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When Whales Attacked!



SHELBY HARTMAN : As a scuba diver and one time marine animal rescue volunteer, there is a special place in my heart for marine animals – especially whales and dolphins – primarily because of their gentle nature and amazing abilities. Recently, I was lucky enough to run across some internet articles that combined my interest in marine life with my interest in fossils and it certainly shows whales in a very different light!

A fossil has been found in Australia which sports a pretty formidable set of teeth. The specimen, belonging to a previously unknown species, was found protruding from a boulder by a teenage surfer named Staumn Hunter in 1997. [cont'd on page 4]

2007 – 2008 Officers and Board of Directors

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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 Shelby Hartman 5116 Whiteway Drive,
Memphis, TN 38117, magsnewsletter@comcast.net**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



SANDY WARD: *It's all over and it was fun! Fun to stroll up and down the aisles of awe inspiring treasure...to see and visit with the familiar faces of spenders and vendors who come back each year. And yes, we managed to pull off another successful show...so successful in fact, that preliminary numbers indicate we may have broken previous records. We did this in spite of the fact that YOU set a record for the lowest club member participation and volunteer effort ever! That means that those who DID help had to work longer and harder than in years past, but they rose to the challenge and made it a success in spite of the shortage of volunteers.*

I know that some of our members have health concerns or work and family obligations that prevented them from participating in the show and the events surrounding it this year, but many of us just didn't bother and that's very disappointing. This is the single biggest fund raising event for YOUR club each year and the money generated from this event helps fund the things you enjoy and participate in as members. It's also the largest and most publicly visible fund raising event we do for charity each year. The date is the same every year so you have a whole year for planning to set aside just 2-3 hours of your time for this event.

To those of you who helped make this event a success, especially those who show up and work SO hard for so many hours every single year, "Thank You" so much for your contribution...and for those of you that could've but didn't, please reconsider and set aside a little time to help with the show next year...or start today...join the show committee and help a little all year long!

-Sandy Ward

2007 Dates to Remember

	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date For Newsletter Submissions
May	03	11	Apr 25
June	5/31	08	May 23
July	05	13	Jun 27
August	02	10	Jul 25
September	06	14	Aug 29
October	04	12	Sep 26
November	01	09	Oct 24
December	06	14	Nov 28



Announcements

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We would like to welcome our newest MAGS members. They are as follows:

Rachel Sejas and Family
Carol Baird and son, Daniel
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Shipman
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Eglsaer

We look forward to having you join us at the monthly meetings and fieldtrips!

MAY FIELD TRIP

The May field trip will be to the Mt. Ida, Arkansas area with a selection of opportunities to dig at several nearby quartz crystal mines, visit the many rock shops in addition to enjoying the natural beauty and abundant outdoor recreational alternatives the region offers. Specifics of the big Memorial Day Weekend trip May 26, 27 & 28 with opportunities and choices to fit your interest, experience, and schedule will be available at the May 11 membership meeting or after by email if you cannot attend. I suggest you check out the Mt. Ida web site for information on lodging, holiday weekend events, in addition to excellent information about the Quartz Crystal Capital of the world. Chamber of Commerce visitors guides will also be available at the meeting.
<http://www.mtidachamber.com/>

March Roadcut

W.C. McDANIEL: Roadcut has been parked at the Pipkin Building for the last several days. However it has been planning its next adventure, visits to world class mineral sites. Some of the sites that will be visited include:



Cornwall and Devon, Durham mining areas, England



Southwestern Greenland



Harz Mountains and Saxony, Germany



Kola Penninsula, Russia



Lanarkshire, Scotland



Langban Mine and the whole Varmland District, Sweden



Langesundfjord, Norway



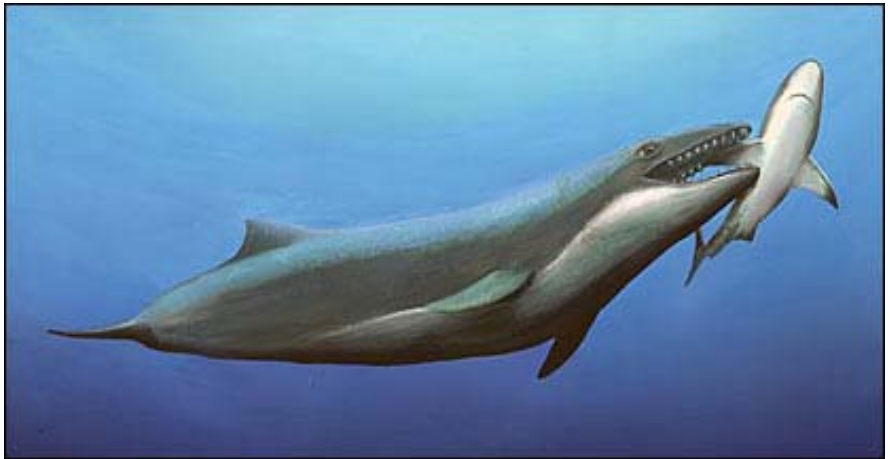
Kashmir region of Pakistan and India-

When Whales Attacked! (continued from front page)

As this was a newly discovered species, it was named *janjucetus hunderi*, after the surfer who discovered it, and it dates back between 9 and 25 million years. The fossil remained untouched and sitting forgotten for quite some time before the three year process began to free it from the limestone boulder in which it was encased.

What is most surprising about this discovery is that the specimen belongs to a group known as baleen whales (which includes blue and humpback whales). Baleen whales are so named because of the moustache like baleen plates in their mouths which filter the plankton upon which they feed. Apparently, these gentle plankton eaters were not always so. Paleontologists have known for quite some time that the ancient baleen whales had teeth. However until this recent fossil find, they believed the teeth were used similarly to the modern day whales' baleen plates – for the purpose of filtration. They now know that those teeth were used to capture and devour prey – prey which most likely included small sharks.

Paleontologists believe that *janjucetus hunderi* had hearing abilities in the high-pitched sound range, which is more in line with today's toothed whales (which include killer whales and bottle nose dolphins). High-pitch hearing in the marine world is used for echolocation purposes in hunting prey and navigation. Today's baleen whales' hearing falls within the low-pitched range, which is used more for communication through their "whalesong."



Another unique characteristic revealed by this fossil discovery is the eyes of *janjucetus hunderi*. Today's whales rely very little upon sight. However, the very large eye sockets in the specimen indicate that *janjucetus hunderi* had extremely large eyes. This would indicate that they most likely had excellent eyesight, although it is unknown whether they used sight or echolocation as a primary means of hunting.

While *janjucetus hunderi* is grouped with baleen whales, it is not a **pure** ancestor of the modern baleen whale. There is a fossil that was discovered in Antarctica that is 10 million years older than *janjucetus hunderi* with characteristics that more closely parallel the modern baleen whale. However, what makes this find so significant is that it represents an evolutionary sidetrack or "branching off" of species because it has characteristics of both baleen and toothed whales –something that was not known to exist prior to its discovery.

Sources:

"Whale Fossil Sports Fierce Teeth," BBC News Website, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4797679.stm>

"Killer Fossil Find May Rewrite Story of Whale Evolution," NationalGeographic.com,

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/08/060816-whale-fossil.html>

Photos courtesy of [1] R. Start, Museum of Victoria, [2] NationalGeographic.com

May Birthdays

The birthstone for May is emerald.



- 1 Parker Henry
- 2 Kathy Hemingway
- 4 Theodore Muir
- 5 Baby Bradford
- 5 Tom Prodanovich
- 8 Jean Helt
- 8 Amanda Thomas
- 9 Carol Lybanon
- 10 Caitlin Cannito
- 11 Mike Easley
- 12 Pam Crumpton
- 13 Daniel Baird
- 13 James Butchko
- 14 Philip W. Wglsaer
- 14 Bonnie Brooks
- 15 Carlos Sejas
- 15 Parker Bradford
- 16 Robert Duncan
- 17 Alan Adams
- 19 Joanne Gilmore
- 23 Sharon Drungell
- 25 Katey Jo Henry
- 27 Kelly Baldwin
- 28 Carl Warren
- 29 Faye Smith
- 30 Michael Cannito
- 30 Stan Laulederkind
- 30 Gary Law
- 31 Rheba Wall

Emerald: The name comes from Greek "maragdos" via old French "esmeralde" which literally translates as "green gemstone." The oldest known finds were near the Red Sea in Egypt but the best emeralds are found in South America and Brazil. A really good quality emerald is quite rare. A near perfect emerald's value far exceeds that of a diamond.

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

Happy Spring to Everyone!

Get ready to learn about two types of rocks at May's meeting. We'll study Sedimentary and Metamorphic. We've already talked about Igneous rocks this year, but I'll bring along some extra handouts for those of you who missed that meeting.

Please bring your folders if you have one, and please wear your name tags! For those of you who don't have one, I'll be glad to make one for you.

If you have any examples of the 3 types of rocks: Igneous, Sedimentary or Metamorphic, bring them along so we can see each other's specimens!

See you soon!
Melissa

Web Site Statistics for April 2007

...a brief look at our website (www.memphisgeology.org) from 1/21/02-4/21/07

Total Vists & Hits		Top page views past 30 days	
Total visits to web site	208,663	homepage	1155 hits
Total hits to web site	745,368	rocknews 0407	560 hits
Visits in past 30 days	10,325	the_show	440 hits
Hits in past 30 days	45,116	rocknews0107	374 hits
Average daily visits (past 30 days)	344	argon2003	350 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 Gem and Mineral
Society of Lynchburg, Virginia (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the
Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society**

**7:30 AM to 5:30 PM (EDT) Saturday, May 26, 2007
Boxley Materials Company, Mount Athos Plant
Lynchburg, Virginia**

WHERE: Boxley Materials Company, Mount Athos quarry near Lynchburg, Virginia. Meet at the quarry office parking lot between 7:30 and 8:30 am (do not be late) Club members will show you where to park and have the forms to sign. All participants, regardless of age, will be required to wear hard hats, safety glasses, steel toe or good strong boots and long pants. Upon arrival you will be required to sign a waiver of liability and receive Hazard Training. There is a safety orientation at 8:45 and if you miss it, you may not be allowed into the quarry. Everyone will need to sign a release and receive information on boundaries and safety in the collecting area. Stay 50 feet away from high walls and be cautious as to footing at all times.

COLLECTING: Some of the minerals we have collected in the past are white and pink Calcite, pink Marble, Feldspar, Quartz, Ilmenite, Epidote, Pyrite, Actinolite, Chlorite, Muscovite, Magnetite, Hematite, Limonite, Rutile, Manganite, Cuprite, Chalcopyrite, Bornite, Malachite, Sphene, Apatite and Stilbite. Also reported to occur are Byssolite, Tremolite, Chrysocola, Heulandite and Azurite.

Remember that the availability of these minerals depends on where they are working in the quarry at the time of the field trip and that some of the occurrences are very small. We will have a large supply of material on the quarry floor from a recent shot, away from the high walls in a safe area.

LOCATION: Lynchburg is not served directly by any Interstate but US Routes 29, 460 and 501 all connect here. I-81 traffic from the South and North can connect with US 460 at exit 150 (Cloverdale) and use Alternate SR 220 to connect with US 460 East to Bedford and Lynchburg. Stay on the US 460 East bypass around the two cities. Stay on US 460 East several miles past Lynchburg toward Appomattox to the Mt Athos Rd. (Rt. 726) exit. Follow Mt. Athos Rd. about .5 miles and turn right on Stage Rd. Follow Stage Rd. about 1.3 miles to the quarry on the right and the meeting place in the quarry parking lot. I-64 traffic can connect with US 29 South near Charlottesville, VA. Continue south on US 29 to Amherst and follow the new US 29 bypass to Lynchburg. After crossing the new James River Bridge, take the US 460 East exit to Appomattox. Continue on US 460 East a short distance to the Mt. Athos exit and continue as above to the quarry. Those approaching from other routes should be directed by a good Virginia road map. The US 460, Mt. Athos Rd (726) exit is in Campbell County several miles east of Lynchburg.

EQUIPMENT: The Boxley Quarries are very safety conscious. Standard quarry gear is required. Hard hats, steel toe boots or other substantial boots and safety glasses. Good protective clothing and gloves should be worn (no shorts). It may be very hot in the quarry so be sure to bring plenty of water and sunscreen. Dress according to the weather in Lynchburg that day. Bring your own collecting equipment such as hammers, chisels and buckets. We will be allowed to drive into the quarry.

**CONTACT: David Callahan, Field Trip Chairman
e-mail: DBCALL1@aol.com / Phone: 540-297-1853
www.lynchburgrockclub.org**

2007 Membership Meeting Adult Programs

SHELBY HARTMAN: I am sure everyone is in agreement that our Program Directors have done a wonderful job in selecting the Adult Programs for our monthly membership meetings. W.C. has recently provided the following list of monthly programs for the remainder of 2007. Hopefully, the members can make all of them as I am sure each will be fun and informative!

May _____
“*Meteorites: Clues to Solving Mysteries of the Solar System*” Presented by James Hill of the Rainwater Observatory

June _____
“*Formation of Breccias*” Presented by Dr. Terry Panhorst of the University of Mississippi.

July _____
Creative fun presented by a variety of facilitators

August _____
Annual Rock Swap and Picnic

September _____
“*Fossils*” or “*Mexican Impact Crater*” presented by Dr. Gibson

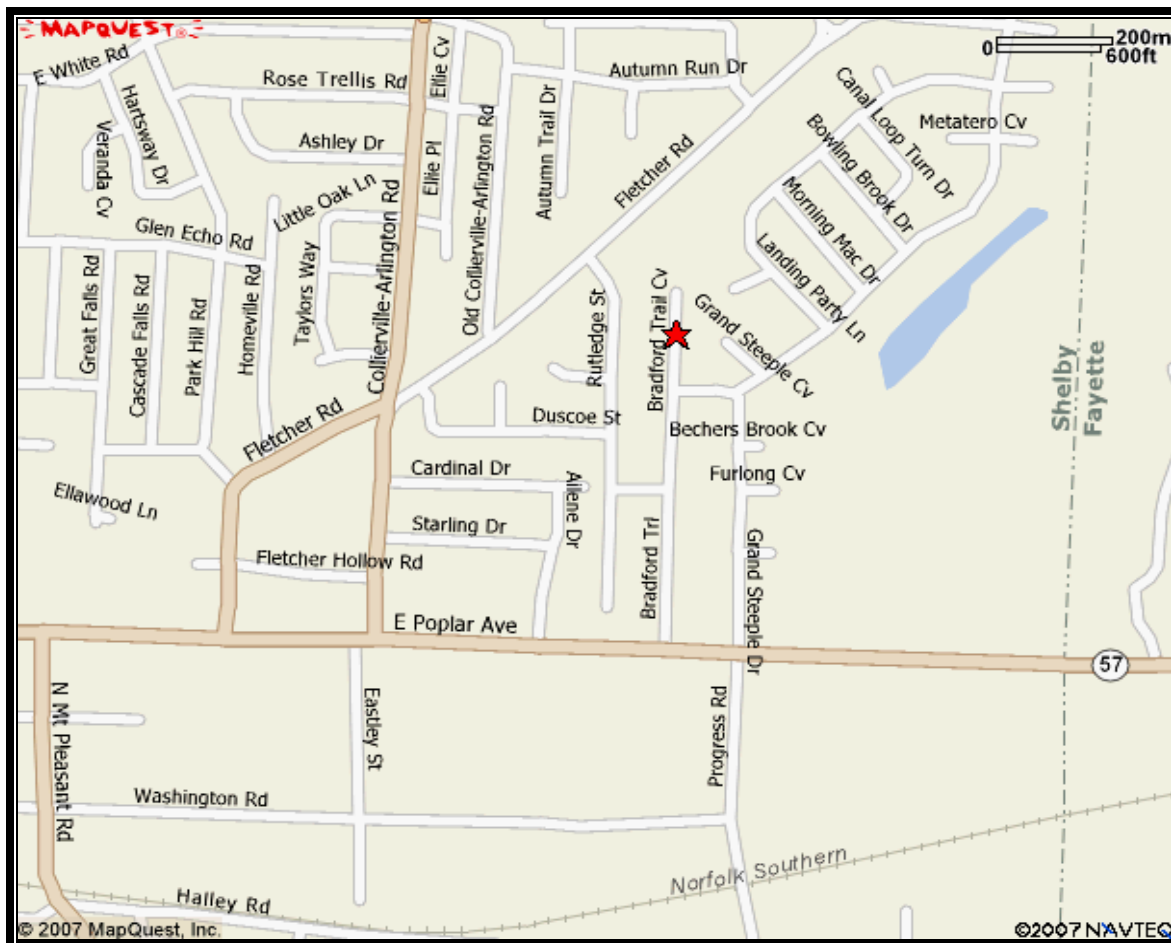
October _____
Fluorescent Minerals and Spooky Halloween Rocks

November _____
Memphis Area Project presented by Dr. Swihart, University of Memphis

December _____
Annual Holiday Party

2007 Rock Swaps Scheduled!

CATHIE JACOBS : Mark your calendar for Saturday May 12th! The first MAGS rock swap of 2007 will be at the home Doris Johnston Jones at 409 Bradford Trail Cove, Collierville, TN. The fun begins at 10 am and continues until 2 pm. MAGS will provide the meat, paper plates and cutlery, but you will need to bring your favorite side dish, salad or dessert (enough to feed your family and some to share with the rest of the group), and enough drinks and lawn chairs for your family. If you plan to sell or trade at the swap, you need to bring a table and things to sell. Even if you don't sell, you can still buy. There will be a wide variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, and other goodies to choose from. See the map and directions on how to get there.



Take 385 (Nonconah to Collierville) and exit Byhalia Rd. N. to your left. The 2nd traffic light should be Poplar Ave. where you turn right or go east through Old Collierville and past the Town Square. Coming out the other side of Collierville at the blinking yellow light at Gurkins is Collierville-Arlington Rd. Go past and at the 2nd left after that is Bradford Trail Cove. There is a big brick wall with Bradford Estates on it. Come all the way down to the end of the cove. My house is on the left (#409) You can come straight out Poplar Ave or you can come down Collierville-Arlington all the way if coming from Bartlett or thereabouts.

Mark the following dates on your calendar and make plans to attend!

2007 Rock Swap Schedule

June 9 (Saturday)	Melba Cole	September 16 (Sunday)	Lou White
July 15 (Sunday)	Alan Debbie Schaeffer	October 13 (Saturday)	Alan & Alishia Parks
August 10 (Friday)	At the membership meeting	November 10 (Saturday)	David & Beth Day

March 2007

Board Meeting Minutes

CAROL & MATTHEW LYBANON: The MAGS Board of Directors met March 1 at the Blue Plate Cafe, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:53 P.M. Those present: Sandy Ward, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Mike Cannito, David Day, W.C. McDaniel, Melissa Johnston, Idajean Jordan, Pam Gurley, Cathie Jacobs, Alan Jacobs, Mike Baldwin, Shelby Hartman, James Butchko, and Lou White.

The Secretary's minutes from the February Board and General meetings were reviewed. W.C. McDaniel moved to accept the amended minutes, Alan Jacobs seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Cannito reported that the January Treasurer's Report failed to list one item. He passed out a corrected January report. W.C. McDaniel said that \$700 collected from the sale of items contributed by David McIlwain went into our checking account, and the transaction needs to be reflected in an old report. There was a motion (James Butchko, seconded by W.C. McDaniel) that we accept both the amended January report and the February report. The motion carried.

Field Trips: David Day reported about our planned trip to the Crater of Diamonds March 17 weekend. He is looking to buy discount admission tickets, and also for places to stay. Several suggestions were made: cabins at the park entrance and also at the state park one exit past the Crater exit.

Adult Programs: W.C. McDaniel reported that the April meeting's program will be a short presentation by Ronald McDonald House and "Looking for Insects in Amber." May, James Hill from the Rainwater Observatory (meteorites). June, "Gold" by Dr. Panhorst from the University of Mississippi. September, Dr. Gibson, Fossils or Impact Crater in Mexico. **Children's Programs:** Melissa Johnston reported the March program will be on igneous rocks, and there will be a dinosaur video if time permits.

Newsletter: Shelby Hartman reported that everything was going well. W.C. McDaniel volunteered to write the lead article for April.

Show Chairman: James Butchko reported that the grand door prize was purchased. It is a 17-pound quartz crystal cluster that came from Wegner's Quartz Crystal Mines. He also stated that the postcards will be ready at our Friday Membership Meeting. Carol Lybanon said she talked to Ronda Cloud at the Pink Palace. Ronda offered some giveaway items for the show. Carol will continue looking into it.

Membership: Pam Gurley reported that she has sent out delinquent notices. Three members have moved, and Mike Cannito said he will send them email notices. The Lloyds will continue to be honorary members. The Board considered four new members: Walter and Peggy Davis, Robert Duncan, and Betsy Feuerstein. There was a motion (W.C. McDaniel, seconded by Idajean Jordan) to accept the applications. The motion carried.

Sunshine Report: W.C. McDaniel reported that he saw Barry Burns. Barry continues to improve.

Rock Swap: Cathie Jacobs has scheduled the following rock swaps: May, open; June, Melba Cole; July, the Schaeffers; September, Lou White; October, Alan Parks (need to get OK); November, open.

Web Report: Mike Baldwin reported the start of a new blog, the MAGS Field Guide Blog. It will be moderated by Mike. People can ask questions and get tips. Dan Reed wrote a "Tips and Techniques" article, posted on the site, called "Dangers in the Field." The Agate Society picked up this article, and will carry it in their newsletter.

Old Business: (A) Mike Baldwin reported on the elementary school science fair. Four MAGS Members (Mike Baldwin, David Day, Matthew Lybanon, W.C. McDaniel) served as judges for the special MAGS awards. There were fewer Earth Science entries this year than in the past. The judges chose four individual and group projects and one class project to receive awards. Matthew Lybanon will present the awards, which consist of certificates, tickets to the show, and gift certificates to spend at the show. (B) Liability waivers: Mike Cannito reported there is only about 20% compliance. We need to be 100% compliant as soon as possible. We will have forms available at membership meetings, we will put a form in the newsletter, and we will also send emails. (C) Christian Brothers University collection: W.C. McDaniel passed out a draft proposal with three different options. (Idajean Jordan says she knows about the collection, and it is very good.) The options are: (1) ask for an outright donation to MAGS, (2) appraise and buy the collection, and (3) broker a sale. The Board discussed these three options. Idajean Jordan says she does not like the idea of selling the collection; she thinks we should try to acquire it. W.C. McDaniel suggested that we could sell some items from the collection to recoup part of the price. He asked for people to volunteer to look at the collection with him. After discussion, the Board agreed that the group that will evaluate the collection should have the authority to make an offer if they decide the collection is of sufficient quality. James Butchko moved (Matthew Lybanon seconded) that we authorize up to \$3000 from our savings account to purchase the collection from CBU. **New Business:** (A) William Holland Workshop forms are here. We will have the applications available at the next Membership Meeting. It is best to submit these applications through the Southeast Federation. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

March 2007

Membership Meeting Minutes

CAROL & MATTHEW LYBANON: The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on March 9, 2007, Sandy Ward presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 P.M. 52 members and 10 visitors attended. Visitors: Kennidi Cable, Drew Gilmore, Margie Thais, Zach Landry, Rick Landry, Jeremy Roater, Carol Baird, Daniel Baird, Rachel Sejas, Philip W. Eglsaer. Pam Gurley welcomed visitors and handed out two new member packets. President Sandy Ward called for **New Business:** (A) Melissa Johnston said there was space available for rent in the Cooper-Young area that may be suitable for a lapidary workshop. W.C. McDaniel has expressed an interest in renting a facility for use by MAGS members. (B) Applications for SFMS 2007 Workshops at Wildacres and William Holland Retreat are available. A member pointed out that spaces at these workshops go quickly, so those interested should apply soon. **Show:** Jim Butchko reported that postcards are ready. Please put up publicity posters. Tickets are available for members to distribute. Signup sheets for show volunteers are on the table. Carol Lybanon has made the most grab bags so far. We hope to have at least 500 to fill. Take a look at our grand door prize, on a table in the back. **Field Trips:** David Day reported on the Crater of Diamonds field trip, scheduled for March 17. Signup sheets are just to get an idea of how many of us are going. No battery-powered devices are allowed at Crater of Diamonds. Check the Crater of Diamonds website; there is a lot of good information there. There are plenty of good hotels near the park exit. **Treasurer:** Mike Cannito reported that Treasurer's Reports are available for members to look at. He also urged that we all sign liability. **Science Fair:** Matthew Lybanon reported that four MAGS members served as judges at the elementary school science fair. The judges chose four individual and group projects, and one class project to receive MAGS awards. Winners received certificates for the Roger Van Cleef Earth Science Awards, tickets for the rock show, and gift certificates to spend. Before the meeting was turned over to the program, Sandy Ward asked that everyone help by passing out cards for our show, and that everybody participate in the auctions (live and silent) tonight. **Program:** Lou White gave a very interesting talk on "Collecting Collections." Next month's program will be a project with amber. **Displays:** There were two adult and two junior displays: Adult: Beth and David Day (various materials from Hogg mine), William Huettel (lava rocks, Alaska). Winner: Beth and David Day. Youth: Ben Mandino (geodes, coal, amethyst, from Mississippi River and Kansas), Zach Landry (geode). Winner: Ben Mandino. Lou White was the auctioneer for the live auction. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 P.M.



This month we send our condolences to Park and Teresa Noyes for the death of Teresa's grandmother.

Also, our sympathies to James Butchko and his family in the loss of his mother.

Our thoughts are also with Barry Gilmore and his family for the death of his mother.

Barry Burns is recovering well after his surgery and is recuperating at home. There were reports of sightings of Barry at the Show and we are all happy that he's feeling so well!

Jean Helt's mother recently injured herself in a fall and we all hope she's feeling better soon!

(To supply reports of members for the sunshine report, please contact Pam Gurley at 324-7235.)

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.

Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, other societies may use material published in MAGS Rockhound News provided that proper credit is given and the sense or meaning of the material is not changed. Editor: Shelby Hartman, 5116 Whiteway Drive, Memphis, TN 38117

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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 • Special Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st—03 • Adult Article 1st – 06, 2nd— 89, 90, 04, 06; 3rd—92; 4th—85, 04; 5th—91, 03; 6th—87; 8th—04; Honorable Mention—03, 04

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

MAY 2007

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	29	30	31		

MAY 3 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting - Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Ave.

MAY 11 7:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting - Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Rd.

MAY 12 10am – 2pm

Rock Swap at the home of Doris Johnston Jones

MAY 26

DMC Sponsored fieldtrip to Lynchburg, VA



MAGS Rockhound News
5116 Whiteway Drive
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