

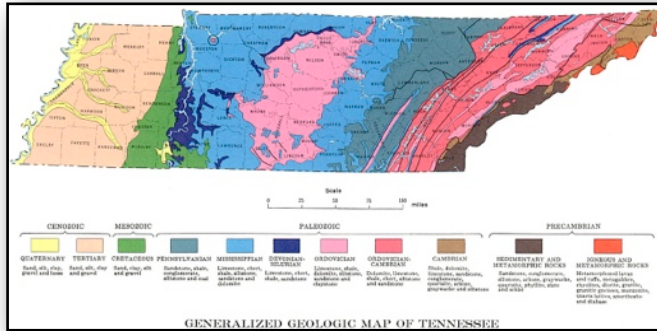


Volume 59 ◊ Number 03 ◊ March 2013 ◊ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

# General Geology of Tennessee

Ron Brister

March Meeting Adult Program



We will travel across 440 miles and 1.07 billion years from south-eastern Tennessee to Memphis.

Beginning in the east, the ancient Unaka Mountains of the Appalachian system is composed of ancient seafloor and volcanic deposits intensely deformed by the collision of the African and North American Plates. The Valley and Ridge province is a series of folded mountains and valleys pushed by the plate collision. The Cumberland Plateau is an upraised section of horizontal layers of limestones and sandstones mesas cut by steep valleys. The Nashville Basin originated as a huge, gentle dome of limestones and shales. Stresses cracked the uppermost rocks

which eroded rapidly forming a shallow basin. The Coastal Plain is a vast wedge of sand and clay deposited 90 million years ago when the seas rose and flooded the coastal areas of the the earth. The Mississippi Alluvial Valley was formed when floodwater from melting glaciers scoured out the Coastal Plain sands and clays and replaced them with deep layers of fertile alluvium.

We will learn when these features were formed and the mechanisms of continental drift, mountain building, erosion, and deposition that formed them. Representative scenery, minerals, and fossils will be illustrated in each section.

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SEE P. 3 ARTICLE FOR MORE INFORMATION



# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hey, MAGS Rockhounds,

This month is great for rockhounding on the local creeks and gravel mining operations. The pet of the month, snakes—yeah, snakes—are rather a bit dormant this time of year unless we get a few out suntanning. In general this is the perfect weather for collecting, not extremely cold or hot. Plan on a bright sunny day if you want to take along a camera for wildlife shots (including snakes), the occasional picture of the petrified log that got away, or that huge boulder of a geode. The longest log I've ever shot was about 27 feet, and the rest was still up in the bank. Three feet diameter on the small end and about 4-1/2 to 5 feet diameter on the large end—what a log. I just needed larger equipment to dig out the good stuff.

Keep on Rockin'  
Old rockhounds never die,  
they just slowly petrify.

MAGS President  
*W. Paul Sides*

## Wells Creek/Cumberland Furnace Field Trip

The Georgia Mineral Society has invited MAGS to join them on a March 9 trip to the Wells Creek Basin meteor impact site. This is combined with a joint trip with the Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society to Cumberland Furnace to collect slag glass. This trip is listed in the MAGS Field Trip schedule on P. 5. Contact W. C. McDaniel for more information.

Please contribute articles or pictures (everybody likes pictures) on any subject of interest to rockhounds. If it interests you it probably interests others. The 15th of the month is the deadline for next month's issue. Send material to [lybanon@earthlink.net](mailto:lybanon@earthlink.net).

## Links to Federation News

- ➔ AFMS: [www.amfed.org/afms\\_news.htm](http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm)
- ➔ SFMS: [www.amfed.org/sfms/](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/)
- ➔ DMC: [www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm)



## **MAGS Archaeology Interest Group**

*Robert Connolly*

One Saturday in March (date to be announced at the March 8 meeting) there will be the first meeting of the MAGS archaeology interest group at the C. H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa. The purpose of the interest group will be to move beyond the museum's regular volunteer experience and begin performing analysis and creating museum exhibits from the archaeological collections curated at Chucalissa. At the present time, we envision that the group will meet one Saturday per month

for about four hours. Each 4-hour session will consist of a presentation on some aspect of archaeological research followed by the analysis of artifacts. Group members will receive the necessary instruction to guide them through the full range of archaeological materials analysis. The details of how the group will function and the types of projects they will take on will be discussed and determined by the interest group.

At Chucalissa we are excited to provide this learning opportunity to MAGS members. As I noted in my presentation to the membership meeting in February, MAGS was initially founded in the

1950s based on an interest in the field work at Chucalissa. In fact, the report by MAGS member Kenneth Beaudoin was the first publication to document field excavations at Chucalissa! We are pleased that the role of avocational archaeology in West Tennessee will be enhanced by the new MAGS interest group at Chucalissa. For more information or any questions, contact me at [rcnnolly@memphis.edu](mailto:rcnnolly@memphis.edu) or (901) 785-3160. If you cannot attend on Saturdays, let us know and we will consider additional arrangements. We look forward to your participation in this new project.

## **February Field Trip To Missouri**

*David Day*

Day 1

MAGS club members met with our Missouri friends in Park Hills and then drove deep into the Missouri mining district, adding more rockhounds along the way to a new druse quartz collecting site. Thirteen of us began collecting small beautiful, bright clear jewelry to fist sized druse pieces which littered the ground and protruded from ruts. Though at first difficult to pick up because most were frozen to the ground, the bright Sun and somewhat rising temperature soon thawed the surface resulting in a chilly but excellent day for collecting. There were larger pieces particularly up the hill, but Beth and I found the smaller pieces irresistible and collected a couple of buckets each while others pulled heavily laden sleds and multiple buckets back and forth to their easily accessible vehicles. Apparently the material at this site had been dumped here relatively recently so weathering will continue to reveal new material in the future, so I took a few pictures with my phone to share. The club members then drove to the nearby site we had collected on our previous trip to score even larger specimens, leaving the two of us to collect these spectacular little gems for wire wrapping and cutting as the afternoon Sun made these treasure filled red hills sparkle like glitter.



***Easy hunting for Druse Quartz***

***No Park Hills trip is complete without a visit to the glass dump.***

*Continued, P. 4*

*February Field Trip To Missouri  
Continued from P. 3*

Day 2

On day two, nine club members gathered to make the over 2-hour drive from Park Hills deep into the Missouri scenic recreational district to meet up with James W. Johnson, our guide to the limestone quarry near Eminence. We drove over clear mountain streams with nearby cabins and canoe rental facilities as the twisting roads carried us up and down rocky Ozark hills with grand views and spectacular panoramas, which was a real treat for us muddy water flatlanders.



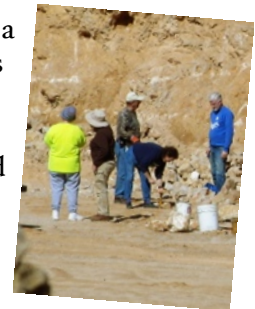
The quarry is an active limestone facility with machinery, equipment, and graded crushed material well away from the areas of interest to us other than to pick a few pieces from some of the nearby piles. There



were towering cuts into the massive layers of limestone with areas marked to avoid. One had to be extremely careful anywhere near the vertical walls as the stone obviously could easily fall. The more adventuresome (and agile) found places where they could reach pockets of dolomite, druse, dogtooth, and poker chip calcite formations that could be worked fairly easily from cracks and pockets with a prybar or hammer and chisel. However, there was



ample material that had fallen from the cliffs or mixed within piles from their blasting just asking to be picked up, including some massive pieces if you cared to wrestle them into your vehicle. You could easily drive around then up to any one of the several walls where we were finding ample specimens scattered below.



To make this perfect day of collecting even better, James found a very fruitful pocket which he carefully cleaned out while cheerfully sharing his finds with those below excitedly wrapping the treasures as he dug them from the wall. This was a fabulous trip with a wide variety of material I have only barely described.



At home, we have barely begun to sort and clean our finds, but I have briefly investigated with Long- and Short-wave Ultraviolet lights and found some of the material to be both fluorescent and phosphorescent. So now, I look forward to searching through this material at my leisure with UV lights.



*Photo credits: David Day, Matthew Lybanon, Neville Mayfield.*



**Experiencing the Earth Wide Open**

**MAGS 2013—Upcoming field trips**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Trip status</b>
March 5 (Tuesday)	1-40 east exit tour - <i>fossils, selenite</i>	trip bulletin available
March 9	Wells Creek— <i>shatter cones</i> Cumberland Furnace— <i>slag glass</i>	trip bulletin available
March 16	Nonconnah Creek— <i>rocks and bottles</i>	trip bulletin to be published
March 30-31	Marion, Ky.	trip bulletin to be published
April-December	TBA	

**2013 Field trips completed**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>
Jan 12	Lapidary rock shop tour Robert Duncan
Feb 16-17	Park Hills and Eminence, Mo. druses, calcite
Feb 22-24	North Carolina corundum, zoisite

**Reminder—MAGS field trip rules:**

1. Field trips are open only to current MAGS members. Exception: if MAGS participates in any field trip sharing program with other clubs those members may participate if it is a shared trip.
2. MAGS members will not contact private landowners to obtain permission to collect on sites where the owner has granted the club permission to collect. If a member is unsure of the location they will seek a decision by the Board of Directors.
3. MAGS members will not visit (prior to) a collecting site once it is scheduled and published as a club field trip. Exceptions are to public and/or fee places or locations with multiple collecting sites. If a member is unsure of the location they will seek a decision by the Board of Directors.

**January Board Minutes**

*Carol Lybanon*

The MAGS Board of Directors met January 3 at St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P. M. by 1st VP W. C. McDaniel. President Paul Sides participated in the Board Meeting via Skype. Present were: Mike Baldwin, Ron Brister, James Butchko, Bonnie Cooper, Bill Gilbert, Charles Hill, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Neville Mayfield, W. C. McDaniel, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, and Paul Sides. Also present were Lou White, Doris Johnston, and Bob Cooper.

**Secretary:** The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer:** Doris Johnston pre-

sented both the December Treasurer's Report and an annual summary of income and expenses. The reports were approved as submitted, subject to audit.

**Membership:** Neville Mayfield reported that he collected a lot of dues from Board Members tonight, and gave the money to Doris to deposit.

**Field Trips:** W. C. McDaniel distributed a handout that outlined some new ideas. He will present it to the membership at the January Membership Meeting. He is working on a field trip manual for the club. His new ideas include field trip records, a point system to award prizes at the end of the year, field trip displays at Membership Meetings several times a year, and field trip displays at the an-

nual Show. He announced the dates of field trips for the next few months: January 12, Robert Duncan's Lapidary Shop; February 16 & 17, Park Hills, Missouri; weekday trip Tuesday, March 5, I-40 exit tour; plus a bonus trip March 9, Wells Creek meteor impact site, jointly with the Georgia Mineral Society; March 16, Nonconnah Creek. Charles Hill will also lead a field trip to Chunky Gal Mountain in North Carolina February 22-24. Bill Gilbert asked about setting up a trip to the Oklahoma salt flats. He will work on setting something up for April. Paul Sides said he might be able to get us into a gravel pit in Jonesboro. Nannett McDougal-Dykes asked Paul if Razor Rock Quarry was open again. Paul will

*Continued, P. 6*

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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## Be A Sponsor!

MAGS puts on a fabulous rock and fossil show every year. Lots of Members put in many volunteer hours to make it happen. Now we need your help, with skyrocketing prices every cent counts. Please consider being a sponsor. With your donation of \$25 or more you or your business will get recognition at the Show, on the website, and in the May *MAGS Rockhound News*. Fill out the form below and join your fellow Members in helping us make our 2013 Show one you will be proud of.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with a check made out to "MAGS Show" to

Matthew Lybanon, Show Treasurer  
2019 Littlemore Drive  
Memphis, TN 38016

For more information,  
call (901) 757-2144  
or email [lybanon@earthlink.net](mailto:lybanon@earthlink.net)

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*January Board Minutes* check on  
*Continued from P. 5* these two  
sites.

**Adult Programs:** Ron Brister announced the January-April programs. In January Dr. Milton Moreland of Rhodes College will talk about excavations in Israel and at Ames Plantation. In February Dr. Robert Connolly will talk about what's happening at Chucalissa. Dr. Michael Gibson of UT-Martin will be the March speaker. The April program will be about the Show. Ron asked Board Members to suggest, or volunteer to give, future programs.

**Junior Programs:** James Butchko announced the January topic, fossil identification. In February the Juniors will look at magnetite and pyrite.

**Show:** James Butchko said he emailed Steve Gibbs about pictures for our postcards. W. C. McDaniel said that printing the notecards was the most pressing thing now. He also reported that two dealers had dropped out for personal reasons. The Show Committee will try to replace them. Show Treasurer Matthew Lybanon gave a summary financial report.

**Library:** Ron Brister is doing a library audit. He was asked if we have a Texas fossil reference book. Ron said he will check on fossil references for all the nearby states.

**Newsletter:** Matthew Lybanon asked that people send information and pictures for the newsletter. He asked for program and field trip information for a 3-month period, to

help Members plan. Material for each month's newsletter is due by the middle of the preceding month.

**Webmaster:** Mike Baldwin is redoing our website. The front page has been updated. Our website contains over 350 pages. When Mike gets finished with the updating it will have about 150 pages; he's eliminating pages that are not viewed frequently. The website is still getting lots of hits from all over the world.

**Historian/Rock Swap:** Nannett McDougal-Dykes reported that she is still scanning historical documents. She suggested that when she finishes the documents should be put on the website. She has started working on scheduling rock swaps. She will get in touch with the McNeils and others to organize the dates.

*Continued, P. 7*

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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*January Board Minutes* W. C. McDaniel suggested

May for the first rock swap.

**Old Business:** Mike Baldwin reported that he printed and mailed the copies of the newsletter that go to Members who do not have email.

**New Business:**

- ▶ Carol Lybanon asked the Board if they would consider lending Paul Sides our laptop computer, since it is unused except sometimes at Membership Meetings. Paul thought it was a great idea and the Board agreed. A motion to provide our computer for Paul Sides to use during his term as President, with the stipulation that he must bring it to Membership Meetings for our speakers to use, carried.
- ▶ Mike Baldwin asked for volunteers to help Sherri with a program she is heading up for the Collierville YMCA this summer. It is a 4-day program, 2-3 hours per day, for approximately 30 kids aged 6-12. Contact Sherri to volunteer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P. M. The next Board Meeting will be January 31.

## January Meeting Minutes

*Neville Mayfield*

Paul Sides opened the meeting about 7:30 PM, and made some remarks I couldn't hear.

Ron Brister announced that Philip Eglsaer had donated several boxes of books to the library. He also repeated the announcement that an archaeology group was forming in MAGS. This group will receive training at Chucalissa, help with classification of some collected specimens there, and may have the opportunity to participate in some new excavations at the site.

Neville Mayfield announced a work day at Chucalissa on January 19th. Volunteers will help with projects such as thatching the roof of the replica Indian hut.

Dr. Milton Moreland, of Rhodes College, presented a program on archaeology in Israel and Fayette County.

Jim Butchko solicited donations of materials suitable for grab bags and for the gem & fossil dig at the annual show. He also conducted the juniors' program on identifying fossils. Next month's junior program will be about magnetite and other iron minerals.

W. C. McDaniel announced upcoming field trips. He also reminded members that field-trip participation is limited to those whose 2013 dues have been paid, and that only paid-up members will receive information on the trips—details will not be on the website or in the newsletter.

Ron Brister M.C.'d the member specimen display and contest. There were only two junior displays, this month.

The meeting concluded with refreshments.

There were 43 members and 9 visitors at the meeting.

## March DMC Field Trip

WHERE: Durham Mines, Rockcastle Formation, Walker County, Georgia

WHEN: Saturday, March 2, 9:00 A. M.-4:00 P. M.

COLLECTING: Paleozoic plant fossils (Lepidodendron, Calamites, Pecoeteris, Alethopteris, fossilized seeds)

INFORMATION: Jeff Deere, Rome (Ga.) Mineral Society Field Chair, H (770) 386-5447, C (770) 655-2298, [wjdeere@comcast.net](mailto:wjdeere@comcast.net) or [jeff.deere@brownind.com](mailto:jeff.deere@brownind.com).

## 1st Annual Mountain Area Gem and Mineral Association (M.A.G.M.A.) Gem and Mineral Show!

WHEN: March 23rd and 24th, 2013

WHERE: Camp Stephens, Clayton Road, Asheville, NC

This will be the first ever MAGMA Gem and Mineral Show!

The show will be indoors and heated. It will be held at Camp Stephens in the pavilion where we have the roundup each summer. This will be a two day show, Saturday and Sunday. Vendors will be selling rocks, gems, minerals and other hobby related items. There will also be displays of gems and minerals by the club members. The show is open to the general public and all are welcome to attend.

ADMISSION: Free

Hours:

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday

This is an indoor event so it will take place rain or shine. There are bathrooms and a kitchen for use by the vendors and visitors.

DIRECTIONS: Take exit 33 off of Interstate 26 just outside of Asheville, NC. Go west on Brevard Road/Hwy. 191. Drive 3.5 miles to Clayton Road on the left, turn left and drive 2/10 mile to the entrance to Camp Stephens on the left. You will see a large MAGMA sign at the entrance.

If you are interested in setting up a booth at the show, contact Rick at [rick@wncrocks.com](mailto:rick@wncrocks.com) or call (828) 779-4501.

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## Jewelry Bench Tips by Brad Smith

### BEZEL SETTING PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.



In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when

setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

### CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.



An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the often found brown grime floating on the top of a pickle pot.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book *Bench Tips for Jewelry Making* on Amazon.

## April 27 Memphis Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show Opens

All (*that means you*) MAGS members are requested to help with the show by volunteering your time and help. The following chart is a summary of the schedule. The complete schedule is available via email and signup sheets will also be available at the March and April membership meetings.

Thursday 4-25	<b>Day 9-6</b> -times/events will be fluid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help with move from shed to Agricenter</li> <li>• Show layout</li> <li>• Tables skirted</li> <li>• Rockzone prep</li> <li>• Show prep as needed</li> </ul>	<b>Evening 6:00 pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grab Bag Packing Party with food</li> <li>• Show prep as needed</li> </ul>
Friday 4-26	<b>Day 9-6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show prep as needed</li> <li>• Dealers move in</li> <li>• Exhibits set-up</li> <li>• Prepare for show dinner</li> </ul>	<b>Evening 6:30 pm</b> See separate signup for dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show dinner</li> <li>• Final show prep</li> </ul>
Saturday 4-27	<b>Day 9-6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-3 hour shifts</li> <li>• Front/admission</li> <li>• Information</li> <li>• Rockzone</li> <li>• Where needed</li> </ul>	No show events, except eat and rest up for Sunday
Sunday 4-28	<b>Day 10-5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-3 hour shifts</li> <li>• Front/admission</li> <li>• Information</li> <li>• Rockzone</li> <li>• Where needed</li> </ul>	<b>Evening 5:00 to finished</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakdown</li> <li>• Pack, Organize</li> </ul>
Monday 4-29	<b>Day 8-11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help as needed with move back to shed</li> </ul>	No show events



57 days and counting as of March 1, 2013



# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## 2013 Memphis Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show Dealers

Check website ([www.theearthwideopen.com](http://www.theearthwideopen.com)) for complete dealer information.

New dealers are indicated by asterisks.

Primary Product		
Minerals	Jewelry	Fossils
Primitive Rocks*, Mo Rocks*, No Stone Left Unturned*, Miller Minerals*, Planetary Parts*, Marble Arts, Rock Barrel, JR Rocks, Mineral House, McNeil Minerals, Marble Gems, Eagles Nest, C&N Gifts, Blue Duck Gem and Minerals, Geode Gallery, Earthcrafts, Geodite, Volunteer Gems, Unconventional Lapidarist	One of a Kind Designer Cabochon*, Iteco*, Amber America, Javeds, Imperial Gems, Arkansas Gems and Beads, Fantastic Stones, Nature's Bazaar, Custom Creations	Fossil Image/Curio Grove*, Stones and Bones

### Richard III

"Now is the winter of our discontent ..." This famous line opens Shakespeare's *King Richard III*. Richard III died at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485 ("A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!"), but the location of his remains was unknown—until recently.

"Richard III, the last Plantagenet King of England, has been found," said University of Leicester deputy registrar Richard Taylor. Archaeologists searching for Richard dug up the skeleton of an adult male who appeared to have died in battle, under a parking lot in the city of Leicester.

Bone specialist Jo Appleby said study of the bones provided "a highly convincing case for identification of Richard III." DNA from the skeleton matched a sample *Continued, P. 10*

### Presentation At Levi Elementary School

MAGS Members Carol and Matthew Lybanon presented a fossil program to fifth graders on February 20 at Levi Elementary School in Memphis.



## Richard III (Continued from P. 9)



taken from a distant living relative of Richard's sister. Geneticist Turi King said Michael Ibsen, a Canadian carpenter living in London, shares with the skeleton a rare strain of mitochondrial DNA. She said combined with the archaeological evidence, that left little doubt the skeleton belonged to Richard.

For centuries, the location of Richard's body has been unknown. Records say he was buried by the Franciscan monks of Grey Friars at their church in Leicester, 160 km. north of London. The church was closed and dismantled after King Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries in 1538, and its location eventually was forgotten.

Appleby said the 10 injuries to the body were inflicted by weapons like swords, daggers and halberds and were consistent with accounts of Richard being struck down in battle before his body was stripped naked and flung over the back of a horse in disgrace.

### Calendar

**March 5, 2013**

I-40 exit tour MAGS field trip

**March 8, 2013**

Membership Meeting, Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 7:30 P.M.

**March 9, 2013**

Wells Creek/Cumberland Furnace field trip (jointly with other clubs)

**March 16, 2013**

Nonconnah Creek MAGS field trip

**March 30 & 31, 2013**

Marion, Ky., MAGS field trip

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

