



Volume 68 ♦ Number 05 ♦ May 2022 ♦ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

Greatest Maritime Disaster

Jerry Potter

May Program



Memphis attorney Jerry Potter will tell us about the Sultana disaster at the May meeting. The sinking of the Sultana was one of the most dramatic and heartbreaking episodes in the Civil War. On April 21, 1865, the steamboat left New Orleans and was already having problems with leaky boilers, which continued to plague the

vessel on its way up the river. Union soldiers who had just been released from Confederate prison camps such as Andersonville and Cahaba boarded the Sultana in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The steamboat was severely overcrowded, filled to over six times its capacity.

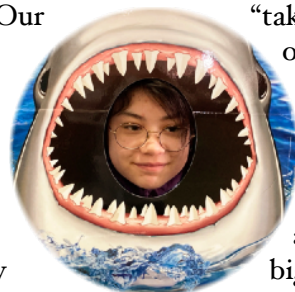
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THE OTHER ROOM

Hurrah! We had another great Show. Our dealer room stayed busy and many guests visited our "demo" room.

We had representation from other clubs, several universities, and of course an active kids' zone, the Rockzone. The gem dig, geode bowling, and Rocks Around the Clock were busy, and our new



"take a picture with a shark" display had kids of all ages putting their heads through the shark's mouth.

The touch table, a display where people could actually handle labeled specimens of minerals and fossils, was "examined" by all, and stimulated lots of questions. It was a big change from the "do not

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MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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MAGS AND FEDERATION NOTES

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society,
Memphis, Tennessee

The objectives of this society shall be as set out in the Charter of Incorporation issued by the State of Tennessee on September 29, 1958, as follows: for the purpose of promoting an active interest in the geological finds and data by scientific methods; to offer possible assistance to any archaeologist or geologist in the general area covered by the work and purposes of this society; to discourage commercialization of archaeology and work to its elimination and to assist in the younger members of the society; to publicize and create further public interest in the archaeological and geological field in the general area of the Mid-South and conduct means of displaying, publishing and conducting public forums for scientific and educational purposes.

MAGS General Membership Meetings and MAGS Youth Meetings are held at 7:00 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, Tennessee.

MAGS Website: memphisgeology.org

MAGS Show Website: www.theearthwideopen.com or <https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/rocks>

We aren't kidding when we say this is a newsletter for and by the members of MAGS. An article with a byline was written by a MAGS Member, unless explicitly stated otherwise. If there is no byline, the article was written or compiled by the Editor. Please contribute articles or pictures on any subject of interest to rockhounds. If it interests you it probably interests others. The 20th of the month is the deadline for next month's issue. Send material to lybanon@earthlink.net.

May DMC Field Trip

WHERE: Bayou Pierre, Hazlehurst, Copiah County, MS

WHEN: Saturday, May 14, 8:00 A.M.

COLLECTING: Agates, petrified wood, fossil brachiopods, ...

CONTACT: Vonda Echols, (601) 259-8801,
fieldtrips@missgems.org

Links to Federation News

- AFMS: www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm
- SFMS: www.amfed.org/sfms/
- DMC: www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm

Greatest Maritime Disaster when the steamer was a few miles north of Memphis, a boiler exploded. Many people in Memphis heard the explosion and sent out rescue boats. They were able to save hundreds of passengers who made it to shore before the Sultana finally sank around Marion, Arkansas. More people died in this tragedy than perished on the Titanic.

Continued from P. 1
It was the worst maritime disaster in American history. The disaster didn't get as much national news coverage as would be expected because on the same day as the explosion, Union soldiers shot and killed John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin.

The photo on P. 1 shows the Sultana marker dedication, with Jerry Potter standing near the marker. The marker is on the Mississippi River bank near where the Sultana left Memphis.

President's Message

MAGS Rock Swap

Monday, May 30—Memorial Day

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Lou White

3805 Melanie June Lane,
Bartlett

- Bring your own tables and chairs.
- Bring material to swap or sell.
- Bring your own money, Lou's bank is closed on Memorial Day.
- Bring food to share.
- MAGS will provide drinks and cutlery.

Important Membership Meeting Information for June

Date Changed from June 10 to June 24

W. C.

A Memorable MAGS Initiation

Sarah Siegel

For me, the MAGS Show was the greatest MAGS membership debut! Even though my wife Pat's a Master Gardener and prefers trees and plants to rocks, I sent dues for a 2022 family membership, hoping she'd join me on future field trips. We'll see.

Meanwhile, I had a ball on my own at the show—my first-ever MAGS activity. After my shift as a volunteer greeter on the last day, I told Mike Baldwin that when I was a 10-year-old kid growing up in Stamford, Connecticut, a local American Cyanamid scientist Dr. Bill Henderson of blessed memory, invited my best friend Amy and me to join the Stamford Mineralogical Society. He did so after identifying a piece I had found at the local nature center as hornblende and seeing how excited Amy and I were by the discovery.

At the Memphis Show, I tried to encourage all visitors' enthusiasm for rocks and minerals, but especially the kids'. Look at this photo I took of a child who won a raffle prize. She chose what looked like a hunk of calcite with spherulite. Look at her thrilled smile (top of next column).

Adults became kid-like, too, including one who selected the snowflake obsidian necklace and



put it on proudly when he won a raffle prize:



I met some fun MAGS members, too, including Mike Baldwin, MAGS Director of Youth Programs, MAGS webmaster, and former Scoutmaster of this charming Boy Scout family's father (left):



More MAGS Members I met included Matthew Lybanon, Director of Assistant Programs and Newsletter Editor; Aaron, the playful Med student with the

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The Other Room
Continued from P. 1

Education



touch” that people have come to expect.

Our sponsor Memphis Stone & Gravel Co. had a display. Our Member Mike Baldwin answered questions about our Earth in front of his “Examining Geology” exhibit. Visitors watched Life Member Richard Gunter demonstrate flint knapping, making tools and projectile points the way Native Americans made theirs.

Education is one of our chief objectives, and we succeeded in “the other room.”

Recess



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A Memorable MAGS Initiation Continued from P. 3

golden radio voice who announced the raffle winners; Geologist and Memphis Stone & Gravel VP of Resource Development Alan Parks; and fellow greeter Amber Rae Dunn, who turns out to be Tennessee's Country Artist of the Year. Listen to her fantastic "Jessie Jane" [here](#). Who knew I was standing with a celebrity!

I also enjoyed learning from fellow volunteer Lenora from Central Arkansas about the range of items in my grab bag. My two favorite acquisitions at the show were from my grab bag, a relatively local blob of agate:



... and this amazing piece from Pune, India, which sported three kinds of vivid minerals:



In my greeter role, as show attendees exited, I asked them, "Did you have a good time?" All answered, "Yes!" And then, I said,

"Thanks for coming. See you next year!" And you will see me next year.

Thanks, *Sarah*

Volunteer Prizes

Carol Lybanon

At our May Membership Meeting we will draw for Show volunteer prizes. You don't have to be there but it would be more fun if all our volunteers showed up. Our Show was a great success and it would not have happened if we didn't have the support of our Members. We had about 35% participation. Thanks to all our helpers.

Federation News

The SFMS William Holland Workshop is online. On an annual basis, the SFMS holds Federation Workshop Weeks at William Holland and Wildacres for everything from beading classes to lapidary classes to silver classes. Classes taught by 14 instructors are scheduled for June 5-10. at William Holland. Details are given in our April issue, and more informa-

tion is available on the Southeast Federation website. For class descriptions and instructor bios, go to <https://www.sfmworkshops.org/>.

A Pilot's Life & Mission During WWII—Dependent Upon the Gem Cutter

*By Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian
Republished from AFMS Newsletter,
February 2022 by way of Pasadena
Lapidary Society newsletter,
Rockbound Ramblings*

I am finding really wonderful stories in old copies of *The Mineralogist* for future articles for you. The magazine was publishing long before the AFMS was founded. What is so special about the old publications are the stories about federation news and news of mineralogy *Continued, P. 6*

From the Archives: The First MAGS Show

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Memphis Archeological and Geological Society is embarked on its first "Rock Swap and Show", to be held at the Pipkin Building, Fairgrounds, Memphis, Tennessee, on July 20 and July 21, 1974.

We have accepted a challenge to represent our club, our city, and our hobby, to the best of our ability.

Acting as hosts and hostesses to many persons from many states gives us the opportunity to make new friends and acquaint those attending with the beauty and wonder of God's Universe.

Frank Theobald

MORE ABOUT THE SHOW.

Our president requests each member to bring one or more specimens, fossils, cabachons, jewelry, etc. to be auctioned at the show. These should be brought to the Pipkin Building Friday evening or Saturday. If you can not attend the show, please bring whatever you have to the regular meeting Friday, July 12.

Also each member is requested to place five notices on bulletin boards at public places. All committee chairman and committee members should submit a written report to George Fulghum, show chairman, covering what each has done, what needs to be done, and improvements, which would help future committees in their planning.

Extensive publicity has been given this show. Mrs. Cole reports that she has mailed out 67 letters and flyers to all clubs within a radius of 500 miles of Memphis.

Mrs. Evelyn Leppert reports that identification tags for exhibitors and members of our club are ready, along with all the necessary things, such as city maps and a telephone directory for use by the visitors. She also reports that there will be a rest area for use during the show. A list of all committee/chairman was included in our June Newsletter. It is suggested that you take this list with you when you attend the Show so you will be able to answer any questions that might be asked from an out of town visitor.

Complete instructions will be given at the July meeting -- so PLEASE BE PRESENT.

Federation News at the time. *Continued from P. 5* Once I find an interesting history topic, I then go looking for more information on the subject, if there is any to find. As Rockhounds and Mineralogists, we have quite a remarkable history that we can feel very proud to be a part of. During WWII, there were hundreds of experienced mineral collectors who, although too old to qualify for military service, played a highly important role for the security of our country. They cut quartz crystals for frequency control in communication instruments and radar. Sapphires were cut to make precision instruments used in airplanes, bombers and battleships. Pilot lives and the success of their missions depended upon the lapidary skills of the gem cutter.

Quartz and sapphires were essential to the war effort. In a bomber, there were about one-hundred sapphires in the plane's

instruments. In a battleship, there were about four thousand sapphire bearings. In 1940, America was completely dependent on Europe for sapphires. When the war came, an American company, Linde Air Products, created the synthetic sapphire. The creation of synthetic sapphires was vital to the war effort. The stones were only used for the war effort and not for jewelry. Quartz crystal was used for frequency control in radio transmission, radar and other precision devices. The quality of the quartz crystal mines in Arkansas was considered finer than Brazil's, and the mines in Arkansas came under federal control during the war. Gemstones, minerals, and the gem cutter have always played important roles throughout history, all around the world. No wonder mankind holds cutters and their stones in admiration.

Editor's Note: *Commercial mining in Arkansas continued until World War II, when the demand for*

quartz for military use led to the Blocker Lead No. 4 Quartz Mine (also known as the Old Coleman Mine) being placed under federal control.

Following the war, the mine returned to a commercial operation and was leased by various companies from Canada, Japan and Germany. In the late 1980s, Ron Coleman, whose family had been digging in the mines for years, purchased the mine from the German government and opened the public digging area in 1991.

Now it's the Ron Coleman Mine.

Member Show Tickets

If any of the Member Show Tickets you gave out were used at the Show, you've already received an email giving you the details. Unused tickets cost you nothing but you are obligated for \$2 per ticket through the June 10 meeting, and \$3 per ticket after June 24, for the tickets that were used. Questions? Contact Matthew Lybanon at lybanon@earthlink.net.

Fabulous Tennessee Fossils

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

FTF 87

Fossil Mascots: The Nashville Preds

What do Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, Porter Wagoner, the Nashville Predators (The Preds; Figure 1) ice hockey team, and fossils of Tennessee have in common? The Nashville Predators ice hockey team was founded in 1998 with the opening of Bridgestone Arena. It is not unusual for sports teams to pick mascots or logos based upon animals, especially animals that are considered powerful and aggressive. The word "predators"

is pretty generic and would allow the new franchise to come across as an entire category of aggressive animal—a predator. The image of a predator, even one that is not specifically assigned to a recognizable animal, like a bear, tiger, lion, or perhaps a cougar, would elicit the desired impact for fans. However, in the case of the Nashville Preds, there actually was a specific animal in mind.



The origin of The Preds logo name has been said to date back to events nearly 7,500 years ago, during the Late Pleistocene Epoch of geologic time; however, in reality it is over 460 million years in the making. During these times, Tennessee was experiencing very different paleoenvironments and paleoclimates than that of today. During the Late Pleistocene, Tennessee was just getting ready to come *Continued, P. 7*

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Fabulous Tennessee Fossils out of its
Continued from P. 6 most recent cold snap—the Ice Age. The animals living in the now Nashville region were ice age land animals adapted to these colder and dryer conditions. How do we know that these animals actually were in Nashville? The fossil record, of course! But the land itself that was glaciated had an even earlier history. Back in the Ordovician Period, middle Tennessee was a shallow, clear, tropical sea accumulating the many limestone deposits that underlie most of the area. Two drastically opposing environments. But what does that have to do with the Nashville Predator ice hockey team?

In 1971, First American Center Bank (now called USB Tower) was under construction in downtown Nashville. As with all tall buildings in the city, 28 stories tall in this case, the building foundation needed to be well anchored in the underlying bedrock, which of course is limestone. As it turns out, during excavation the construction company unearthed a dirt-filled area within the limestone, which meant that they were digging in infilled karst (a sinkhole or cave system) that dated back into the Pleistocene Epoch; basically, a paleocave or paleosinkhole. Yep, even back in the Pleistocene karst sinkholes were forming and this one was active at this time in Tennessee's history. What limestone were the caves forming in? Yes, you guessed it; the Ordovician carbonates laid down 460 million years earlier, now exposed to weathering and erosion. During the 1971 excavation, the workers

noticed canine teeth and other bones within the sediment infill so the digging halted for a time.

This is where Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, and Porter Wagoner (among a few other notable country singers) enter the picture. The construction company contacted Vanderbilt University archaeologists, who referred them to the Southeastern Indian Antiquities Survey (SIAS), as they were otherwise occupied with digs in Arizona. The SIAS were amateur archaeologists headed-up by Bob Ferguson, but who included several individuals who would become leading archaeologists. The same day that Ferguson was contacted about the fossil find was the same day that singer Johnny Cash, along with the other singers named above, signed a \$10,000 donation check to the survey group to fund their work on conserving Native American sites in the southeast. This money allowed the survey group to conduct a quick excavation of the site, after normal construction company working hours, to collect all of the fossils they could. It also funded sending samples for radiocarbon dates.

As it turns out, the radiocarbon dates seemed problematic as the samples provided inconsistent results that spanned several thousand years. Human burial remains were some of the first fossils unearthed near the top of the infill (meaning the last to be buried). Human burial remains from the upper part of the infill ranged from 2390±145 B.P to 1690±115 B.P. (Archaic Period; B.P. = "before present"), hence were not contemporaneous with the animal

remains in the surrounding and underlying strata. Animal fossils about 16 feet below human remains dated older, ~ 7,500 B.P, with one of the dates extending back to just over 10,000 B.P. This isn't really a problem when one considers the nature of sink holes and caves—repositories for lots of material over the lifespan of the opening with material constantly washing in. Also, C₁₄ dating techniques were less developed in 1971 with greater error bars than techniques of today, so ranges of dates were to be expected.

Besides the human remains, several other mostly mammal taxa were identified from the collected fossil remains including pocket gophers (*Geomys* cf. *G. bursarius*; now extinct in Tennessee and the only one found in Tennessee at that point), mastodon (*Mammuth americanum*; a single tooth), bison (common to Tennessee), musk ox, long-nose peccaries (*Myiobus nasutus*; only the 5th specimen found in Tennessee at that time and the previous four specimens were all collected 400 miles to the east on the other side of the Appalachian Mountains or in Kentucky), swamp rabbits (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*), and cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus* cf. *S. floridanus*), along with several shrews and moles, horse, bobcat, skunk, toad, turtle, and snake; a total 46 individual mammal remains. Notice that many of these animals listed were not cave-dwellers or cave-users, so the sinkhole must have trapped animals that fell into it to die or were washed in over the years the sinkhole was filling in. This is a story not unlike the Gray Fossil Site in north- *Continued, P. 8*

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Fabulous Tennessee Fossils eastern Tennessee, only much more recent in timing.

So, what does this have to do with The Preds? One of the fossils found was the partial remains of two sabertooth “tigers” (*Smilodon floridanus*). *Smilodon*, with its long canine teeth and detachable jaw, was the feared predator of the Pleistocene in our area. The building was finished with part of the cave sealed in such a way that researchers could later re-enter the cave in the future. Some of the *Smilodon* remains stood on display

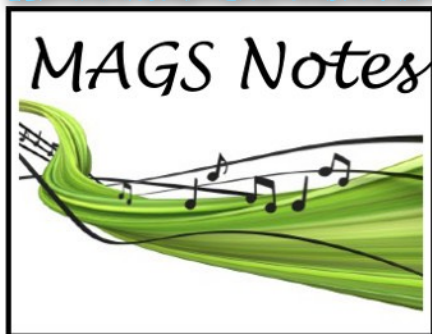
in the entranceway to the bank for many years. The remaining collection is housed in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Vanderbilt University.

When the newly formed hockey team was searching for a logo, several names were entertained. Other discarded names for the Preds were: the Fury, the Attack, and the Ice Tiger. Wanting a name that was unique, easily recognizable, depicted power and aggression, and had a “local flavor”, the idea was hit upon to use the nearby fossil find as the mascot logo. The rest, as they say, is (geo-

logic) history. How many Tennessee sports teams chose a mascot logo that is extinct and based upon a local fossil find (if you know of any, please let me know)?



Figure 1. The mascot logo for the Nashville Predators ice hockey team, based upon the First American Bank *Smilodon* find from 1971.



Adult Programs

May 13: Jerry Potter, Civil War Sultana Disaster

June 24: TBD (note date change)

July 8: Timothy Poole, subject TBD

Junior Programs

Juniors will join adults until Juniors attendance picks up.

Field Trips

May 21: Frankstown day trip

June 18-19: Hot Springs overnight

July 16: Hampson Archeological Museum State Park, Wilson, Arkansas, day trip

New Members

- Amy Anderson-Nance and William Anderson
- Ariel Brummel
- Mary Lynn Carter and children Anneliese & Roland
- Rachel Conner
- Stacy Cowell and grandchildren Enrique, Ullis, & Amber Gonzalez
- Marion Joni and son Yazsin Boeti
- Sarah Jonkus and family
- Gloria Klauser
- Ray Lovelady
- Andrea McGowan and daughter Kady
- Steven McMann, spouse Ann Paterson, and children Kiri & Keagan
- Michelle Rea and daughter Katelyn
- Fred Walsh
- Eve & Joel Webster and daughter Khloe

May Birthdays

- 4 Sunny Finch
- 6 Addison Childer

- 9 Carol Lybanon
- 11 Theresa Childress
- 12 Pam Crumpton Trace Hartman
- 13 James Butchko
- 16 Robert Duncan
- 17 Dave Kitkowski
- 20 Asher Childers Michele Robbins
- 23 Zoe Sams
- 25 Amber Shields
- 27 Kelly Bowen
- 28 Colby Wrasse
- 29 Susan Boyd

Rock Swap

May 30: Lou White residence, 3805 Melanie June Lane, Bartlett, 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Want to Be a Member?

To become a MAGS Member, just go to our website at www.memphisgeology.org and print out an application form. There is a prorated fee schedule for new Members only. Mail *Continued, P. 9*

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This collection, prepared in memory of our Member Leo Koulogianos by Mike Baldwin, was displayed at the recent MAGS Show. All of the items in the case were found and polished by Leo and his wife Jan.

MAGS Notes the completed application along with the dues payment to the Membership Director shown on the form. If you are unable to print the application, you can pick one up at the sign-in desk at any of our Friday night Membership Meetings, or simply join at the meeting. Visitors are always welcome at our Membership Meetings but membership is required to attend our field trips.

The most important benefit of being a MAGS Member is getting to know and make friends with other Members who have similar interest in rocks, minerals, fossils, and archaeology. All new Members will receive a New Member Packet, a MAGS ID card, and a monthly newsletter via email. Members are entitled to go on our monthly field trips and get free admission to our annual Show.



March Board Minutes

Mike Coulson

Called to order 6:30. Present: W.C. McDaniel, Mike Baldwin, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Bonnie Cooper, Bob Cooper, Dave Clarke, James Butchko, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Mike Coulson, Melissa Koontz, Kathy Baker.

New Business: Reduce Show Expenses: Change to email announcements, analyze mailing list and eliminate duplicate addresses, no Friday Night Dinner. Show email has been sent to: Show emailing list, list of past Members, Arkansas list, Federation list, Show patron list (old), miscellaneous addresses. Show notecard sent to all the newsletter editors that club exchanges with, asking them to publicize the Show.

Show: Dates are April 23-24 with move in on April 22. Jim Butchko is the 2022 Show Chair. Received a quote from Event Rentals By Hicks for tables, chairs, curtains. Kathy Baker has designed a Show postcard.

1. Dealers: 25 signed contracts in, 2 in the mail, 1 unsure. We'll probably

- have fewer tables this year.
 - Exhibitors: Delta State, Ole Miss., North Mississippi, Nonconnah Creek Conservancy, MemphisStone & Gravel, Pinson Mounds.
 - Demonstrators/Displays: 901 Rocks, Richard Gunter and two additional flint knappers, Reyna Lee, Rock Food Table.
 - Mailing list has been updated.
 - Email: will use service and/or volunteer Three emails—mid-March, 2 weeks out, week of Show
 - Hard copy: Target sending out late March early/April. One printing of postcard/note card. Print labels, purchase stamps. Request Members to donate stamps or money to buy stamps. Assembly at March Membership Meeting.
 - Sponsorship commitment from Memphis Stone & Gravel.
 - Carol will coordinate volunteers.
 - Able to move on Thursday
 - Topnotch Security does not have the staffing. Jim is talking to another security firm. Exploring other options.
 - Unable to reach Maxwell, not sure if they are still in business. Talking to another company.
 - Received another \$100 donation for the stamps.
 - Bonnie has almost completed web update.
 - Working on program presentation for April 8 meeting.
 - Show Games: Gem Dig, Rocks Around the Clock, Geode Bowling. Carol has around 1000 prizes.
- Secretary:** Minutes were distributed via email and summarized to the Board. Minutes approved
- Treasurer:** Treasurer's report submitted and approved. Request for insurance certificate has been mailed to David Liles. The bank just renewed

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March Board Minutes all 3 of our CD accounts. Interest accrued. *Continued from P. 9*

Membership: 4 new memberships, 4 renewals. March newsletter printed and mailed out.

Field Trips: February 19: DMC field trip to Lost Creek, Gruetil-Laager, TN. March 19: Blue Springs day trip. April 9: Nonconnah Creek day trip. May 21: Frankstown Twenty Mile Creek day trip. June 18-19: Hot Springs overnight trip. July 16: Hampson Archeological Museum State Park, Wilson, Ark Day trip.

August 20-21: Blanchard Springs, Arkansas cave tour, overnight trip.

Adult Programs: Presentations will continue to be in person for 2022 with possibly Zoom in addition. March 11:

Dr. Roy Van Arsdale, Groundwater in Southwestern Tennessee. April: Show. May: Lionel Crews, U.T. Martin, meteorites. June: Jerry Potter, Civil War. July 8: Timothy Poole. August 12: Rock Swap. September: Jennifer Gifford.

Junior Programs: Due to low attendance the Junior Programs will merge with the adults. Until numbers are up, we will have a table set up for youth with activities. March 5, Boy Scout Roundtable, over 1,000 scouts and leaders in attendance. Mike will attend and have large exhibit.

Library: Four new adult and three more children's books added. Eight books returned.

Rock Swaps: August 12, location to be announced.

Editor: March newsletter has been published and distributed. Matthew would like information on all MAGS activities, at least a 3-month schedule. Please send anything Show-related. Other articles and pictures will be gratefully accepted.

Web: Club Website has been updated. Ugrades at ATT make uploading difficult.

Adjourned 7:30.

March Meeting Minutes

Mike Coulson

Presentation: Dr. Roy Van Arsdale, Groundwater in Southwestern Tennessee. About 20 Members showed up on this snowy night and placed address labels and stamps on the Show postcards.

A Message from Your SFMS Safety Committee!

Editor's Note: This article from the Federation is separate from the Federation News section to highlight its importance. Safety is a primary concern in all MAGS activities.

The below is copied from the Infraspection Institute Newsletter dated 6 Mar 2022. Remember this comes from an industrial viewpoint and matches a lot of what we should be doing in our everyday lives. It is noted that Thermography is measuring temperatures in various settings. Some suppliers use this technique to determine the efficiency of your home, looking for hot spots or cold spots.

Many animals and even some people are credited with having a sixth sense for knowing or anticipating events before they happen. The benefits of this seeming-

ly supernatural power can be enjoyed by applying a discipline known as situational awareness.

Situational awareness is a technique that has been practiced by pilots and military personnel for several years. It is a behavior that requires a person to be cognizant of his/her surroundings and to constantly anticipate what might happen next. By being aware of what might happen, one is better able to plan an appropriate response before an event occurs, thereby avoiding surprises.

In the hazardous environments where thermographers frequently work, practicing situational awareness makes sense. Thermographers can apply this discipline by observing the following:

- Always be aware of your immediate surroundings and the hazards contained therein.
- Recognize how the actions of

others might affect your situation.

- Pay attention to weather or environmental conditions that may present a hazard.
- Have a response plan for any emergency that could occur.
- Know where emergency equipment and communications devices are located. Identify both primary and secondary evacuation routes for use in case of an emergency. This is a good lead into our Lapidary nearly everyday hazards. These are in many ways quite obvious and should always be part of our normal practices. The following is a very high level view of the hazards in a couple of our lapidary activities.

For the folks working in silver and glass and other activities using a torch, we review some basics.

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... *SFMS Safety Committee!* Training
Continued from P. 10 on the

use of
the torch is critical and this in-
cludes basic safety. Everyone
should know that a torch can be
your best friend or your worst en-
emy.

Be aware of your surroundings.
In a studio, if you neighbor is
“loose” with their torch, move to a
safer place. A person not in con-
trol of their torch is a hazard to all
around them, including the facili-
ty.

Molten silver or glass keeps
burning, so proper Personal Pro-
tective Equipment is required, in-
cluding long sleeves, long pants
and closed toe shoes.

Pickle pots for your silver can
cause chemical and heat burns.
Tempering furnaces for your glass
pieces can be hazards. Buffing your
silver piece using an “industrial
buffer” needs a particularly safe
approach to minimize damage due
to the rotating buffing wheels.
These can snatch your piece and
turn it into a projectile. The buf-
fing wheels do not care about your
fingers. Particular attention is re-
quired for eye protection in using
the torches, buffing wheels and
pickle. Gloves in many cases are
required.

For those who enjoy cabbing,
Intarsia or sculpting; grinding, cut-
ting and polishing stones need
special attention.

Understand the hazards asso-
ciated with the particular stone.
Does it contain copper, asbestos,
arsenic, silica or other material
that can be detrimental to your
health if not handled properly?

Some of the above need to be
handled very carefully. Always cut
the hazardous materials under
conditions that isolate the hazard.
This may be as simple as covering
with water. If water is not avail-
able, a mask is required. And if
you are generating fine particles,
the “yard” mask is not appropriate.
Consult a Material Data Sheet,
available online if you are not sure
of the material or the level of
mask required.

Are you trained on the equip-
ment that you will be using in cut-
ting or polishing the stone? Are
you able to use the equipment
without damaging yourself or the
machine? We had several instances
where a certified know-it-all dam-
aged multiple wheels on a “Genie”
because she would not listen to
the instructions. And as all know,
“Genies” love fingernails and if
you get too oblivious they also will
“eat” skin.

Cabbing machines also can
generate chips from many stones,
so safety glasses are required. I
have over the years had many
chips bounce off my safety glasses.
Safety glasses with side shields or
goggles are highly recommended.

It should be noted, there are
many more hazards associated
with the two subjects mentioned
above, so training is important.
Personal training from an experi-
enced instructor is the best way to
start these hobbies. Schools like
William Holland and Wildacres
are great resources. So as noted in
the general tone of this article, be
aware of the hazards around you
and be knowledgeable and pre-
pared.

Best regards,
Bob Green
2021 SFMS Safety Committee



HCGMS Show

Did the MAGS Show whet
your appetite? The Harrison
County (Mississippi) Gem & Min-
eral Society will have a show on
May 21 & 22. Hours are 9:00 A.M.-
5:00 P.M. on Saturday and 9:00
A.M.-4:00 P.M. on Sunday. The
location is the Joppa Shrine Tem-
ple, 13280 Shriners Blvd., Biloxi,
Mississippi. Admission is \$5, but
kids 10 and under are free. You can
get more information at [gulfport-
gems.org](http://gulfport-gems.org) or
gulfportgems.show@gmail.com. Or
find it on Facebook.

All That Glitters ...

Matthew Lybanon, Editor

... is not gold, as the saying
goes. That also applies to what
follows.

In the 19th century, British
sailors approaching Hawaii saw a
hillside sparkling in the sun on the
island of Oahu. They thought they
were seeing precious gems. That,
of course, is how Diamond Head
got its name.

But they weren't diamonds.
These "diamonds" were actually
shiny calcite crystals. Any MAG-
Sters who have been to calcite
sites like Eminence know how cal-
cite glitters in the sun.

Lē'ahi (the earliest known
name) is believed to have been
formed about 300,000 years ago
during a single, brief eruption. To-
day it's the most recognized land-
mark in Hawaii.

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

MAGS At A Glance May 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Zoom Board Meeting, 6:30 pm	6	7
8 	9	10	11	12	13 Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm, "Sultana Disaster"	14 DMC Field Trip, Bayou Pierre, MS
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 MAGS Field Trip, Frankstown, MS (20 Mile Creek)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Memorial Day Rock Swap, Lou White residence, 10:00 am-2:00 pm	30	31	1	2	3	4

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society
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