noted that he has some books he could donate. He will submit a list of titles for Ron's

consideration. Ron also mentioned that there are not as many books missing from our library as we previously thought. A number of books were pulled from circulation, to be included as reference materials. Webmaster: Mike Baldwin reported that the website has passed the million-hit milestone. There will be a cake at the January meeting to celebrate this. Also, there were 2097 hits yesterday, and the daily count has been over 1000 for several consecutive days. Rock Swap: Cathie Jacobs had nothing to report, since the next rock swap is scheduled for May 2008. Show: James Butchko is not present. W.C. McDaniel reported that 10 dealer contracts for the 2008 show have been returned. We don't have a contract with the city vet, but it's in the works. The next Show Committee meeting will be January 7. We do not yet have our grand door prize for 2008. Alan Jacobs will call a local collector to see if he has anything exciting that we could buy. The grand door prize value is usually \$300-\$500. MAGS will start a new show tradition by establishing a fossil/ mineral identification table. Work continues on the 2009 show at the Agricenter. Because of the increased cost of the facility, we need to raise admissions to \$4 and member tickets to \$2. We have asked for first refusal of our date for the next 5 years to be included in our contract with the Agricenter. Membership: One new family was approved for membership. They are Lee and Ann Fields and their two children. Old Business: A motion to name Mike Baldwin as Youth Programs Director was made and carried. Sherri Baldwin has agreed to help Mike, but President Sandy Ward still needs to fill the Assistant Youth Director position vacancy, due to the resignation of Idajean Jordan. Sandy will also need to find a replacement for Randa Spears, who has also resigned. W.C. McDaniel said he would be willing to move into the First Vice President's position, which would make the Director, Assistant Programs spot vacant. Alan Jacobs said that we need to bring more Members onto the Board. Holiday Party— W.C. McDaniel and Barry Burns will pick up all the supplies needed for the dinner. Board Members were asked to donate soft drinks. The club will supply the turkey and ham. W.C. McDaniel is looking into having some kind of games. Club Room—An open house is scheduled for December 29 (11:00-2:00) and 30 (1:00-3:00) Some of the equipment talked about at last month's Board Meeting has been purchased. Alan Jacobs has an old jeweler's bench to donate. W.C. McDaniel will look at it, to see if it would be useful for the club room. He would like to sell \$5 certificates to be used to pay for activities in the club room. A motion to do so was made and carried. New Business: Federation renewal paperwork is due January 31. The Secretary will complete the paperwork and the Treasurer will send a check for the dues. Mike Cannito asked to see the bank statements for the Show account for 2005 and 2006, so that he can prepare our tax returns. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

## **December 2007 Membership Meeting**

Notes: CAROLLYBANON

There are no notes as the Membership Meeting was the Holiday Party

### (continuation of lead article, "Agate")

photographs with the following comment on agates:

Lake Superior agates, Fairburn agates, Laguna agates and a host of other named agates are well known, sought after and sometimes carry high dollar price. The agates presented below (and on the front page) were collected in the Memphis area and in many ways are just as beautiful and deserve equal recognition and appreciation.



# MAGS FEBRUARY INDOOR FIELD TRIP

W.C. McDaniel: This month there will be a special "indoor field trip" for MAGS members. The Frank Theibold MAGS Mineral Collection will be moved from storage to the Shady Grove Church on Saturday, February 16th. From 9am to 1 pm the specimens will be removed from the boxes and taken out of the packaging/wrapping to be sorted. The sorting will be by mineral name and divided into three categories as follows:

- (1) Keep for club use
- (2) Placed in surplus for future sale
- (3) Hold for further review and determination

It should be fun so come on out and lend a hand. You can get your "rock fix" without battling the cold February weather!

# Sunshine Report



If you have any announcements to include in the sunshine report, please contact Pam Gurley at 324-7235 awfor

Rosemary Crawford has not been feeling well and we all hope that she feels better soon. Juanita Canada sent a note advising how much she's enjoyed the newsletter since she has been unable to attend the meetings. To everyone who was sick over the holidays, we hope all of you are feeling better!

Pam Gurley

# 2008 Adult Program Presentations

### **February 8,2008**

Dr. Michael Gibson
University of Tennessee at Martin
"Stromatolites: Microbes that Ruled the Earth"
Also bring your fossils for identification

## March 14, 2008

Tentative- "Symposium on Tumbling"
Several MAGS members will take you through the tumbling process:

## equipment, material, grit and polishing compounds

## **April 11, 2008**

"The Greatest Show on Earth"
The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Mid-America Mineral Fossil Jewelry
Members get ready for the show

### May 9

Barry Gilmore "Opals"

#### June 13

Mike Howard, Arkansas State Geologist
"Introduction to the Visual and Physical
Properties of Minerals"

The main purpose of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society 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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AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 7th—95 • Small Bulletin Honorable Mention—04, 05, 06 • Adult Article 10th—04; Honorable Mention – 05 (x2), 06 (x2) • Junior Article 3rd—98; 8th—03 • Special Pub 4th—03

SFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 1st—86; 2nd—88, 97 • New Editor (Explorer) 4th—03 • Certificate of Excellence—89, 90, 91, 92, 93 • Large Bulletin 1st—87 • Small Bulletin 1st—04,  $2^{\rm nd}$  – 06, 4th—03, 3rd —07 • Special Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st—03, 07 • Adult Article  $1^{\rm st}$  – 06, 2nd—89, 90, 04, 06; 3rd—92; 4th—85, 04, 07; 5th—91, 03, 07; 6th—87; 8th—04, 07; Honorable Mention—03, 04, 07 • Adult Poetry—07

DUES: \$20 (Family); \$16 (Single); \$8 (Junior)

## FEBRUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Jan31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

January 31	6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
February 2	1-3pm	Beading Class in MAGS Club Room
February 8	7:30 p.m.	Membership Mtg. at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road
February 9	9am-1pm	Wire Wrapping Class in MAGS Club Room
February 16	9am-1pm	MAGS Mineral Collection Sorting at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road
February 16	9:30 am	SFMS Field Trip, Chattooga, GA

