



Volume 61 ◊ Number 05 ◊ May 2015 ◊ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

# Seismic Activity

May Program by Gary Patterson, CERI

Photo Credit

Matthew Lybanon



The photo shows a scene from Reelfoot Lake, in Lake and Obion counties of northwest Tennessee. The lake was formed when the region subsided during the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812.

Reelfoot Lake is on the New Madrid Seismic Zone (sometimes called the New Madrid Fault Line), a 240 km fault system which extends into five states. In Ten-

nessee, it extends southeast into Dyersburg.

On May 8 MAGSters will learn about the seismic activity presently taking place along the New Madrid Fault. Gary Patterson, Director of Education and Outreach for the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the University of Memphis, will present the program.

## In this issue

Seismic Activity	P. 1
President's Message	P. 1
MAGS And Federation Notes	P. 2
Fabulous Tennessee Fossils	P. 3
Robert Kirkland	P. 4
Field Trips	P. 4
The Sixth Extinction	P. 4
Georgia Mineral Society Show	P. 6
Science Fair Awards	P. 6
Jewelry Bench Tips	P. 6
Scouting Pickwick	P. 8
June Program	P. 9
Displays	P. 9
SFMS Workshops	P. 9
May Birthdays	P. 10
March Board Minutes	P. 10
March Meeting Minutes	P. 11
A Little North of Dallas	P. 11
MAGS At Glance	P. 12

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of MAGS, MAGS Show Committee, MAGS Board of Directors, 31 dealers, 16 demonstrators and exhibitors, 6 speakers and about 2300 people who attended the show, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all the MAGS Members who worked hard, planned well, volunteered your time and energy, and used



your skills to make the Show a success and a continuation of being the best show in the south.

**This 12-inch ammonite came from the recent MAGS field trip to Texas. See some of the MAGSters who went there, and more specimens (good hunting!), on P. 11.**

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

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## MAGS AND FEDERATION NOTES

### May Rock Swap

The next rock swap will be Saturday, May 9, 11:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M., at Jim and Hisami McNeil's home. The address is 9869 Taylor Drive, Olive Branch, Mississippi. Phone (662) 890-4126.

POTLUCK DINNER: Please bring a dish. MAGS is providing plates, napkins, drinks and cutlery.

The McNeils will have things to swap. It's more fun if you have something to sell or trade. *Continued, P. 9*

MAGS General Membership Meetings and MAGS Youth Meetings are held at 7:30 P. M. on the second Friday of every month, year round. The meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5530 Shady Grove Road, Memphis, TN.

MAGS Website: [memphisgeology.org](http://memphisgeology.org)

We aren't kidding when we say this is a newsletter for and by the members of MAGS. If an article has a byline the author is a MAGS Member, unless explicitly stated otherwise (we welcome articles by nonmembers). If there is no byline, the article was written or compiled by the Editor (a MAGS Member). 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).

### May MAGS/DMC Field Trip

WHERE: Cumberland Furnace, TN

WHEN: Saturday, May 30, 11:00 A. M.-3:00 P. M.

COLLECTING: Slag

INFORMATION: John Martin, (615) 210-5385 or [info@mtgms.org](mailto:info@mtgms.org)

### 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)





## Fabulous Tennessee Fossils

Dr. Michael A. Gibson, University of Tennessee at Martin

### Mystery Fossil Identification

Kingdom Animalia  
Phylum Unknown  
Class Unknown  
Order Unknown  
Family Unknown  
Genus Unknown  
Species *Unknown*

For this issue of Fabulous Tennessee Fossils I am going to present you with a mystery fossil and ask you to try to determine its identity if you can. Do not worry that you will not be able to identify it, as you cannot do any worse than the professionals on this one, because no one has been able to determine its taxonomic identity. MAGsters who have Devonian-age Birdsong Shale fossils from the Vulcan Materials quarry in Parsons, Tennessee, may have this enigmatic fossil in their collections. Figure 1 shows a nearly complete specimen on the bedding plane between a shale and limestone bed within the Birdsong. We have nearly 100 specimens now of this fossil, which

shows surprising regularity in form; only size will vary. The seminal work for the Birdsong Shale was conducted by the great paleontologist Carl O. Dunbar, who studied this region of West Tennessee from 1916-1919 as his dissertation topic from Yale University under the direction of the even more seminal Charles Schuchert. Interesting enough, even though Dunbar published extensive lists of the fossil taxa he collected, there is no mention of our mystery fossil. I have visited the Yale Peabody Museum on several occasions re-studying the Birdsong fauna myself (my 1988 Ph. D. dissertation from University of Tennessee, Knoxville, covers many of the same units studied by Dunbar). There are no specimens of our mystery fossil in Dunbar's collections.

So, before I go any further, you should stop reading...study the images and decide what fossil group it belongs to—don't cheat by reading ahead...write your ideas on paper and let's see what you get.



Figure 1. Mystery fossil showing overall shape, concentric rings, straight margin with small wings (from UT Martin Collection). Several small bryozoans are encrusting the shell.



Figure 2. Mystery fossil showing overall rounded shape, concentric growth increments, and thickened margin. The straight edge of the fossil is missing in this specimen (UT Martin Collection).

To help you in your quest, here are some characteristics about these fossils you should consider:

1. The overall morphology (shape, ornamentation, etc.) of the mystery fossil is highly uniform. Specimens are flat. Only size can vary.
2. Sizes range from 3-5 centimeters (longest dimension); although we have one "giant" specimen that measured in at 7.5 centimeters.
3. All specimens have a straight side with a very small (1-4 mm) wing-like extension on one end. The outer margin of the specimen is somewhat "D-shaped" with a slightly more rounded wider margin on the same side as the wing-like extension.
4. There are regularly spaced "growth lines" that parallel the overall shape of the outer margin.
5. The outer margin is slightly thicker than the rest of the specimen surface.
6. The composition of the specimens is

*Continued, P. 4*

*Fabulous Tennessee Fossils* unusual in  
*Continued from P. 3* that it is  
not the  
typical calcite (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) used  
by associated brachiopods and  
other fauna in the Birdsong.  
Also, it is not aragonite.  
Specimens always preserve a  
peculiar brown color (unlike  
other fossils) and when they  
weather, the fracture into  
small square fragments (also  
unlike any other Birdsong fos-  
sils).

What is not visible on any  
specimen is equally as enigmatic!  
There are no other distinguishing  
structures or features that can be  
used to place the fossil within  
known taxonomic groups: no  
hinge structures or muscle scars  
typical of bivalves or brachiopods  
(teeth, sockets, grooves, fold, sul-  
cus, etc.), no plates typical of  
echinoderms (columnals, arm  
plates, etc.), no segments typical  
of arthropods (tail, body, head), no  
spicules like sponges, nothing even  
close to coral morphology. I have  
shown these specimens to many  
experts over the past 25 years and  
received many different assess-  
ments. Most have called them  
bivalve mollusks (based mostly on  
shape) or conchostracan “clam  
shrimp” (I favored this interpreta-  
tion in my dissertation, but had  
doubts); however, none of the nec-  
essary other morphological struc-  
tures to confirm either interpreta-  
tion occur on any of the speci-  
mens. We cannot explain away  
the absence on preservation alone  
as we have many well-preserved  
specimens showing the regions  
where these features should be  
visible...and they are not there,  
so,....the mystery continues! Now

it is your turn to help us out! Feel  
free to “think out of the box”.  
Give us your ideas and help solve  
the mystery. As I always promise  
my students who bring me fossils  
that may be “new”, if it turns out  
to be a new fossil species I will  
name it after you! Good luck!

## Robert Kirkland

MAGSters have read several  
articles about Discovery Park of  
America, the outstanding new mu-  
seum in Union City, Tennessee. A  
MAGS field trip went to Discov-  
ery Park last year. The museum  
was made possible through the  
vision and generosity of one man,  
Robert Kirkland, the founder of  
the Kirkland’s chain of home dec-  
or stores.

We are sad to report that Mr.  
Kirkland died at age 77 on April 11  
at his home in Union City. You  
can read a local news report at  
[www.wpsdlocal6.com/story/  
28813367/celebrating-robert-  
kirklands-life](http://www.wpsdlocal6.com/story/28813367/celebrating-robert-kirklands-life). His family requests  
any donations be made to the  
Discovery Park of America  
scholarship fund.

## Field Trips

*Charles Hill*

Hi, all. It’s time for a field trip  
update. After looking at schedules  
and events for the upcoming  
months, we have had to make a  
change. The May 9 trip to Twenty  
Mile Creek had to be moved to  
August 15 because we didn’t want  
it to interfere with the rock swap.  
The newly scheduled May field  
trip will be the DMC trip to  
Cumberland Furnace, Tennessee,  
on May 30. All the details will be

in the DMC flyer. I will provide  
more information at the Member-  
ship Meeting on May 8.

Here is a summary of the field  
trip schedule through August:

**Date:** May 16. **Location:** Canal  
Creek in Southaven, MS. **Time:**  
9 A. M. I will be giving **Panning  
Lessons. Short Trip:** First 10  
people. **Collecting** agate, jasper,  
and petrified wood. Garnets have  
been found there.

**Date:** May 30. **Location:** Cum-  
berland Furnace, TN, on Cinder  
Road. **Time:** 11 A. M. **Collect-  
ing** slag glass in blues, greens, and  
swirls. I’m looking forward to this  
one.

**Date:** June 20. **Location:** Tur-  
key Creek, MS. **Time:** 10 A. M.  
Collecting marcasite, pyrite, and  
fossils.

**Date:** July, 11. **Location:** Crow  
Creek, AR. **Time:** 10 A. M.  
**Collecting** agate, petrified wood,  
jasper, and banded chert. The best  
feature is a fossilized oyster bed.

**Date:** August 15. **Location:**  
Twenty Mile Creek, MS. **Time:**  
10 A. M. **Collecting** Upper Cre-  
taceous fossils and an abundance  
of shark teeth. I can’t wait.

See you there!

*Charles*

## Book Review: *The Sixth Extinction*, by Elizabeth Kolbert

**Editor’s Note: This is the first  
of an occasional series of  
articles that will review books  
in the MAGS Library.**

Rachel Carson’s  
1962 book *Silent* *Continued, P. 5*

*The Sixth Extinction Spring* was a science book that captured the attention of the general public. More importantly, it captured the attention of policymakers, and led to the banning of DDT and ignited the environmental movement. A book published last year, *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert, has the potential to do something similar. It isn't just another book that dumbs down science for the bored general reader. It covers several hundred years of geology and paleontology, as well as what's going on in the world right now. She backs up every claim she makes with solid scientific evidence, and she does it in a style that captures the reader and won't let him or her go.

Jan Zalasiewicz, a stratigrapher from the University of Leicester, was (recently) head of the stratigraphy committee of the Geological Society of London, which in 1841 divided life into three chapters: the Paleozoic, from the Greek for "ancient life," the second the Mesozoic, meaning "middle life," and the third the Cenozoic, "new life." Zalasiewicz believes that we have entered a new epoch, the Anthropocene.

Paul Crutzen, a Dutch chemist who shared a Nobel Prize for discovering the effects of ozone-depleting compounds, invented the word "Anthropocene." At a scientific conference Crutzen kept referring to the "wholly recent" (Holocene) epoch, which began at the conclusion of the last ice age 11,700 years ago, and which continues—at least officially—to this day. "Let's stop it," Crutzen re-

called blurting out. "We are no longer in the Holocene; we are in the Anthropocene."

Among the many geologic-scale changes people have effected, Crutzen cited the following in a short article published in *Nature*:

- Human activity has transformed between a third and a half of the land surface of the planet.
- Most of the world's major rivers have been dammed and diverted.
- Fertilizer plants produce more nitrogen than is fixed naturally by all terrestrial ecosystems.
- Fisheries remove more than a third of the primary production of the oceans' coastal waters.
- Humans use more than half of the world's readily accessible fresh water runoff.

Would the Anthropocene satisfy the criteria used for naming a new epoch? Good question. Zalasiewicz's committee considered this question, and their answer was "yes." Summed up in one sentence: In a hundred million years or so, even a moderately competent stratigrapher will be able to tell that something extraordinary happened at the moment in time that counts for us today.

The International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) is responsible for maintaining the official timetable of earth's history. Zalasiewicz convinced the ICS to look into formally recognizing the Anthropocene; the ICS put him in charge of the effort. As head of the Anthropocene Working Group, Zalasiewicz hopes to bring

a proposal to a vote by the full body in 2016. If he is successful, every geology textbook in the world will need to be revised.

In the center of the American Museum of Natural History's Hall of Biodiversity there's an exhibit embedded in the floor. It's arranged around a central plaque that notes there have been five major extinction events since complex animals evolved, over 500,000,000 years ago. According to the plaque, "Global climate change and other causes, probably including collisions between earth and extraterrestrial objects," were responsible. Continuing, "Right now we are in the midst of the Sixth Extinction, this time caused solely by humanity's transformation of the ecological landscape."

Paleontologists define mass extinctions as events that eliminate "a significant proportion of the world's biota in a geologically insignificant amount of time." Another description characterizes mass extinctions as "substantial biodiversity losses" that occur rapidly and are "global in extent."

From an earth history perspective, several hundred years or even several thousand is practically no time at all. From a human perspective, though, it's immense. That tells you how a mass extinction could be going on right now without its being immediately obvious to everybody. And there is considerable evidence in support of that statement on the floor of the American Museum of Natural History.

It's hard to give a chapter-by-chapter summary of *The Sixth Extinction Continued, P. 6*



*The Sixth Extinction* without making it seem terribly dry and tedious. Actually, it's probably the most entertaining exposition of the history of paleontology you'll ever read. What happened 444 million years ago to nearly wipe out the graptolites, not to mention the conodonts, the brachiopods, the echinoderms, and the trilobites? Read the book to find out not only what happened but why, after these organisms existed for immense periods of time, the same characteristics that helped them survive for so long suddenly failed them.

Instead of outlining the book, let's just mention that it gives a good review of contributions to our understanding of animals and plants (living and extinct) and geology. The cast of characters includes Aristotle, Cuvier, Lamarck, Lyell, Darwin, Wegener, and others. Thomas Jefferson was an active player—bet you didn't know that. Walter Alvarez's meteor impact theory of the cause of the K-T (now called the K-Pg) Boundary, and the change from widespread skepticism about the theory to widespread acceptance, is covered, along with other things from modern times.

There's more, but the best way to find out about it is to read the book. It's available in the MAGS library.

**Jewelry Bench Tips** by Brad Smith

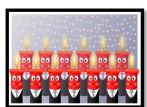
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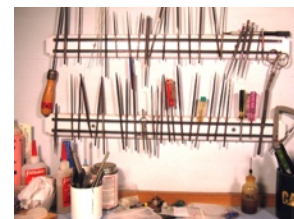


**Science Fair Awards**

MAGS Members Mike Baldwin, Matthew Lybanon, W. C. McDaniel, and Nannett McDougal-Dykes judged earth science projects at the 2015 Shelby County Schools Elementary Science/Engineering Fair. Winners were: 1st place (\$100 Roger Van Cleef Award), Khamari McElroy, Dunbar Elementary, "Did I Eat A Magnet?". 2nd place (\$50), Sahil Shaikh, Germantown Elementary, "Purifying Water Using Natural Resources". 3rd place (\$25), Laila Johnson, Balmoral-Ridgeway, "We Rocking".

use a magnetic tool strip. They're tle in my tool box.

not expensive and help keep a lot of small tools from cluttering the bench top. I got a couple of them from Harbor Freight for about \$5 each. See [www.harborfreight.com](http://www.harborfreight.com) and search on-"magnetic-holder."



My only regret was putting some of my small drills on the magnets. The drills got a little magnetized and now stick together when I carry them in a bot-

**SILVER DISCOLORATION**

Working with jewelry involves an ever increasing number of skills. Chemistry is *Continued, P. 7*

*Jewelry Bench Tips* one that comes *Continued from P. 6* into play when dealing with a discoloration on the metal caused by a chemical reaction between it and the environment.

In the case of Sterling silver there are three discolorations we typically encounter: a tarnish, a firescale, and a firestain. Each is different in its cause, in its cure, and in its prevention. All three have to do with the metals in the Sterling alloy (92.5% silver and 7.5% copper) and how they react with oxygen and the heat of soldering or with pollutants in the air over the long term.

Tarnish is a grayish coating that builds up slowly on the surface as a result of a reaction of the silver with sulfur-based compounds in the air. Typically these are pollutants from the burning of petroleum fuels, but they can come from other sources as well. I once tarnished all the silver in my display case by putting a pretty specimen of iron pyrite in with the jewelry. Turns out pyrite has sulfur in it! Sulfur combines with the silver to form a grayish silver sulfide film on the surface.

Preventing tarnish involves keeping sulfur away from the metal. Plastic bags help, and anti-tarnish strips are available from jewelry supply companies to pack near your items. Tarnish is easily removed by hand polishing with a jeweler's cloth or with one of the products sold for cleaning the good silverware for holiday dinner.

Another way is to remove it chemically. Put a piece of aluminum in the bottom of a dish large enough to contain your piece.

Heat enough water to cover the silver. Mix in 2 tablespoons of sodium carbonate per cup of water and pour into the dish. Be sure the silver touches the aluminum. Sodium carbonate is the main ingredient in washing soda. Read the labels in grocery and hardware stores.

The second type of tarnish is called firescale. It is the dark gray to charcoal colored film that forms on Sterling or other copper alloys like brass or bronze when we heat it with a torch. The copper in the alloy reacts with oxygen in the air to form a dark cupric oxide coating on the surface. Luckily, the oxide is easily removed by dissolving it in a mild acid—generally called a pickle. It's important that we not let firescale form on a solder joint because it will block the flow solder over the joint.

There are two ways to prevent firescale. Most common is to use a flux, a borax-based solution applied to the metal before soldering. When melted, borax forms a thin glassy layer that keeps oxygen away from the metal. A second way is to do your soldering on a charcoal block. Together with the flame, charcoal greatly reduces the amount of oxygen in the area being soldered. In either case, oxygen is prevented from reaching the metal, so no cupric oxide firescale is formed.

A second oxide can also be formed when soldering copper or a high copper content alloy like bronze or brass: cuprous oxide, reddish in color. That's why a black looking piece you put in the pickle sometimes comes out red. Problem is that while the black

cupric oxide is dissolved by a pickle, the red cuprous oxide is not. The discoloration can be sanded or polished off, but an easier way is to use a "super pickle". This is a mixture of fresh pickle with a healthy shot of hydrogen peroxide from the local store.

I've saved the worst form of discoloration, firestain, for last. Think of firescale (above) as like getting dirt on your shirt that you have to wash off. Firestain is like getting ink on it. The discoloration is not just on the surface, it seeps down and stains the material. Firestain happens when we heat a piece of silver too hot, too long, and/or too many times.

Firestain occurs when the oxides start to build up below the surface of the metal. You generally don't notice it until after polishing. It appears as a darker area of the surface and is easy to spot when viewed under light bounced off a piece of white paper. Because firestain is below the surface, there's no easy bench tip solution. Depletion gilding may work for some pieces. Otherwise, removing it calls for sandpaper and aggressive polishing.

A much better approach for a piece that will require a large number of solderings is to protect the metal from developing firestain by applying liberal amounts of a firecoat. Regular soldering flux will provide some protection but is not as effective as preparations made specifically for the task. Jewelry supply companies offer several commercial solutions, but my favorite is the Prips mixture in alcohol. I use it every time I intend

*Continued, P. 8*

*Jewelry Bench Tips* to do more than two solderings on a piece.  
*Continued from P. 7*

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on [Amazon](#).

## Scouting Pickwick

Kim Hill

Back in January our field trip director, Charles Hill, planned a trip to Pickwick Lake. I don't know if you remember those days but they were pretty cold! But you just dress right, add a couple of hand warmers, good shoes, and go on. So I was determined to go even though most had decided not to make the trip.

I was up early, had staged all my stuff the night before, was getting ready to head out. My husband had gotten up early and had been watching the weather, and kept telling me "I can't believe you are going." Well, that wasn't going to deter me. My Icelandic wool sweater is ugly but it can definitely keep me warm

Then he starts in about the fact I was driving on my spare tire, having had a flat a couple of days before. I knew there was something I had forgotten to do the day before. I somewhat ungraciously agreed with him, called Charles and told him. He said well, then he wasn't going either.

Later that night I was on Facebook and Charles came on bragging about all the stuff he had found. WHAT THE... You told me you weren't going. "Yeah, I did, but I was ready to go, and was sitting around pouting so my wife kicked me out. Boy, did I make

some finds!"

I started pouting that night and have been ever since, and picking on Charles for going without me. He decided he wanted to make another scouting trip, to find a better place for a larger group, and invited me to come along. Personally I think he got tired of my whinnying about it. At most of the sites the water was up, so there isn't room for more than six to eight people.



We sampled four or five different places, not staying very long at any of them, but still managed to find really nice specimens at every site. There were plates with crinoids, shells, even trilobites, trace fossils, horseshoe crabs. We even found several nice impressions of different size trilobites, including one Charles almost stepped on.

At a couple of places I just sat down and worked the area around me, scootching over a little every now and then, and found so much stuff just within my reach. Even found orange calcite on one rock and a thumbnail piece of pyrite on another piece, crystal deposits on several rocks. There were neat little geodes; seemed like there was something for everyone. Snakes? I believe the trip will be when it is colder so we shouldn't have that problem then. But we are rockhounds and know to be careful turning over the rocks.

We did go to one site that was more than big enough for a big group, which I hope is what we have turn out when Charles is able to schedule another field trip to Pickwick. At that site we found lots of plates and a number of good trilobite impressions.



Charles finally told me he had a rule: As long as his trailer hitch didn't hit the ground we were good. Now I did my BEST to break that rule, but without all the kids around to help I can't carry as much as my mind wants me to. Yes, Charles was a gentleman and helped me tote a lot. But all those kids can tote SO MUCH more!

Charles did ask me if I collected this much every time I went out. I looked at him with a 'what do you think' look. I don't know if anyone remembers my story about my first trip to the Jonesboro gravel pit. I had to leave early because the kids got wet and cold, and wouldn't go outside, so I had to leave with JUST 1-1/2 buckets!! I did make it up on the second trip, and CANT wait 'til the third trip!!!

So if you enjoy fossils: crinoids, trilobites, trace fossils, horseshoe crabs, just walking along a lake shore—it is very peaceful and beautiful there—then I urge you to go on the next Pickwick trip!!!



## June Program *Carol Lybanon*



The June program will feature our own Members showing, telling, and demonstrating what they do with some of their rocks, fossils, and minerals. Join us to hear from our presenters: Mildred Schiff, Deedee Goossens, Bill Gilbert, David McAlister, Ron Brister, W. C. McDaniel, and Carol Lybanon.

You might even bring home your own handmade treasure. If you have made something special with one of your collected pieces, please bring it to show. We are all looking for new ideas. It would be fun to see what our Members are doing with their finds.

*May Rock Swap* Door prizes will be drawn for.  
*Continued from P. 2* Come and look at the magnificent Japanese garden.

### Directions From Memphis

From I-240 turn south on Lamar (Hwy 78). Go to Exit 6 in Olive Branch (15-20 miles). Turn on Exit 6 (Bethel Road and Hacks Cross). At stop sign turn left onto Hacks Cross. Go approximately 0.4 mile to stop light (the cross road is MS-178). Turn left on 178 and go approximately 0.6 mile. Turn left on Dorothy (you should see a brick development sign saying Lees Crossing, Fairfield Estates), go approximately 0.1 mile. Turn right on Loftin and go approximately 0.3

mile. Turn left onto Taylor Drive and go approximately 0.1 mile (second driveway on left).

### From Hwy 385 (Bill Morris Parkway)

Take 385 to the Hacks Cross exit. Turn right onto Hacks Cross and travel approximately 5-10 miles. At stop light at Hacks Cross and MS-178 turn right on 178 and go approximately 0.6 mile. Turn left on Dorothy (you should see a brick development sign saying Lees Crossing, Fairfield Estates), go approximately 0.1 mile. Turn right on Loftin and go approximately 0.3 mile. Turn left onto Taylor Drive and go approximately 0.1 mile (second driveway on left).

## Displays

*Kim Hill*

We had a good turnout this month with the displays. There were seven displays in all. We got to see great samples of ammonites from the Texas trip. There were also some egg-shaped pieces made from different minerals, and items people had bought from previous shows, including a beautiful ammonite bowl, some very pretty jewelry, and even a nice piece of Aragonite.

Nannett was our winner this month with her ammonites and sea urchin

I thank everyone for participating and hope you will continue to bring your displays for all of us to see. I also need members to be sure and thank those who bring in displays by voting for the one you

like best. What better way to let everyone know how much you enjoyed seeing what they brought in than by voting for your favorite?

For next month's theme how 'bout more fun by bringing in rocks that look like something else: a face, a teapot, a fish—anything other than a rock. And, as always, the random theme

We have picked out the grand prize that will be given out at the holiday party for the person with the most points. Remember, we are awarding points to everyone who brings in a display and for the winner that month. The grand prize will be set out at the meetings next to the voting jar, so you can see what you are working for. Again I thank everyone for bringing your displays and hope you will continue to make our meetings

even more fun by showing us what treasures you have. Remember if you like it **we will like it too.**

## SFMS Workshops

Cindy Reed, the director for the William Holland SFMS workshops, recently sent some new information. One new service is online payment by credit card. For the rest, here is what Cindy said in her message.

"The June session at William Holland is coming up fast. We still have openings in most of the classes. And, we have several new offerings this year. Kay & Tom Benham will be teaching their tool making class—first time offered at the school. Leslie Wayment is teaching Wire 4 Beaders, another new offering. We're bringing back Jr. Rockhounds

*Continued, P. 10*

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

*SFMS Workshops* with a mineral collection/ID class with Scott and Denise Forward and Sandra Bergquist is teaching a wire/chain class for Jr's.

“Wild Acres is offering a Meteorite Symposium during both of their weeks. Leslie Wayment is teaching Wire 4 Beaders in session 3 and Dave Wayment is teaching Intarsia. There is a self help bead-ers class in session 3—bring your own projects and supplies. It's always fun to bounce ideas off friends. Did you see Tom Benhams article in *Lapidary Jeweler Jewelry Artist* about making your own jewelry bench? Danny Griffin can show you how it's done during session 3.

“If you would like to know more about any of the classes, visit [www.sfmshworkshops.com/](http://www.sfmshworkshops.com/) or follow us on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/pages/South-east-Federation-of-Mineralogical-Societies/317959434999844](https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-east-Federation-of-Mineralogical-Societies/317959434999844)”. Or contact Cindy directly at [cdreed57@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cdreed57@tampabay.rr.com).

## May Birthdays

3 Thomas Jones  
4 Ann Paterson  
8 Carrie Siems  
9 Carol Lybanon  
10 Julie Lybanon  
Caitlin Cannito  
Guy Weaver  
11 Mary Elliott  
12 Pam Crumpton  
Trace Hartman  
13 James Butchko  
14 Phillip W. Eglsaer  
16 Robert Duncan  
19 J. R. Hill

20 Joanne Gilmore  
21 Susan Jones  
21 Bonnie Scott  
21 Mike Nagel  
23 Victoria Bromley  
23 Ethan Mueller  
25 Amber Shields  
30 William Gilbert  
30 Herb Nicholson  
Michael Cannito  
31 Sherry Bright

## March Board Minutes

*Mike Baldwin*

Meeting called to order 6:30. Present: W. C. McDaniel, Charles Hill, Carol Lybanon, Mike Baldwin, Bonnie Cooper, James Butchko, Bob Cooper, Kim Hill, Matthew Lybanon, Nannett McDougal-Dyke, and Marc Mueller.

**Secretary:** Minutes approved with two corrections.

**Treasurer:** Bonnie explained January mystery deposit—Sept. 2014 MAGS deposit. Distributed February report. Board decided we should insure we could access CD accounts. Church doesn't want MAGS to pay missing back rent. Board agreed to pay future rent once a year. Bonnie presented 2015 budget. Bob will create institutional membership application. February reports accepted.

**Membership:** Six new members & seven renewals at February meeting. More new members and renewals since. Unpaid 2014 members placed in inactive status. Mike removed unpaid members from snail mail list. Delinquent member list sent to Board. Member directory deadline is March 13; will be distributed March 14.

**Field Trips:** March 7 trip canceled—weather. Barbara Milka will reschedule. Texas trip still on. Murfreesboro March 28. Canal Creek May 16. Turkey Creek June 20. Crow Creek July 11. Carol will lead late summer trip to Nonconna Creek.

**Adult Programs:** April: W. C. and Show history video by Carol. May: Gary Patterson, CERI. June: crafts program. July: Jimmy McNeil. August: indoor picnic. September: Lori Carter. Board approved \$100 compensation for out-of-town speakers. November: Mike and Bob, fluorescent minerals.

**Junior Programs:** March: Matthew, magnets. April: Show. May: Herb Nicholson, local fossils. June: Mike, Native American artifacts and culture. July open. August: indoor picnic.

**Library:** Three new books.

**Web:** March update complete. Newsletter live. Banner on home page linking to Tennessee Fossils site. Mike reported on visit statistics. Mike will put Facebook icon on home page, linking to The Earth Wide Open.

**Historian:** May 9 rock swap at McNeils, 11:00-3:00. Decided to make it pot luck. MAGS will provide drinks, napkins, cutlery. April 4: Egg-stravaganza at Shelby Farms. March 18 Kids Camp needs speaker; W. C. will check with Herb Nicholson. Motion to buy 2 shelf units at Costco for club storage carried. Bob will set them up on April 11.

**Show:** Movers contacted. Grab bag party Thursday night before Show. April 3 deadline to pay Agricenter rent. Matthew will work to get proof of insurance from SFMS. Last dealer space contracted. Digital postcard distributed. USPS post card being printed after small revisions. Facebook page contest for free tickets is underway. Kim and Kathy Baker will manage Facebook activities.

**Old Business:** Club/Show shed workday will be April 11 at 10:00. Chucalissa amendment to last month's motion to \$5.00 discount on "initial" (2015) membership in MAGS.

**New Business:** [01] Jonesboro [John Hedger] potential trip for the fall. [02] UM Earth Club membership deferred until April. [03] Discussion on having lapidary activities on a Sat-



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urday [9-12] at the church, the day after a membership meeting. Will explore whether or not members are interested. W. C. will check with the church to see if the Fellowship Hall might be available. [04] Scout Day at Graceland is March 21. Jim will be there. Anyone else. [05] Science Fair coming up first week of April: Nannett, Matthew, W. C., and Mike will be judges.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

## March Meeting Minutes

*Mike Baldwin*

Meeting called to order at 7:30.

BUSINESS: Three visitors; all became Members. Will email membership directory to all Members. Asked Members to bring membership cards to Show. Members can renew at Show, but \$5 discount only for new Members. Show volunteer signup sheet, Member ticket sheets, and signup

sheets for field trips available. Asked Members to use notepads and sheets to advertise Show. Explained Member tickets. April 11: cleanup day at shed. Jim and Deborah Schaeffer summarized Show details. Field trips announced. Also new library books and Earth Wide Open Facebook group. Show grand prize displayed.

DISPLAYS: Two displays

PROGRAMS: David Hanes, "Dinosaurs of Mississippi."





# MAGS At A Glance

## May 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30 Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, St. Francis Hospital	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, "Earthquake Update"	9 Rock Swap, McNeil Residence, Olive Branch, MS
10	11 Show Meeting, 6:30 pm, Agricenter—open to all Members	12	13	14	15	16 Short Field Trip/ Archaeology Interest Group, 10:00 am, Chucalissa
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 MAGS/DMC Field Trip, Cumberland Furnace, TN
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society  
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