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Rancho la Brea Tar Pool. Restoration by Chas. R. Knight for Amer. Mus. (N.Y.), 1921.

La Brea Tar Pits

MIKE BALDWIN: The La Brea Tar Pits are a famous cluster of tar pits around which Hancock Park was formed, in the urban heart of Los Angeles. Asphalt or tar (brea in Spanish) has seeped up from the ground in this area for tens of thousands of years. The tar is often covered with water. Over many centuries, animals that came to drink the water fell in, sank in the

tar, and were preserved as bones. As the bones of the dead animals sink into the asphalt, it soaks into them, turning them a dark-brown or black color. Lighter fractions of petroleum evaporate from the asphalt, leaving a more solid substance, which holds the bones. Apart from the dramatic fossils of large animals, the asphalt also preserves very small

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MAGS Events For February

02.06.10 -- DMC Field Trip: Troup Co, GA [beryl, tourmaline, rose quartz]

02.12.10 -- MAGS Adult Program: Mark Norton [La Brea Tar Pits]

02.12.10 -- MAGS Youth Program: University of Memphis [Egyptology]

02.20.10 -- MAGS Field Trip: Parsons, TN [fossils]

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MAGS Rockhound News is published monthly by and for the members of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments and articles to Mike Baldwin, 367 North Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017 or email mbaldwin05@gmail.com.

February President's Note

WC McDANIEL, MAGS PRESIDENT: 2010 dues were due by January 1. Please pay as dues provide income to rent the church, pay federation dues, publish the newsletter and fund other club events and activities. It also provides you the opportunity to participate and attend the best Mineral, Fossil Jewelry Show in the south, free of charge. If you went to a restaurant and bought the same meal you get at Friday's show dinner and attended the show on Saturday, a family of four would have spent around \$40. Dues for a family are only \$25 per year. The best deal in town.

As of February 1 the show is only 83 days away, opening to the public at 9:00 am on Saturday, April 24. Over the next few months you will be hearing a lot about the show and how you can help. You can start by making sure you have no scheduling conflicts on that weekend.

A new subgroup has been established within MAGS. It is the 95-7 group. 95 represents the temperature at Black Rock in June when the group collected dolomite and 7 represents the temperature in Missouri in January when the group collected druse quartz. Charter members [those who attended both trips] include Beth Day, James Johnson, April Gibbs, Steve Gibbs and Cornelia McDaniel.

SHOW UPDATE

**Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society presents
the 31st annual Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show**

The Earth Wide Open

Memphis International Agricenter
Expo Center, West Pavilion & A and B -wing
April 24 & 25, 2010

Show will feature:

- 30 dealers from 15 states with about ½ mile of tables packed with rocks, fossils, minerals, gems, jewelry, beads and supplies
- Lapidary demonstrators such as beading, wire wrapping, rock tumbling, faceting and general lapidary
- Exhibits of the MAGS' mineral collection, fluorescent display, fossils and the famous "Rock Food Table"
- Exhibitors from Mid South universities, state geology department and other organizations
- Speakers program with a variety of earth science topics
- Rockzone for kids with gem dig, Rocks Around the Clock, paint your rocks, fossil activities

MAGS Volunteer Work Schedule [sign up sheets available at February meeting]

Thursday-23 9-6	Show layout, tables delivered, shed contents delivered At 6:00 pm - grab bag packing and pizza party
Friday-23 9-9	Complete show lay out; Dealers move in 6:30 pm show dinner
Saturday-24 9-6	Show open to public; Large number of volunteers needed every hour for ticket booth, info/member desk, Rockzone, general show support
Sunday-25 10-8	Show open to public; Large number of volunteers needed every hour for ticket booth, info/member desk, Rockzone, general show support; Show break down, clean up

Help Wanted

CAROL AND MATTHEW LYBANON: Last year was the first time MAGS had sponsors for the Memphis Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show: The Earth Wide Open. This year, sponsorship co-chairs Matthew and Carol Lybanon are asking the MAGS Membership to participate in this fund-raising program. If you were at the meeting in January, you were given a small packet that contained an information sheet and two forms. We are asking MAGS Members to help us find sponsors at the \$100 and \$25 levels. For a \$100 donation the sponsor will be identified as a Gem of the Show and will get a business card-size ad in the Show Program, sponsor's name listed on the Show website, recognition in the April newsletter, and six complimentary tickets. For a \$25 donation the sponsor will be identified as a Friend of the Show and will get a 1-line listing in the Show Program and two complimentary Show tickets.

We hope that each Member will support us in this effort, by going out and signing up at least one Gem of the Show and one Friend of the Show. There are only two of us but lots of you, so obviously we can get better coverage this way. Many of you have business or personal contacts who would support our organization. Our Members might even consider being Gems or Friends of the Show themselves.

Just a reminder: MAGS is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Our earnings from the Show are used to support programs that benefit the community as well as our Members. MAGS donates a portion of the Show's proceeds each year to the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis, and MAGS has provided direct monetary contributions to The Tennessee Earth Science Teachers, Chucalissa Archaeological Museum, and other educational organizations. Funds raised at the Show also help support our Junior and adult programs. We have an outstanding collection of minerals and fossils, but no good display cases. We hope to be able to purchase some cases from the funds raised at our Show this year.

If you were not at the January meeting, or if you need more forms, contact Matthew or Carol Lybanon at (901) 757-2144 or lybanon@earthlink.net.



2009 Earth Wide Open Show.
Photos by Dan Reed.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

MAGSTERS !!!

It's here.

It's that time again.

The weather's cold.

The new year

is not old.

Now it is foretold.

We have to be bold.

Your dough must unroll.

Give us your gold.

Get your checkbook out

or your wallet unfold!

**WE NEED YOUR
DUES FOR 2010!!**

Help us continue the fine educational and recreational programs you've come to expect, and make sure you can go on all our field trips.

Send your dues to:
Neville Mayfield
7782 Bill Knight Ct.
Millington, TN 38053

THANKS!

La Brea Tar Pits

Continued from page 1

"microfossils": wood and plant remnants, insects, dust, and even pollen grains.

Based on radiometric dating of wood and bones found in the La Brea seeps, they are believed to be about 38,000 years old.

Mammoths, dire wolves, short-faced bears, ground sloths and saber-toothed cats are among the prehistoric species found in the La Brea Tar Pits. Only one human has ever been found, a partial skeleton of a woman, dated at approximately 11,000 years old.

The park is known for producing mammal fossil dating from the last Ice Age. While mammal fossils generate significant interest, other fossils, including fossilized insects and plants, and even pollen grains, are also valued. These fossils help define a picture of what is thought to have been a cooler, moister climate in the Los Angeles basin during the glacial age. Among these fossils are microfossils. Microfossils are retrieved from a matrix of asphalt and sandy clay by washing with a solvent to remove the petroleum,

EAGLE PROJECT

MAGS member Nick Villarreal is working on his Boy Scout Eagle Project. The project involves collecting donations of the following items for Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center.

The hospital needs:

1. Used or New Movies, either VHS or DVD
2. Used or New Video Games for any system; E or T Rating
3. Coloring Books and Crayons

These items will benefit the kids undergoing treatment at Le Bonheur. Nick spent seven days there in September 2009. Time passes slowly when you are sick and having movies, games and coloring books can be very helpful for the patients. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to the February MAGS meeting. Nick will be there with a tupperware box to collect the items.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Nick Villarreal is a member of BSA Troop 389.

then picking through the remains under a high-powered lens.

Tar pits around the world are unusual in accumulating more predators than prey. The reason for this is unknown, but one theory is that a large prey animal, perhaps a mastodon, would die or become stuck in a tar pit, attracting predators across long distances. This predator trap would

catch predators along with their prey. Another theory is that dire wolves and their prey may have been trapped during a hunt. Modern wolves hunt in packs, so each prey animal could take several wolves into the tar with it.

Information for this article found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Brea_Tar_Pits available under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License.

DISPLAYS: FEBRUARY MEETING

MATTHEW LYBANON: Over the New Year weekend, several truly dedicated rockhounds braved fiercely cold weather in the area around Potosi, Missouri, to collect druse quartz, lace agate, limonite, and frostbite.

The theme for displays at the February meeting is minerals of the type collected on the Potosi field trip, from wherever you may have found them. If you have something



else really good to show your friends, by all means bring it. You will get a chance to talk about your display

between the business meeting and the program. Then we will vote, and the adult and Junior displays that receive the most votes will win prizes. May the best display win.

Preview: The March display theme is going to be shark's teeth. And if you have any good ideas for display topics at future meetings, pass the idea along to Matthew Lybanon, Assistant Program Chair, at (901) 757-2144 or lybanon@earthlink.net.

THANKS, MEMPHIS STONE & GRAVEL

Plaque Presentation

Memphis Stone & Gravel Co. has been a good friend to MAGS for years. We have had field trips to several of their facilities, and our members have spent many enjoyable hours



searching for the perfect agate. Others have climbed up hills looking for prize pieces of petrified wood. Memphis Stone & Gravel was a major sponsor of our 2009 Memphis Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show, and they will repeat as a sponsor at the 2010 Show.



On January 15, MAGS presented a certificate of appreciation to Memphis Stone & Gravel, thanking them for their Show sponsorship and for their continuing support of our activities. MAGS President W. C. McDaniel presented the plaque to Memphis Stone & Gravel President Hal Williford.



Top

Left to right: MAGS President W. C. McDaniel, Memphis Stone & Gravel President Hal Williford, and MAGS Member Alan Parks.

Right

A shot from the past: The Schaeffer girls (all MAGS Members) on a gigantic rock mountain at one of the MAGS field trips to Memphis Stone & Gravel.



We're Hiring

The U. S. Census Bureau, that is! Operations for the 2010 Census have begun, and about 2000 people will be needed for this part of southwest Tennessee. Temporary, part-time and full-time positions are available to fit almost anyone's schedule. Perfect work for retired folks, students, and anyone wanting some extra income. **Good pay - ranges from approximately \$12/hr to over \$20/hr.**

Indoor office work, outdoor data collection work, crew leaders, supervisors, and managers - all types of employees are needed. All you have to do is call the toll-free number to schedule a simple test and application. **CALL NOW! 1-866-861-2010**

MAGS February Field Trip

Saturday, February 20, 2010 • 8:00am - Noon
Vulcan Materials Company, Parsons, Tennessee

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE FOR THIS FIELD TRIP IS TO COLLECT MATERIAL FOR THE ROCKZONE GEM DIG AT THE 2010 ROCK SHOW.

We will be collecting marine invertebrate fossils [corals, crinoids, brachiopods, sponges and trilobites] at this location. A liability waiver will need to be signed by each person before entering the facility. Time will be limited at this facility since we will only be allowed in during weekend work hours. Collecting is free at this site.

MEETING TIME/PLACE: Take I-40 east to Exit 126. Go south on Highway 69 to Parsons. We will meet at Hardees, located at 124 Tennessee Ave. North in Parsons at 7:30. Allow approx. 2.5 to 3 hours driving time. Come earlier if you plan to eat breakfast. We will be leaving at 7:45 AM for Vulcan Quarry.

TOOLS: Fossils will mostly be in solid rock. Bring rock hammer, chisels, pry bar, screwdriver, etc. Leather gloves are a good idea. Bring safety glasses, collecting containers and newspaper to wrap specimens.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: 5 to 7 on a scale of 1 [easy] to 10 [hard]. Please be advised that there is always a possibility for serious injury at this quarry. Young members must be supervised at all times. No pets allowed.

This field trip [and all MAGS field trips] is limited to MAGS members only.

Information sheets and sign-up sheets will be available at the February MAGS Membership Meeting on Friday, February 12, 2010.

DMC February Field Trip

An Official Field Trip of
The Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society, Macon, GA
Saturday, February 6, 2010 • 10:00am EST
Hogg Mine [near LaGrange], Troup County, Georgia

The Hogg Mine was in operation between 1942-1960 mining beryl to produce beryllium. It has been open to collectors off and on since the 1960's.

COLLECTING: Rose quartz, tourmaline, beryl, mica books, & quartz crystal. Visit here for pictures, http://www.dixieuhedrals.net/content/hogg_mine.pdf

FEE: Adults-\$17.00 & children under 18 are free. Upon arrival you will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

WHAT TO BRING: A pick, shovel, rock hammer, chisels, scratching tools, screen, buckets, and of course

plenty of water and food. There is a Port-a-Potty on site. Being February, dress in layers. It could be cold! We have been lucky and had beautiful, clear and even warm weather in Feb. but extra clothes and boots might be useful if it's muddy or the weather turns. There are roads and paths. Cliffs, ditches and new pits have been dug. There is loose material under the leaves that take little effort to recover. Using a rake to push back the leaves will be useful and a crack hammer will help find tourmaline embedded in quartz.

Directions to our meeting place:

From Atlanta, take I-85 south to La-Grange. Get off on Hwy. 219 also Whitesville Road (Exit 13) and go south (left) about 2.2 miles from

I-85. We will be meeting at Smith's Corner Store (The CITGO on the Left) at the intersection at Whitesville Rd. and Bartley Rd.

Drive Time: Allow 1 hour & 15 min from Atlanta at I-285 and I-85 connection on the South side.

Contact information:

Jay Batcha
phone: 478-784-1965
e-mail address: rockyls@cox.net
postal address:
4220 Cyndy Jo Circle
Macon, Ga. 31216

This field trip is for MAGS/DMC members only. No visitors. Children are welcome.

MAGS Library

Librarian's Recommendations

by Ron Brister

I will publish a "MAGS librarian's choice" list of books on archaeology, geology, lapidary, or other related subjects each month. The reviews are from book dealers or readers on the internet.

MAGS library books are available for circulation to current members. You must submit the library card issued with your membership card to check out books. A complete list of MAGS books will be placed on our website memphisgeology.org in the near future.

Books may be checked out for two months. There is a \$5.00 fine per month per book fine for overdue books.

Please call or email me if you have questions about our library collection or your status as a user.

Ron Brister
388-1765
bristerr@bellsouth.net

A Few Archaeology Books in the MAGS Library

No. Author/Date
Title

359 Picard, 1975

Larousse Encyclopedia of Archaeology
After checking this out from my local library (and being interested in historical architecture), I had to purchase this book for myself. It provides an excellent overview of archeology and historical sites, including techniques for discovering these sites and methods of excavation. There are also plenty of examples (pictures) from many different civilizations, including Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Etruscan, Asian, Mayan, Inca and more. Amazon.com review by D.J.

387 Deetz, 1977

In Small Things Forgotten
History is recorded in many ways. According to author James Deetz, the past can be seen most fully by studying the small things so often forgotten. Objects such as doorways, gravestones, musical instruments, and even shards of pottery fill in the cracks between large historical events and depict the intricacies of daily life. In his completely revised and expanded edition of *In Small Things Forgotten*, Deetz has added new sections that more fully acknowledge the presence of women and African Americans in Colonial America. New interpretations of archaeological finds detail how minorities influenced and were affected by the development of the Anglo-American tradition in the years following the

settlers' arrival in Plymouth, MA in 1620. Amazon.com product description.

233 Noel-Hume, 1969
Historical Archaeology

Ivor Noel-Hume, in his book *Historical Archaeology* (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, 1968) presents a detailed guide to the techniques and methods of historic archaeology. While portions are somewhat outdated because of technological advances, Noël Hume's book still remains a "must read" standard. Review in Reed Farmstead Archaeological Site web page.

229 Ceram, 1951
Gods, Graves, and Scholars

C.W. Ceram visualized archeology as a wonderful combination of high adventure, romance, history and scholarship, and this book, a chronicle of man's search for his past, reads like a dramatic narrative. We travel with Heinrich Schliemann as, defying the ridicule of the learned world, he actually unearths the remains of the ancient city of Troy. We share the excitement of Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter as they first glimpse the riches of Tutankhamen's tomb, of George Smith when he found the ancient clay tablets that contained the records of the Biblical Flood. We rediscover the ruined splendors of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the wonders of the ancient world; of Chichen Itza, the abandoned pyramids of the Maya; and the legendary Labyrinth of tile Minotaur in Crete. Here is much of the history of civilization and the stories of the men who rediscovered it. Amazon.com product description.

440 McIntosh, 1999

The Practical Archaeologist
THE PRACTICAL ARCHAEOLOGIST is a sound overview of the profession, from the tools used to dating methods to underwater techniques. Interspersed with the main text are intriguing sidebars about important finds - for me, the highlight of this book. Told in simple, easy to understand language, this book is geared for those with a casual interest in archaeology, or for high school students. Besides the simplicity (which may be a selling point for many), the main drawback of this book is the lack of discussion on recent finds, despite a copyright date of 1999. Amazon.com review by Debbie Lee Wesselmann.

231 Robbins, 1965
Amateur Archaeologist's Handbook

This is a comprehensive handbook on the methods and techniques of archaeology for amateurs of all ages. It presents a brief introduction to the cultures of early man in North America and provides detailed information on the practical aspects of the

fascinating and fast-growing hobby of archaeology. Photographs, maps, and drawings complement and explain the text.

Step by step, in nontechnical language, this volume shows the reader how to locate and excavate an archaeological site. As an example of the mechanics of an archaeological survey, it analyzes an area of successful excavation near New Bedford, Massachusetts. It explains how to make a preliminary survey and where to obtain topographical maps, advises what equipment and precautions are required, and suggests how the techniques of prehistoric archaeology may be applied to the newer fields of historic and underwater archaeology.

For those who have already researched and selected their site, the book tells how to organize a "dig," how to lay out a "grid"; discusses the various methods of excavation and when to employ each.

A separate chapter tells how and when to record information, as well as what cameras and lenses to use in archaeological photography. Other chapters explain how to identify and classify artifacts; how to clean, preserve, and repair archaeological finds; how finds are dated; and how to write final reports on a site.

Valuable appendixes include a glossary of terms and an index; suggestions for further reading, films, and slides; information about study courses, sites, and museums to visit; and laws governing the excavation of antiquities. The local, regional, and national societies listed are excellent sources of information on archaeological activity in specific areas. Amazon.com customer review by B. Falk.

403 Edey, 1972
The Emergence of Man: Life Before Man

403 Edey, 1973
The Emergence of Man: Missing Link

403 Kerwin, 1973
The Emergence of Man: The First Men

403 Constable, 1974
The Emergence of Man: Neanderthals

403 Prideaux, 1973
The Emergence of Man: Cro-Magnon

403 Wenick, 1979
The Emergence of Man: The Monument Builders

403 Leonard, 1973
The Emergence of Man: First Farmers

403 Leonard, 1973
The Emergence of Man: The First Cities

December 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

Carol and Matthew Lybanon

The MAGS Board of Directors met December 3 at the St. Clare Room in St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:36 P. M. Present were: Mike Baldwin, Ron Brister, Doris Jones, Kimberly Loveland, Phillip Loveland, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Neville Mayfield, W. C. McDaniel, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Alan Schaeffer, and Paul Sides. Excused: Robert Duncan and Shelby Hartman.

Secretary: The minutes were approved after correction of a typographical error.

Treasurer: The report was approved subject to audit.

Membership: Neville Mayfield said one application was received since the last meeting, from William and Jean Gilbert. W. C. McDaniel again asked Neville to send him the names and email addresses of new members as soon as possible, since we no longer have to wait until the next Board Meeting to approve new members. W. C. wants the information so new members don't miss important emails. Neville needs to use a receipt book for cash received for 2010 members, so he can keep up with the names. W. C. also reported three deaths. Neville needs to remove their names from the current membership list.

Field Trips: Robert Duncan and Mike Wheeler were not present. W. C. McDaniel gave the information on the upcoming Potosi trip. He said he will watch the weather. One of the areas where we have collected barite has been closed, but another site will be found. Paul Sides said he may know of a new site. He will try to contact the property owners. W. C. reminded the Board we could go to Cookeville again, to collect geodes from the Davis Farm for the Show. Mr. Watts (Davis Farm owner) said he would donate geodes in return for a Show sponsorship. Prospective field trips are: January--Blue Springs, February--Vulcan Quarry. Matthew Lybanon reminded the Board that George Phillips volunteered to lead a field trip to a new shark's tooth site in Mississippi, possibly in March or April. Mike or Robert should contact George. They should also call Ashley Allen to see if the water is low enough for us to go to Lost Creek.

Adult Programs: In January Dr. Robert Connolly will present a program on the Nash Museum. In February Mark Norton will present a program on the La Brea Tar Pits. March and April are open. George Phillips is tentatively scheduled to give the May program, on the Blue Springs fossil site. The Board feels that the programs are very important to the success of our meetings. Paul Sides asked the Board for program suggestions. He got a good response from the Board. Ron Brister will give a program later next year.

Junior Programs: Kimberly Loveland asked Mike Baldwin to give the January program: Dream Catchers and Drums. Carol Lybanon reminded Kimberly that she had spoken to a University of Memphis Egyptology graduate student about having her organization present the February or March program. We need to contact Idajeane Jordan to see if she will do the gem tree workshop.

Show: W. C. McDaniel reported we finally got a bill (and paid it) for mailing postcards. Now the 2009 Show can be closed out. The next meeting of ShowTeam 2010 will be Monday, December 7, at the Agricenter.

Library: Ron Brister reported that Mike Wheeler is going to find out about purchasing surplus cabinets from Shelby County. Harrison Witt will be Ron's assistant

librarian. Ron donated three memorial books. W. C. McDaniel will contact the church to secure the storage room.

Newsletter: W. C. McDaniel reported that the December issue will be Shelby Hartman's last. Mike Baldwin will take over as editor in January. There will be a change in the format. The deadline for articles will be the 15th of each month. Please help Mike by adhering to this deadline. Each month's issue will be available on the 25th of the preceding month. Look for a new Juniors page. Ron Brister volunteered to write an ongoing article series on the library's holdings. Mike will write January's lead article, on MAGS involvement in Chucalissa.

Webmaster: Mike Baldwin asked Neville to send the new application form, so that he can put it on the website. Alan Parks will take over the Show website. We will now have a listing of all our books on the club website.

Historian/Rock Swap: There is no rock swap at this time of the year.

Old Business:

- Holiday party--Board members were asked to bring 12 canned drinks each. Carol Lybanon suggested we could make the gift bags more exciting by including coupons for two free memberships for 2010, extra spins, and MAGS t-shirts in randomly chosen bags. The Board agreed. Paul Sides said he has invited several of our speakers to join us at the party. Each speaker would get a free gift bag.

- Alan Schaeffer turned in a bill for our new projector. We now have the capability of giving PowerPoint presentations.

- Alan Schaeffer has secured St. Francis for our 2010 Board meetings. The St. Clare Room is available every month except May. We will be given another room that month.

New Business:

- Alan Schaeffer would like to change the procedure of election of some of our Board. This would require several Bylaws changes. The Board will consider the idea for the election near the end of 2010.

- Mike Baldwin will be the first member to get \$100 for finding a new field trip site. W. C. McDaniel will present Mike with a \$100 bill at the holiday party.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P. M.

December 2009 Membership Meeting Minutes

Carol and Matthew Lybanon

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on December 11. The meeting was primarily the holiday party. The only business items were:

- An announcement that 2010 membership dues are due now.

- Handouts are available for the Potosi field trip, January 1-3, 2010.

- W. C. McDaniel presented Mike Baldwin a crisp \$100 bill for finding MAGS a new field trip site. Then we proceeded to eat the wonderful food our members brought, and drew numbers for the gift bags. Winners of free 2010 MAGS memberships were the Parks family and Heather Baldick.

QUARTZ

After feldspar, quartz is the most abundant mineral in the earth's continental crust. It is a wonderful mineral to collect for many reasons. It comes in many colors, it forms large, beautiful crystals, it is hard and doesn't scratch easily (number 7 on the hardness scale), it is abundant and it is often very affordable. Some collectors like quartz so much that they collect quartz crystals and nothing else!

Crystal System: Quartz crystallizes in the *hexagonal* crystal system. A "hexagon" is an object that has six sides. So, how many sides does a quartz crystal have? You got it, six!

Uses: Colorful varieties of quartz that are perfectly clear, like amethyst (purple) and citrine (golden yellow) are cut to make gems. Quartz sand is mixed with other substances to make glass. Quartz is also used in watches and scientific equipment.

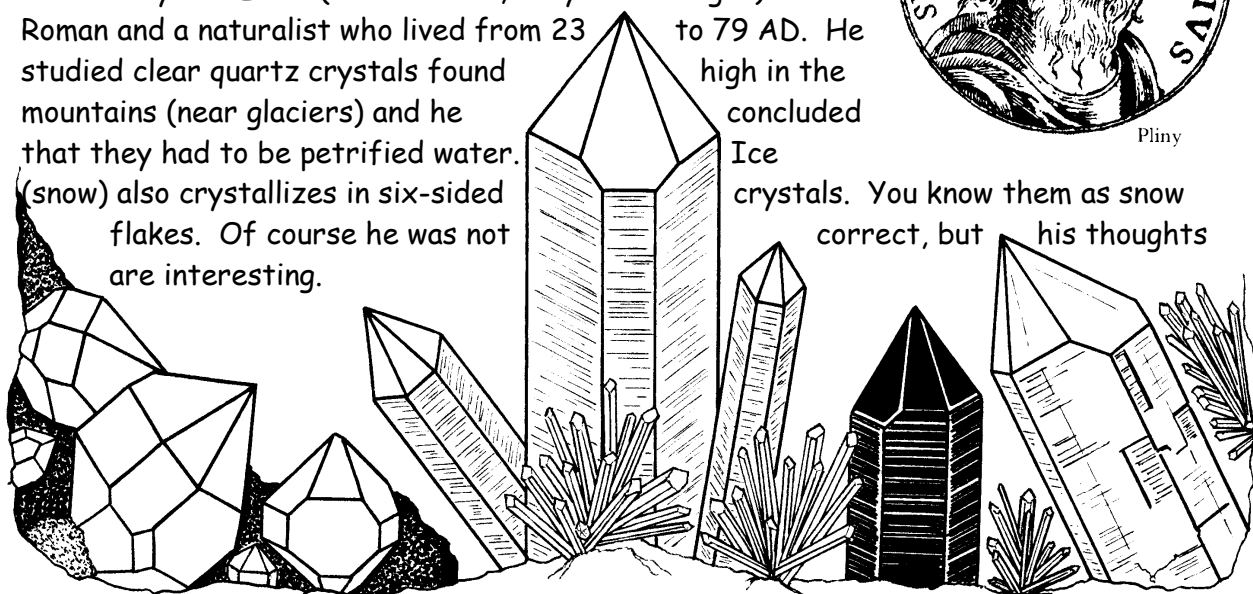
Other Interesting Facts: Look at the quartz crystals drawn below (and at quartz crystals in your own collection. The long, straight piece of the crystal is called the *prism*. The top, pointed portion is called the *pyramid* or *termination*. In the 1600's a man named Nicholas Steno (1638 - 1686) studied quartz crystals. Nicholas Steno was a Danish naturalist, geologist and a Bishop in the Catholic Church. His birth name was Niels Stensen. He discovered that the angle between the faces on the prism of a quartz crystal is always the same (60 degrees) no matter how thin or fat, long or short, small or large, or even how distorted the crystal faces are.



Pliny

Pliny the Elder (he had a son, Pliny the Younger) was a Roman and a naturalist who lived from 23 to 79 AD. He studied clear quartz crystals found high in the mountains (near glaciers) and he concluded that they had to be petrified water. Ice (snow) also crystallizes in six-sided flakes. Of course he was not correct, but his thoughts are interesting.

You know them as snow crystals. You know them as snow correct, but his thoughts



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, 2nd - 06, 4th-03, 3rd -07 • Special Publication 2nd-03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st-03, 07 • Adult Article 1st - 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: \$25 (Family); \$20 (Single); \$10 (Junior)

CENTRAL ARKANSAS ANNUAL SWAP MEET

The Central Arkansas Rock, Gem and Mineral Club of Little Rock is having the 2010 annual swap meet on **April 17** this year at **Burns Park in N. Little Rock**. We would like to invite MAGS members to attend. The idea is to try and get rockhounds from all over the area to come together for fun, trading, and great fellowship. We would like to promote more joint gatherings in the future for swaps, field trips or whatever.

There is no charge to attend or set up a table for trading or selling. There is a large covered area with picnic tables and also more space in the parking lot for those who want to tailgate. Indoor restrooms are next to the location along with a playground for children. Snacks and drinks will be available. Bring something to trade or just come to look around and meet other rockhounds, you are sure to have a great time.

The swap is from 8 AM till darkthirty or when we just can't stand any more fun.

Take exit 150 (Military Drive) from Interstate 40 and go north ¼ mile and take the first left and go about ¼ mile to the end of the road. The swap is at the Elder Johnson Pavilion just past the park visitor center. There are signs with maps located along the roads.



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