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HERKIMER DIAMONDS

SHELBY HARTMAN: I've heard people speak of Herkimer Diamonds and have never really known what they were. So I will share with the rest of you my foray into the research of the Herkimer Diamond. I have to say that after reading about them and looking at the photos it has made me want to plan a trip to collect them!

Apparently the name itself is misleading as it is not a diamond, at all, but a double terminated quartz crystal. They get their name from the county and town in New York in which they were discovered. Workmen who were cutting into the Mohawk River Valley dolostone – Cambrian Limestone – in the late 1700s discovered them. The Cambrian Little Falls Dolostone was deposited about 500 million years ago. The Herkimer Diamonds formed in cavities inside the dolostone. These cavities are often lined with drusy quartz crystals and coated with something called a tarry hydrocarbon or bitumen.



These crystals aren't isolated to the Herkimer County, New York area. They have also been found in Arizona, Afghanistan, Norway, China and the Ukraine. Apparently the best places to hunt for Herkimer Diamonds are located along Route 28 in Middleville, New York. There are two commercial mines along Route 28, both which allow rockhounds in for a fee.

The process of collecting these crystals is often referred to as "find and break prospecting." Basically this means you find rocks with "vugs" (cavities) and

(cont'd on pg 4)

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



- We are in the home stretch for the show and now it is your time to make a commitment to help us produce the best show in the south. Volunteer needs and times will be available in March. So get ready to help. Save those visits and out of town trips until May, Better yet, invite all your friends and family to come to town that weekend for the show. The show's web site, www.theearthwideopen.com has a lot of information. Show your appreciation and recognition of the hard work of Mike Baldwin and Alan Parks by visiting and viewing and be sure to forward to all your friends, relatives and coworkers. Now go to the site and find the answers to the following questions. Bring your answers to the March 13 membership meeting and you may win a prize.

What dealer will be selling Chinese Pierersite Cabs?

What dealer is from Acworth, Ga?

What time does the show open on Sunday, April 26?

What company is sponsoring the demonstration area?

- Fossil news: The oldest fossilized evidence of animals has been unearthed in Oman and reveals that tiny sea sponges were abundant 635 million years ago, long before most of the planet's other major animal groups evolved.
- As seen on EBay: "Legend has it that the Fairies upon seeing the destruction of their beautiful forests by man wept tears upon the fallen trees which turned into the beautiful tiny crystals to remind man of his folly upon nature." What are they describing? Bring your answer to the March membership meeting and all correct answers will be entered into a drawing to win (similar item) what is being described.

Pending Board approval by-law changes will be presented at the March meeting with voting at the April meeting.

W.C. McDaniel

MAGS Field Trip



There will be a “re-do” led by WC and Cornelia McDaniel on Saturday, March 14 of the February field trip that many members cancelled on due to the weather. The 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.

Contact: WC & Cornelia McDaniel with any questions. (901) 274-7706



Announcements & Tidbits

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED

Barry Burns fell and sustained a broken hip. Our wishes go out to Barry for a speedy recovery.

Life member, Maxine Fulgham, recently passed away. Our deepest sympathies are extended to her family.

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 \$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: Brent & Charlotte Milton. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming membership meetings and field trips!

HERKIMER DIAMONDS *(continued from front pg)*

break them open with a heavy hammer. Apparently it's not easy work since dolomite is a tough rock to crack.

The crystals, which are formed very slowly in the vugs, can be clear, cloudy and sometimes will contain inclusions, just like actual diamonds. Some of the crystals may be what is referred to as an enhydro and contain a pocket of water inside the crystal. Another type is a phantom, which is a crystal that contains an image of itself within.



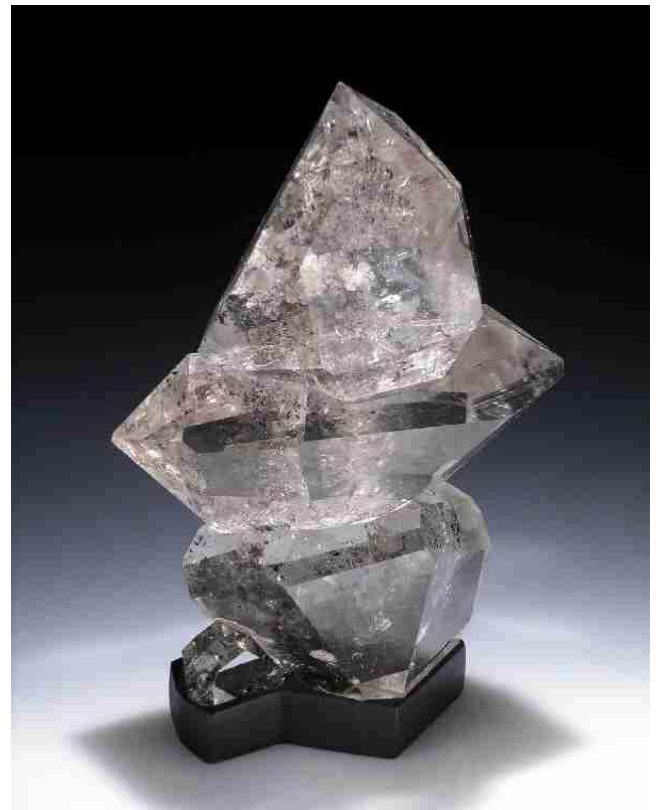
I am definitely adding the Herkimer Diamond to my ever growing list of specimens I would like to collect!

Sites/Sources:

Wikipedia.com; Geology.about.com; Geology.com

Photo Sources:

museumstylebases.com; crystalvaults.com; herkimerdiamonds.com; mindbodysoul.com.au



2009 Dealers for the Memphis Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show

- 01 [JR Rocks](#), Blythewood, South Carolina
- 02 [Boutwell Tumbled Stones](#), Jackson, Indiana
- 03 [Roy Hurlburt Minerals](#), St. Louis, Missouri
- 04 [Stones and Bones](#), Lizella, Georgia
- 05 [Nice Mineral](#), St. Louis, Missouri
- 06 [McNeil Minerals](#), Olive Branch, Mississippi
- 07 [Custom Creations](#), Ecu, Mississippi
- 08 [Larson's Rocks and Minerals](#), Reedsburg, Wisconsin
- 09 [Christopher's Crystal Mine](#), Youngstown, Florida
- 10 [The Mineral House](#), Bucyrus, Ohio
- 11 [Doug Corley Fossils/Butterflies by God](#), Maryland Heights, Missouri
- 12 [Austin Gem and Beads](#), Imboden, Arkansas
- 13 [B&J Enterprises](#), Theodore, Alabama
- 14 [Blue Duck Gem & Minerals](#), Cordova, Tennessee
- 15 [Gems & Crystals Unlimited](#), Atlanta, Georgia
- 16 [GP Rock Company](#), Huntington, West Virginia
- 17 [Geode Gallery](#), Roseville, Illinois
- 18 [Alluvium Designs](#), Cummings, Georgia
- 19 [Volunteer Gems](#), Knoxville, Tennessee
- 20 [Bob's Gems / House of Intrigue](#), Louisville, Kentucky
- 21 [Gone Fishing Fossils](#), Acworth, Georgia
- 22 [EarthCrafts](#), Bartlett, Tennessee
- 23 [Marble Gems](#), Sarasota, Florida
- 24 [Eagles Nest Rock Shop](#), Ocean Springs, Mississippi
- 25 [Fossil Mall / Primal Extincts](#), Benton, Arkansas
- 26 [Javed's Direct Gem Importer](#), Ranger, Georgia
- 27 [The Gem Flume](#), Rushville, Illinois
- 28 [Fantastic Stones & Accessories](#), Metairie, Louisiana
- 29 [Elemental Energy Center](#), Mt. Ida, Arkansas
- 30 [Glory Design](#), Coconut Grove, Florida

March Birthdays



Aquamarine is the traditional March birthstone. It is a gemstone quality transparent variety of beryl. Beryl is a mineral that crystallizes within large grained igneous rocks on the earth's crust.

The aquamarine is quite closely related to the gemstone, emerald. The finest quality aquamarine comes from Russia. However, it can also be found in Brazil, Colombia, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya, as well as in the United States in Colorado and Wyoming. Ancient sailors traveled with aquamarine believing it to provide to save passage across the ocean. The aquamarine registers a 7.5-8.0 on the Mohs hardness scale. Aquamarine ranges in color from a blue-green to a light, sky-blue but gems containing green are often treated to remove this less desirable color.

3	Nancy Waddell	17	Robert Cooper
3	Dana Griffin	22	Sherida Helms
7	Stan Johnson	23	Sharon Drugell
10	Tess Cannito	23	Dorothy Foster
10	Kathleen Eglsaer	23	Janice Sanford
10	Bill Hawkins	26	Marie Sims
11	Nancy Folden	26	Stephany Rainwater
11	Casey Randolph	27	Ann Huber
12	Neville Mayfield, Jr.	29	Angela Cates
15	Walter Davis	30	Hisami McNeil
16	James Burns	31	Hunter Hill

2009 Meeting Dates

Month	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Submissions
March	Mar 5	Mar 13	Feb 15
April	Apr 2	Apr 10	Mar 15
May	Apr 30	May 08	Apr 15
June	June 04	June 12	May 15
July	July 02	July 10	Jun 15
August	Aug 06	Aug 14	Jul 15
September	Sep 03	Sep 11	Aug 15
October	Oct 01	Oct 09	Sep 15
November	Nov 05	Nov 13	Oct 15
December	Dec 03	Dec 11	Nov 15

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 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.	

**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.
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January 2009 Board of Directors Meeting Notes : CAROL & MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Board of Directors met January 6 at the Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 P. M. Those present were: Mike Baldwin, Ron Brister, Barry Burns, Shelby Hartman, Doris Jones, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Neville Mayfield, W. C. McDaniel, Nanett McDougal-Dykes, Alan Parks, Alan Schaeffer, Paul Sides, Sandy Ward, Mike Cannito, Cathie Jacobs, Alan Jacobs, Dan Reed, and Pam Gurley. The December Board & Membership Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted. **Treasurers Report:** Mike Cannito presented the November and December 2008 reports, the 2008 annual report, and a revised 2009 planning budget with a corrected budget amount for memorials. He said the annual report reflects no deposit from the 2008 show. In past years receipts from Membership Meeting auctions went into the checking account, but in 2008 the funds went into the savings account, to repay the account for the purchase of the Theobald Collection. Mike and Doris Johnston Jones will go to the bank and update the signature cards for 2009. The reports were approved, subject to audit. W. C. McDaniel said he will have a printed agenda at each Board Meeting. He would also like a coordinated calendar of all MAGS events, projecting at least 2 months ahead, published in the newsletter. We need to find another place to hold Board Meetings since the Blue Plate has changed its closing time to 7:00 P. M. WC plans to appoint people to several committees: Audit, Inventory, Theobald Collection, Badges/Nametags, and Historian. Carol Lybanon suggested that we email minutes to the Board prior to Board Meetings; the Board thought that was a good idea. **Membership:** Neville Mayfield presented an application for a Junior Membership from an 8-year-old boy. A discussion ensued as to who would be responsible for this person at our meetings and other events. Carol Lybanon volunteered to write a policy governing Junior Membership. A motion to table the application and further discussion of the topic until the February Board Meeting, and decide then on both the application and the policy, was carried. **Field Trips:** Barry Burns reported there will be no January field trip. The February 21 field trip will go to Richardson's Landing, Mississippi River permitting. The March 28 field trip is the MAGS-hosted DMC trip to Memphis Stone and Gravel, led by Alan Parks. Assistant Field Trip Director Dan Reed said he would like to check out some new places for us to go. He will also prepare a questionnaire for the General Meeting to ascertain what the group's interests are. **Adult Programs:** Paul Sides said January's program will include a video and an auction. February's program is set. W. C. McDaniel asked Board Members to bring displays to the Membership Meeting. **Junior Programs:** Ron Brister announced he would be in charge of the programs for 3 months, and then go back to being the Librarian. He listed several problems with the junior programs (including a great range of ages and not knowing in advance how many kids would attend), which the Board will have to consider in the next few months. **Show:** Alan Parks reported they took a little break over the holidays, but dealer contracts are coming in (deadline January 15). **Library:** No

report. **Newsletter:** Shelby Hartman said there are no problems. W. C. McDaniel would like to see an earlier newsletter deadline, so newsletters can go out a few days earlier each month. He would like newsletters to reach members a week before the Membership Meeting. **Webmaster:** Mike Baldwin said the newsletter is online. He is busy updating our website so that it will comply with all the rules of the SFMS/AFMS Webmaster contest. Mike has updated the show website to include dealer profiles and directions to the Agricenter. **Historian/Rock Swap:** Nanett McDougal-Dykes volunteered to start a "do you remember" feature in the newsletter. **Old Business:** None. **New Business:** W. C. McDaniel will have a proposal for a joint rock swap by the February meeting. He would like to meet with some of the Arkansas groups, which are nearby but not in our region. Dan Reed made several suggestions: 1. It is too costly to mail newsletters, so he would like to send printed newsletters only to people who don't have email. 2. He thinks Board Members should have badges and business cards. 3. He would like to add the capability to the MAGS website for people to donate to the Ronald McDonald House, and also auction minerals. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P. M.

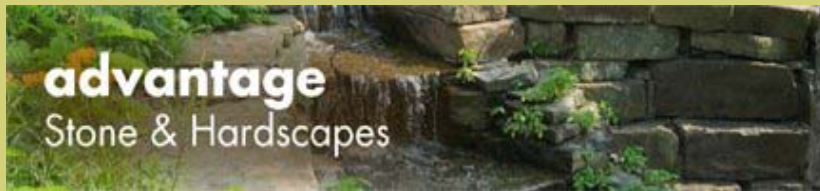
January 2009 Membership Meeting Notes : CAROL AND MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on January 9. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. There were 56 members and 6 visitors. The visitors were Brent Milton, John Thomas Hare, Cameron and Charity Caldwell, Whit Macdonald and family, and Dr. Shawn Tummala-pali. W. C. McDaniel welcomed everyone, and introduced Doris Jones (Treasurer), Pam Gurley (Hospitality Chair), and Neville Mayfield (Membership Chair). Neville welcomed the visitors. Alan Parks reported on the Show Committee's work. This year we will have an expanded Rockzone, with a working flume. We will also have materials for the Boy Scout and Girl Scout geology merit badge programs. There will be speakers this year; check the show website for details on this and other show features. We have the first official sponsor: Advantage Stone and Hardscape, which will sponsor the demonstration area. Neville Mayfield said that we will need lots of help for the expanded Rockzone, and we need lots of material for the gem dig and the Rockzone. The postcards the club sends out to advertise the show will emphasize the new location. Since the show will be in a new facility, we will need help on Wednesday and Thursday to lay out the new area, with 220 tables. The show will be sold out in a week or so, with 30 dealers. The dealers are listed on the website. Mike Baldwin said the next thing he is concentrating on is the SFMS/AFMS Webmaster contest. He will be a judge. Shelby Hartman said the deadlines for article submission are published in the newsletter. Barry Burns reported there will be no field trip in January. Dan Reed asked that people fill out his questionnaire on field trips. On March 28 MAGS will sponsor the DMC field trip to Memphis Stone and Gravel, led by Alan Parks. Two door prizes were awarded, one to member Shelby Hartman, the other to visitor John Thomas Hare. The display contest was won by Junior Member Lauren Schaeffer and Adult Member Carol Lybanon. Lou White presented a very interesting program on collecting antique bottles in the Memphis area. February's program will be presented by Dan Larson of the University of Memphis. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 P. M.



Making the Earth Wide Open!

The Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society’s 30th Annual Memphis, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show is taking form and we are preparing to start down the home stretch. We have a have sold-out of dealer space (fastest ever) with some of the best dealers in the country. And we will deliver a well planned and executed education experience for all those attending our Show. This year we are looking for sponsors to help us grow our Show. We have had success in finding great companies to be event sponsors and still have room for a few more. Perhaps you work for a company that could benefit through an association with an organization like the Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society and the Show. Another way you can help support our show financially is be a “Friend of the Show”. As a **Friend of the Show** you will receive an advertising package and support the efforts of the Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society in promoting earth science, archaeology, and the lapidary arts. You can find more information at our website www.TheEarthWideOpen.com about sponsorship opportunities. If you have a chance let our sponsors know you appreciate their commitment to our Show and the programs of the Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society.



Demonstration Area Sponsor
Advantage Stone and Hardscapes
www.advantagehardscapes.com/about.html



RockZone Sponsor
Memphis Stone & Gravel Company
www.msgravel.com



Sponsor of the “Rock Food” Table Exhibit
First Citizens National Bank
www.firstcitizens-bank.com

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

MARCH 2009

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
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- March 5** **6:30 p.m.** **Board Meeting at St. Francis in St. Claire Room behind ER. (5959 Park Ave) REMINDER: NO FOOD!**
- March 13** **7:30 p.m.** **Membership Meeting at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church**
- March 14** **7:30 a.m.** **Field Trip to Parsons/Vulcan Quarry. Meet at Hardy's parking lot.**
- March 28** **9:00 am** **DMC / MAGS Field Trip to Memphis Stone & Gravel**



MAGS Rockhound News
5116 Whiteway Drive
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