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Notice To All MAGS Members

The majority of MAGS members receive their copy of the MAGS Rockhound News electronically via email or by viewing it on the MAGS website at www.memphisgeology.org.

Printing and mailing of the monthly newsletter is a substantial part of MAGS' annual operating costs. In an effort to reduce this cost, hardcopies of the newsletter soon will no longer be automatically mailed out.

However, if you do not have access to the internet or do not have and email address you may continue to receive a copy of the MAGS Rockhound News through the mail as you always have.

There will also be a limited quantity of newsletters available at the monthly MAGS meetings.

If you wish to continue receiving your copy of the newsletter via U.S. Mail, you must advise MAGS Newsletter Editor, Shelby Hartman, at (901) 626-1920 and you will continue to receive your mailed hardcopy uninterrupted.

This change will take effect with the May newsletter.

2009 - 2010 Officers and Board of Directors

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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



Beginning this month the President's letter will be presented in a "bullet" format. It will include club news and information, some ramblings and rock information for MAGS members:

At the January meeting a significant number of attendees raised their hands indicating they have paid their 2009 dues. Now it is your time.

- Have you marked your calendar for the show -April 25-26? Help is also needed on 4/24-25.
- Thanks to Lou White for presenting, at the last minute, the January program on bottle collecting.
- Thanks to Pam Gurley for volunteering to organize the hospitality part of our meeting. Help her out by bringing food, drinks and cleaning up.
- Heard on radio station while traveling though Northeast Arkansas. "If you are looking for igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic rocks you want find them on the Caveman rocks show."
- MAGS members sure do like petrified wood, ordering about 2,400 pounds of Arizona wood from Lincoln Curios of Nebraska.
- Winter is good time to clean your exterior rocks such as petrified wood, geodes etc. Spray them with a mildew remover such as X-14, wait about one minute, and wash away the season of grime and green.
- Recently visited another club's web site and enjoyed reading their latest or last posted newsletter. November, 2004.

W.C. McDaniel



The MAGS February Field Trip will be to Vulcan Quarry located in Parsons, Tennessee. We will be collecting fossils and pyrite. Parsons, Tennessee is about 115 miles northeast of Memphis — located outside of Nashville just south of Natchez Trace State Park. It's only a couple of hours drive from Memphis so this is a great day trip for those members who can't get away for overnight trips!

The meeting point will be the Hardy's parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to caravan to the quarry.

Plan to attend the Membership Meeting for detailed directions and additional information about what can be collected at this site.

Contact Barry Burns for additional information.



SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED

Our sympathy to long time MAGS member, Nancy Folden, for the death of her son, Steven. Steven passed away January 10th.

MAGS member, Vickie Stanford, has been undergoing treatment for bile duct cancer. We send our warmest wishes for a full recovery to Vickie.

Announcements & Tidbits

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Quite a few members have yet to pay their dues for 2009. Please make sure to take care of that before the January 9th Membership Meeting. Dues remain unchanged from last year are are \$20 for a family, \$16 for an individual and \$8 for a single youth membership. You may bring your payment to the meeting or mail it to the new MAGS Treasurer, Doris Johnston at 409 Bradford Trail Cove, Collierville, TN 38017

WELCOME NEW MAGS MEMBERS

We extend a welcome to our newest members: Theresa Maddox-Allen, James and Helen Mullins, Jason Reeves & Linda Reeves. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming membership meetings and field trips!

HUGE FIELD OF DINOSAUR TRACKS FOUND

(REPRINTED FROM LIVESCIENCE.COM / OCTOBER 20, 2008)

More than 1,000 dinosaur footprints along with tail-drag marks have been discovered along the Arizona-Utah border. The incredibly rare concentration of beastly tracks likely belonged to at least four different species of dinosaurs, ranging from youngsters to adults. The tracks range in length from 1 to 20 inches (2.5 to 51 centimeters). "The different size tracks may tell us that we are seeing mothers walking around with babies," said researcher Winston Seiler, a geologist at the University of Utah.

The tracks were laid about 190 million years ago in what is now the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.

"There must have been more than one kind of dinosaur there," said researcher Marjorie Chan, professor and chair of geology and geophysics at the University of Utah. "It was a place that attracted a crowd, kind of like a dance floor."

While the site is covered in sand dunes now, the researchers say the tracks are within what was a network of wet, low watering holes between the dunes. In fact, the tracks provide more evidence of wet intervals during the Early Jurassic Period, when the U.S. Southwest was covered with a field of sand dunes larger than the Sahara Desert.

By studying the shapes and sizes of the tracks, Seiler suggests four dinosaur species gathered at the watering hole, though the researchers have yet to match the prints with specific species. Currently, the tracks are named for their particular shapes and include:



This Eubrontes dinosaur footprint, including three toes and a heel, measures roughly 16 inches (41 cm) long and is thought to have been made by an upright-walking meat-eater. (The inset outlines the footprint shape.) Credit: Winston Seiler.

- Eubrontes footprints measure 10 to 16 inches (25 to 41 cm) long and have three toes and a heel. These tracks likely were made by upright-walking dinosaurs with a body length of 16 to 20 feet (5 to 6 m), or smaller than *Tyrannosaurus rex*.
- Grallator tracks are about 4 to 7 inches (10 to 18 cm) long, are three-toed and were left by small dinosaurs only a few feet tall.
- Sauropodomorph tracks, more circular than the other types, were left by creatures that walked on four legs and were the largest dinosaurs at the site. Their tracks range from 6 to 11 inches (15 to 28 cm) long. Seiler said the tail-drag marks are associated with these circular footprints, so they likely were made by sauropods.
- Anchisauripus tracks measure 7 to 10 inches (18 to 25 cm) long and were made by dinosaurs that ranged from 6 to 13 feet (2 to 4 m) in length.

Numerous dinosaur track sites have been found in the western United States and elsewhere around the world. For instance, tracks from a herd of 11 giant sauropod dinosaurs were discovered in the ancient coastal mudflats of Yemen. But the new discovery is rare in the density of tracks. "Unlike other trackways that may have several to dozens of footprint impressions, this particular surface has more than 1,000," Seiler and Chan write. "At first glance, they look like weathering pits — a field of odd potholes," he said. "But within about five minutes of wandering around, I realized these were dinosaur footprints."

At the January meeting Dan Reed requested MAGS members to complete a field trip survey. A summary of that survey is presented:

- 1. What is the maximum distance/days you are willing to travel for monthly field trips? Average: 304 miles / 2.5 days
- 2. What top three items you would like to collect if given the opportunity?

First choice (top three)- Fossils(5) ,Petrified wood(5), Crystals/Quartz(5)

Second choice (top three) Fossils(7), Crystals/Quartz(4), Petrified wood(4)

Third choice (top three) Fossils(5), Crystals/Quartz(5), Agates(4)

Other choices: Minerals / Fluorescent, Geodes, Pyrite, Garnets/Gem Stones

- 3. Would you be interested in a bi-yearly (every two years) multi-day "Trip of a Life Time" to Seattle, Montana, Texas, New Jersey... 31 replied Yes 2 replied No (one mentioned they could not afford the trip) 1 replied Maybe
- 4. Are you familiar with DMC Field Trips? Of those replying, 8 replied "NO" with the rest replying yes with comment as follows: Too Far / Time, Would like to go, Wish they collected something other than Minerals, Many indicated that they would like to see our club get more involved and take a trip over as a group once or twice yearly
- 5. Would you be interested in attending more (non-field/collecting) trips outside of the Memphis area? Such as Museums, College/School Archeological departments or even state operated facilities (like the Petrified Forest in Jackson area?

 <u>5 No</u> <u>3 Maybe</u> <u>26 Yes with the following suggestions provided:</u> Earthquake Tour, Indian Sites, Mound Bottom, Pin son Mounds, Observatory in Ms, Fresh Water Pearl Museum, Visit the Permanent 20 Mile Creek Fossil Collection, Bead Warehouse in AR, Other Club Shows, Mineral Museums, Parkins Arch. Park, Petrified Forest Ms, The Container Store in AR (Little Rock), Coon Creek
- 6. Would you consider leading a field trip? 11 Yes 19 No 4 Maybe
- 7. Do you know of a new field trip opportunity that we might explore? The following suggestions were provide: Eminence Quarry in Missouri (calcite), Earthquake Tour?, Stack of Field Trip reports provided to Library long time ago
- 8. Do you know of a new field trip opportunity that we might explore? The following suggestions were provide:

 Eminence Quarry in Missouri (calcite), Earthquake Tour?, Stack of Field Trip reports provided to Library long time ago
- 9. If you have participated with in a MAGS field trips during the past two years, please list the top 3 (best trips). First Best(top three)- Park Hills/Potosi, Coleman/Hot Springs, Fluorite Marion KY/Mo Second Best(top three)- Geodes/Dale Hollow, Parsons/Vulcan Quarry, Any Quartz Third Best(top three)- Park Hills/Potosi, Geodes/Dale Hollow, Gravel Pit Other trips- Jasper, Ala, Richardson Landing, Wells Station
- 10. If you would like to provide any additional comments regarding this questionnaire, PLEASE provide comments on the back of this form. The following is the additional comments provided:

Go back to the Field Trip Scouting finders Fee - Upload the form on the web site for use

Scouting the New Mexico/Arizona border area

Provide a yearly list of field trips for planning purposes

Plan a trip to the Black Rock Quarry in AR - Several suggested this area!

Interested in collecting the rounded clear calcite with pyrite in it

Handicap trip once a year? location and planning

The "Treasure Show" on TV??? Gold Digging and Panning for Gem Stones.....

Please get the News Letters out earlier - Several commented about this

Get the Field Trips organized and out earlier so we can plan

More Artifact Trips

Club consider buying a bus or van for field Trips

14 Aimee Whitley

February Birthdays



Amethyst is the purple variety of quartz and the most valued member of the quartz family. It must be purple to be amethyst, but it can display a range of shades including deep purple, light lilac, lavender and mauve. Top qual-

ity amethyst is a deep medium purple with rosecolored flashes. Its purple color made it a stone of royalty for many thousands of years. Amethyst can occur as crystals that are six sided on either end. It also forms as drusy which are crystalline crusts covering the host rock. It is found inside geodes and in alluvial deposits all around the world and occurs in both crystalline or massive forms. When manganese is present in clear quartz amethyst is produced, while the amount of iron contained in the specimen accounts for the depth of purple. Amethyst is a 7.0 on the Mohs Scale.

1 Patrick Long	17	Mary Norman
3 Linda Waddell	21	Richard Gunter
4 David Gembala	22	Haley Wheeler
4 Randy Thomas	23	Claudia Sims
5 Floyd Lenz	24	Dr. Jon C. Stanford
7 Rosie Crawford	25	Michael Cates
7 Michael Long	25	Randa Spears
8 Karen Cooper	27	Max Whitley
10 Noa Parks	29	Doris Currington
12 Thomas Worrell	30	Bill Smith
14 Kalki Winter	30	T.J. Cox

Teressa Noyes

2009 Meeting Dates

Month	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Submissions
February	Feb 5	Feb 13	Jan 26
March	Mar 5	Mar 13	Feb 23
April	Apr 2	Apr 10	Mar 23
May	Apr 30	May 08	Apr 23
June	June 04	June 12	May 28
July	July 02	July 10	Jun 25
August	Aug 06	Aug 14	Jul 30
September	Sep 03	Sep 11	Aug 27
October	Oct 01	Oct 09	Sep 24
November	Nov 05	Nov 13	Oct 29
December	Dec 03	Dec 11	Nov 23

Web Site Statistics for January 2009		
a brief look at our website (www.memphisgeology.org) since 1/21/02		
Total Visits & Hits		
Total visits to web site since 1/21/02	362,009	
Total hits to web site since 1/21/02	1,496,997	
Visits in past 30 days	6,818	
Hits in past 30 days	42,697	
Top page views past 30 days		
homepage	1,476 hits	
Spacegeology-eris	1,052hits	
Explorer 0604	510 hits	
0706Rockswap 498 hit		
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.		

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee An Official Field Trip of the MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (HOST)

9:00 AM TO 2:00PM CST / Saturday, March 28, 2009 Memphis Stone and Gravel Company, Arlington, TN www.msgravel.com

We will meet at Memphis Stone and Gravel Company's North Plant facility and we will collect there. The facility is located at 10236 Millington-Arlington Road, Arlington, TN 38002.

Collecting: Chert gravels with fossils (Mississippian, Devonian, and Silurian), petrified wood, agate, conglomerate, quartz and other rocks and minerals associated with regional alluvial terrace deposits of Pleistocene / Pliocene age. We will be collecting the gravel from stockpiles.

Directions: Make your way to Paul Barret Parkway (TN Hwy 385), which is north east of Memphis. Once on Hwy 385 go to the Stewart Road Exit (between Brunswick Road and US Hwy 70). Go north on Stewart Road to stop sign (0.1 miles). Turn left onto Pleasant Ridge Road, go about 1/4 mile and turn right onto Deadfall Road. Take Deadfall Road to Millington-Arlington Road and turn right at stop sign. The entrance will be on the north side of road (about 1/2 mile).

Other Essentials: Pets must be leashed at all times. No fee is required. See safety statement below.

Safety: All safety rules must be followed. A copy of the safety rules can be obtained from the Field Trip Leader. Remember, any time eye hazards may exist, such as hammering or prying, safety glasses MUST be worn. This is an active mine with dangerous areas. All young children must be under CONSTANT ADULT SUPERVISION and NEVER allowed to roam around. Shoes must be closed and laced (no flip-flops or Crocs). Bring plenty of water and sunscreen!

Tools: Bucket and rock hammer, we will be surface collecting and no digging is necessary. Spray bottle with water is very helpful.

Contact: Alan Parks (home phone 853-6898) (mobile 481-9730) Email:alan.parks@msgravel.com Additional information at www.memphisgeology.org

"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.

Please reply by e-mail to:
dmc@gamineral.org
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."

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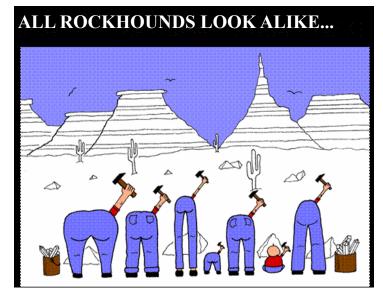
December 2008 Board of Directors Meeting Notes: CAROL & MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Board of Directors met December 4 at the Blue Plate Café. 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. Those present were: Sandy Ward, Barry Burns, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Mike Cannito, David Day, W.C. McDaniel, Alan Parks, Ron Brister, Pam Gurley, Mike Baldwin, and Doris Jones. The November Board & Membership Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted. Treasurers Report: Tabled until next meeting. Field Trips: David Day reported on the trip to Livingston, TN. The weather was very cold, but all in all it was a good trip. David reminded us that the Pharris farm is open to the public for collecting geodes. Barry Burns announced some of the 2009 field trips: Tentatively (weather permitting) Richardson's Landing January 14 or 21 and Hot Springs in February. In March we will host the DMC field trip, to Memphis Stone and Gravel, led by Alan Parks. In April we may go to Nonconnah Creek, so we won't have to travel during the month of the show. Adult Programs: W.C. McDaniel said that the December program is the holiday party. Sandy Ward (incoming assistant program chair) said that she and Paul Sides are working on the January program. The February program is in place. David Day mentioned there is a new member who could possibly put on a program. Youth Programs: Ron Brister said the January program will be on Indian artifacts. Library: We need to purchase a book as a Frank Walker memorial. The subject chosen by Frances Walker is lapidary science. Sandy Ward found two candidate books (expensive, but Ron Brister said the library's budget can accommodate it); she will pick one. Webmaster: Mike Baldwin said there have not been many recent changes to the club website, but numerous changes to the show site. Matthew Lybanon pointed out that the show website has no direct link to the show blog. Mike said that demonstrators and exhibitors could send pictures. He is looking for any photos specific to some show element. Membership: Pam Gurley presented applications from Theresa Maddox, Allen, James A. and Helen Mullins, Jason Reeves, and Linda Reeves. The Board approved the applications. Show: Alan Parks reported that we received our first refusal for a sponsorship. He is talking to the Memphis Zoo about reciprocal advertising. The committee is still looking for a sponsor for the Friday night dinner. Mike Baldwin suggested two more free places to advertise our show: the Boy Scout and Girl Scout newsletters. Alan said the show will need about a page and a half in the March and April MAGS newsletters. He asked Board Members to look at the site and send feedback, and again asked Board Members to add the show to their e-mail signatures. Old Business: The Board discussed the holiday party. Carol Lybanon circulated a signup sheet for party food items, so we will have a more balanced table. Sandy Ward will pick up the turkey and ham. Matthew and Carol Lybanon will bring a Christmas movie for the kids to watch. Giveaway items were discussed: reindeer headbands for the children, table decorations, and Alan Parks will pick up some rocks and fossils from the storage room. The main reason for this discussion was to make the party more fun. New Business: The regular date for the next Board Meeting would be January 1, so we need to change the date. W.C. McDaniel will check with the new Board Members and select a date. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

December 2008 Membership Meeting

Notes: CAROL AND MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on December 12. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. There were 36 members and 3 visitors. The visitors were Claire Tanenbaum, Iva Drungel, and Sierra Hughes. The first field trip of 2009 will be in February, to Richardson's Landing. Barry Burns plans to have a list of all the 2009 field trips available in January. Sandy Ward presented a mineral to the Lovelady baby. Pam Gurley presented member packets to those new members who were present. Alan Parks asked all the new Board Members to stand and be recognized. W..C. McDaniel announced that everybody who brought a gift needs to sign the gifts list. He asked that everyone vote for the display of the year, by writing the month on the ballot. The winning display was Carol Lybanon's petrified wood. The prize was a lucite block engraved with the Tennessee State Fossil, Pterotrigonia thoracica. W.C. also announced that the January Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 6, at the Blue Plate Sandy Ward adjourned the business meeting so we could start our holiday party.





How YOU can help make The Earth Wide Open

Everyone should know by now that we are moving the 2009 Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show to the Agricenter, right? If you're reading this article then you are either in the club or you might be a regular online visitor. The bottom line is you keep up with stuff related to our club. Otherwise, how will folks know we are moving this year? It's MARKETING! Marketing takes many forms and for our Show it requires creativity and help from Show stakeholders. Our budget does not allow much in the way of advertising dollars, so we have to look for other ways of getting the word out. Here are a few ways you can make an impact:

Mark your calendar and start thinking about it. Not just for the Saturday and Sunday of the Show (April 25-26), but for the whole month of April. Make sure you're at the membership meeting in April, our last membership meeting before the Show. Plan to be at the Agricenter on Thursday and Friday to help us move in and get things set up. Help us welcome our dealers on Friday night. Plan to tell your friends and family TWO weeks before the show and again on Friday (April 24) as a reminder. Take ownership in the Show! Do it now, don't let it sneak up on you.

This year we have a stand-alone website dedicated to promoting the Show: www.TheEarthWideOpen.com. Visit it often and become knowledgeable about what we are doing this year. We are doing many things differently this year, so please be informed about your Show! Send a link to everyone you can between now and the Show. A quick list of new things being planned for this year include:

- Expanded RockZone, including a working sluice to pan for gems
- Professional Speakers Series, topics include: Opals, Diamonds of Arkansas, Earthquakes, Gravel Fossils and Minerals, Essentials for the Boy Scouts Geology Merit Badge
- Name the Dinosaur Egg Contest, then take it home
- Petrified Wood from Around the World, this year's Grand Prize

Word of Mouth (including email) remains the most powerful form of advertising. We pay close attention to what friends and family communicate to us. Tell a coworker, business acquaintance, or someone in the grocery store line about the show. Find a way to introduce the Show in your conversations, then follow-up with an email or a phone call if possible. Tell people it's an inexpensive way to spend a few hours with their family! Remember, we do the Show to promote earth science, the lapidary arts, and archaeology to our community. The Show helps support the programs of the Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society and raises money for the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis.

Alan



If you are attending the February MAGS Meeting, please consider parting with some of your PYRITE CRYSTALS for our Gem Dig and Grab Bags. Cleaned specimens with very little matrix is desired. This will help restock our inventory AND create some big smiles on some little faces at the Show!!

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)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21

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February 5	6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting at the Agricenter board room
February 13	7:30 p.m.	Membership Meeting at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church
February 28	7:30 a.m.	MAGS Field Trip to Vulcan Quarry—Meet at Hardy's in Parsons at 7:30 a.m.

