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MOSASAUR

Recently, MAGS club member Dan Reed, along with Don Blalock, a previous MAGS club member, were digging around the Birmingham Ridge lime pit when they stumbled upon a few bone fragments, one of which had an obvious tooth protruding from it. After the guys did some research and



made some inquiries from several marine paleontologists, it was suggested that what they found were the partial remains of a fossilized Mosasaur. The Mosasaur was a serpentine marine reptile that lived in the Cretaceous Period and are considered to be the closest relative of snakes due to similarities in their jaw and skull anatomies. Mosasaurs were not dinosaurs, but lepidosaurs (reptiles with overlapping scales). The Mosasaur had four paddle-like limbs on a long, streamlined body followed by a very long and powerful tail. Their jaws were loosely hinged to allow them

to swallow large prey, much like snakes do today.



The following photographs are of the specimens found by Dan and Don.

(cont'd page 5)

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ter@comcast.net

President's Corner



Boy, is it hot...the calendar says it's the first week of June but the thermometer says mid-July! Be careful out there and remember to drink LOTS of water! No breaking news this month but just a reminder for those of you who haven't seen or used our Club Room. More classes are planned so watch your email and the newsletters for information on upcoming activities. The room kicked off with a well attended open house and, so far, six classes have been held and attended by 34 of your fellow club members...there have been five equipment use and orientation sessions as well as several cutting sessions. Thanks again to all of you who have so generously donated your time, equipment, money, and, most of all, your knowledge, skill and expertise. If you would like to volunteer to teach a small class about something you about and enjoy doing (beading, wire wrapping, cutting, polishing, mosaic tile work, even macramé, knitting or crocheting, contact WC McDaniel to arrange a time to do so. The room is located at 777 So. Cox just south of Central Avenue. See you at the meeting!

Sandy

“Best of Show and Found Display Contest” Rules

To display and compete each member is requested to:

1. Bring a single specimen from the location listed in the table on the right (collected on a MAGS field trip or at the same collection site at another time).
2. You must have found the specimen yourself.
3. Specimen must be in original form or, if changed/modified, only through lapidary or prep work.
4. Juniors and adults are combined for this contest.
5. One winner will be selected. Winner will determine by members using a point rating from 3(high) to 1(low).
6. Winner will receive a certificate and entry into the Best of Show event in December. A special prize will be awarded to the Best of Show winner at the December Christmas Party.

Best of Show

Month	Type of Material	Location	Winner
March	Druze Quartz	Missouri	David Day
April	Petrified Wood	MS, TN, AR	Carol Lybanon
May	Quartz Crystal	Arkansas	Wayne Williams
June	Fossil	Vulcan or Dale Hollow	
July	No Display—Mineral Sale		
August	No Display— Rock Swap Fund Raiser for Shop		
September	Agate	Gravel bars or pits, etc.	
October	Fossil	Frankstown or Birmingham Ridge	
November	Geode	Ledbetter or Pharis Farm	
December	Winners from previous months compete for “BEST OF SHOW.”		



Announcements & Tidbits

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

This month we welcome quite a few new members to MAGS. Ken and Judy Faulkner; Mary and Sidney Selvidge, Margaret Selvidge and Sidney Selvidge IV; Kasia Ferguson, Ethan Ferguson and Hugh Ferguson, Fred, Rhonda, Gavin and Kara Hidaji. Additionally, we welcome back Steve Eddelmon, who renewed his membership. A big welcome to each of you and we look forward to seeing you at the membership meetings, field trips and rock swaps!



2008 Adult Program Presentations

June 13

Mike Howard, Arkansas State Geologist
"Introduction to the Visual and Physical Properties of Minerals"

July 11

MAGS Mineral Sale

August 8

MAGS Annual Indoor Picnic and Rock Swap

September 11

Robert P. Connolly, Director
Chucalissa

October 9

Alan Parks & Ron Brister
The Geological & Paleontological History of
Nonconnah Creek

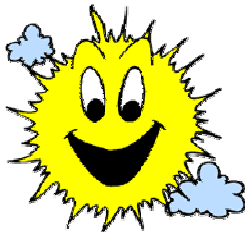
Youth Program Presentations

June	Soap Sculpture	David Day
July	Crafts	The Lybanons
August	Indoor Picnic/Rock Swap with Adults	
Sept	Study of Mining	Alan Parks
October	Civil War Artifacts	Lou White
November	Fossil & Mineral ID	Idajean Jordan
December	Holiday Party with Adults	

MAGS Clubhouse Activities

On the dates to the right, the club room will be open for:	Tuesdays 5:30 pm—7:30 pm June 10, 17, 24 Saturdays 11:00 am—1:00 pm July 5, 12, 19 Sundays 1:00 pm—3:00pm July 13, 20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment Orientation at a cost of \$10 Equipment use by those who have already completed orientation Members can bring in materials to be cut for a fee. 	
Design and make your own earrings! \$10 fee plus cost of materials. Advanced registration required.	Sunday June 15 1:00pm—3:00pm
Sort mineral collection for July 11th sale.	Sunday June 22 1:00pm—3:00pm
Additional classes will be Announced.	Sunday July 13, 20 1:00 pm—3:00 pm

Sunshine Report



Good news!

No illnesses or injuries to report!

Pam Gurley

If you have any announcements to include in the sunshine report, please contact Pam Gurley at 324-7235



WC McDaniel: A year ago MAGS' members Alan and Cathie Jacobs suffered the tragedy of losing their son, Ethan, to a homicide. The past year has been one of grief and pain, yet they have found the time, emotion and energy to make a commitment to remember Ethan and to become active in crime awareness, victim rights and legislative/legal issues. They have done this with great grace and dignity. On this one year anniversary, Cathie sent me this poem and I would like to share it with all MAGS members:

*Never take someone for granted
Hold every person close to your heart
Because you might wake up one day
And realize that you've lost a diamond
While you were too busy collecting stones*

Mosasaur (continued from front page)

Look closely for the tooth — actually you don't have to look all that closely. As if these weren't fabulous enough, they also found several shark teeth, a fossilized bone vertebra and several fossilized shark vertebra. It would have to be said that they had a pretty good day in the field!

Sources: (1) [Wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com); (2) <http://www.piinc.biz/librarymosasaur.htm>

Photo sources: (1) http://crossroadsjournalismcentre.com/images/Feature_articles/mosasaur/mosasaur_nhm.jpg (2) <http://www.piinc.biz/librarymosasaur.htm> (3) Photographs taken by Dan Reed



June Birthdays



SHELBY HARTMAN: The pearl, an organic gem, is formed inside of a mollusk, such as oysters and mussels. They form when a tiny irritant is introduced into the mollusk's shell. A lustrous substance known as nacre is secreted by the mollusk around the irritant to

protect the soft internal surface of the mollusk's shell. As layer upon layer of nacre coats the irritant, a pearl is formed. The process of building a solid pearl can take seven or eight years.

The most valuable pearls are perfectly symmetrical, relatively large and naturally produced. The principal oyster beds are in Persian Gulf, along the coasts of Sri Lanka and India and in the Red Sea. Chinese pearls are primarily freshwater, while Japanese pearls are found near the coast in salt water. Pearls are quite soft and range from 2.5-4.5 on the Mohs Scale. Pearls vary in color from white to pink, brown and black.

There are two alternative birthstones for the month of June: alexandrite and moonstone.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 Maggie Gembala | 23 Ann Fields |
| 5 Allen Thom | 25 Doris Johnston Jones |
| 7 Patti Cherry | 25 Danielle Schaeffer |
| 7 Edward DeVoe | 25 Lauren Schaeffer |
| 9 Robert Junklas | 27 Sarah Easley |
| 10 Kristopher Helms | 27 Priya Tummalapalli |
| 13 Sherri McCalla | 29 Jennifer Baldwin |
| 16 Gabriel Wheeler | 29 Cornelia McDaniel |
| 16 Ann Williams | 30 Luciano Sejas |
| 18 Debbie Schaeffer | |
| 19 Norman Daniels | |
| 19 Dan Reed | |
| 20 Melissa Johnston | |
| 20 Vivian Sharpe | |
| 21 Allen Helt | |

2008 Dates to Remember

Month	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Submissions
June	June 05	June 13	May 25
July	July 03	July 11	June 22
August	July 31	Aug 08	July 20
September	Sep 04	Sep 12	Aug 24
October	Oct 02	Oct 10	Sep 21
November	Nov 06	Nov 14	Oct 26
December	Dec 04	Dec 12	Nov 23

Web Site Statistics for May 2008

a brief look at our website (www.memphisgeology.org) since 1/21/02

Total Visits & Hits

Total visits to web site	323,653
Total hits to web site	1,214,127
Visits in past 30 days	8,966
Hits in past 30 days	35,953
Average daily visits (past 30 days)	298

Top page views past 30 days

homepage	756 hits
rocknews1508	507 hits
rocknews1005	457 hits
rocknews0408	322 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 Augusta Gem & Mineral Society (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society**

**9:00 AM, Saturday, June 28, 2008
Thermal City Gold Mine
Union Mills, North Carolina**

FEE: \$5.00 to pan all day / \$30 for front-end load

TRIP: This is an unsalted site and we have had success finding gold here. The mine's aim is to provide an authentic experience. This mine is located on the actual site of the earliest placers of Rutherford County. It opened in 1830 and has produced gold ever since then.

COLLECTING: Thermal City Gold Mine consists of a one-half mile section of the Second Broad River and about 30 acres of Placer Gravel Deposits having one of the seven veins from the mountain supplying it. Panning material is brought from the river by backhoe for you to pan. The gravel is not "enhanced or enriched". The gold found here is in its natural state- right where nature deposited it. Gold is found as nuggets- small nuggets. Ample shade, parking, and instruction in panning are always available when needed.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Camping facilities with full hook-ups to primitive are available on a first come basis. Call 828-286-3016 for rates. No drugs, alcohol, or firearms are allowed. The grounds are almost level and a short distance from panning to camping and restrooms.

Children : Welcome with Adult Supervision / Pets: Pets allowed on leash

BRING: Shovels and pans are furnished or you can bring your own. Other equipment is for rent/purchase.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: We will meet at the mine at 9am E.D.T.

From Spartanburg, SC and I-85 take US Rt 221 north through the town of Rutherfordton, NC to the northern edge of Thermal City, NC. The mine is located on the right side of Rt. 221 about 12 miles north of Rutherfordton near the Rutherford/McDowell county line. Drive Time: From I-85 in Spartanburg, SC it is approximately 25 miles and will take about 30 minutes drive time.

CONTACT: Contact numbers: phone: 828-286-3016, e-mail address: info@thermalcitygoldmine.com

Website: <http://www.thermalcitygoldmine.com/>

Postal address: 5240 US Rt. 221, Union Mills, NC 28167

"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

MC Program / SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose: To collect field trip information from its member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.

Please reply by e-mail to: dmc@gamineral.org World Wide Web site for the DMC is: <http://www.gamineral.org/dmc.htm>

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Copyright © All rights reserved.

April 2008 Board of Directors Meeting Notes : CAROL LYBANON

The MAGS Board of Directors met April 3 at the Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. Those present were: Sandy Ward, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, David Day, Ron Brister, Mike Cannito, W.C. McDaniel, Ida-jean Jordan, Mike Baldwin, Cathie Jacobs, Barry Burns, and Lou White. The minutes from the March Board & General Meetings were reviewed and approved as corrected. **Treasurer's Report:** Mike Cannito corrected a slight error (date change next to his signature) in the February report. The March report was approved as submitted, subject to audit. **Field Trips:** David Day reported that our April field trip will be to Birmingham Ridge on April 19. There is a possibility of visiting more than one site; details will be available at the Membership Meeting. **Adult Programs:** W.C. McDaniel reported that he has programs lined up through September. This month's program will be on the show. **Youth Programs:** Mike Baldwin reiterated the youth program subjects through December 2008. The April program will be on Native American Culture, given by Nancy Folden. Mike is working on a youth field trip, spending the night in a cave. **Displays:** W.C. McDaniel reported that there were four entries last month. This month's topic is petrified wood found in this area. He hopes to see more people bringing in petrified wood. **Library:** Ron Brister checked on the prices of cabinets. He found them from \$350-\$400. He offered to finance a cabinet, if we can get permission to store it at the church. Ron would like to offer small local fossil collections for circulation. Another cabinet would provide space to store the collections. **Webmaster:** He hasn't received the April newsletter yet. Sandy Ward stated that it would be helpful if we could put a more obvious link to membership information on the home page. Some people told her they had trouble finding the information. Sandy also suggested that we resume the practice of writing (and posting) articles on each field trip. **Membership:** Mike Cannito introduced Ken and Judy Faulkner for membership. The Board approved the application. **Rock Swap:** Cathie Jacobs listed the rock swaps for 2008. Usually they take place the weekend after the Membership Meeting. The schedule is: May is open (maybe Jimmy McNeil); June, Charlie McPherson; July, Lou White (Sunday afternoon); August, no rock swap; September, Melinda Warren and Carl Warren; October Alan Parks (not confirmed). **Show:** W.C. McDaniel reported that we are fully booked. Demonstrations are set and exhibits are ready. We will again provide Friday night dinner, but we will only provide drinks and snacks on Satur-

day and Sunday. **Old Business:** Mike Cannito gave out reimbursement forms. W.C. McDaniel questioned whether the funding for the club room had been passed. We reviewed the motion, and Mike Cannito wrote a check for two months' rent. W.C. will deliver it. W.C. McDaniel has club show tickets available, and he reminded people to sign them before giving them out. There was no update on the WKNO auction. David Day will check on it. **New Business:** None. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

April 2008 Membership Meeting Notes : CAROL LYBANON

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on April 11. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 P.M., with 46 members and 5 visitors. The visitors were: Michala Demo, Kasia Ferguson, Ethan Ferguson, Chris Ferguson, and Hugh Ferguson. Pam Gurley welcomed visitors. David Day gave the details of our next field trip. It will take place on April 19, and will go to Birmingham Ridge, near Tupelo, MS. David asked that those interested sign up and give cell phone numbers, to make it easier to inform participants of last-minute changes. Sandy Ward said that all the announcements were show-related, and would be covered in the program. She asked that members pass out blue show postcards and member tickets. James Butchko asked people to turn in grab bags, filled or otherwise. The plans are to get together Thursday night, April 24, at 5:30 P.M., in the Pipkin Building to help fill the remaining grab bags. **Old Business:** None. **New Business:** W.C. McDaniel announced that next week's Cash and Treasures television show will go to the mine in Georgia where we had a DMC field trip a few years ago. There were eight displays of petrified wood from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, as entries in the best of show contest. Carol Lybanon was the winner. Next month's display topic will be quartz crystals. Sandy Ward turned the meeting over to W.C. McDaniel for the program. He showed our "Cash and Treasures" grand prize, valued at \$700. He outlined different phases of the show. There will be about 29 dealers from 15 states, including 5 new dealers, occupying 250 tables. The space is nearly filled up. Cornelia McDaniel solicited volunteers to work at the show. Neville Mayfield outlined plans for the Rock Zone. Dick McKitrick talked about our hospitality table, where shirts, cookbooks, and other items will be sold. James Butchko talked about grab bags, which sold out early last year. We hope to have at least 500 this year. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

MAGS JUNE FIELD TRIP

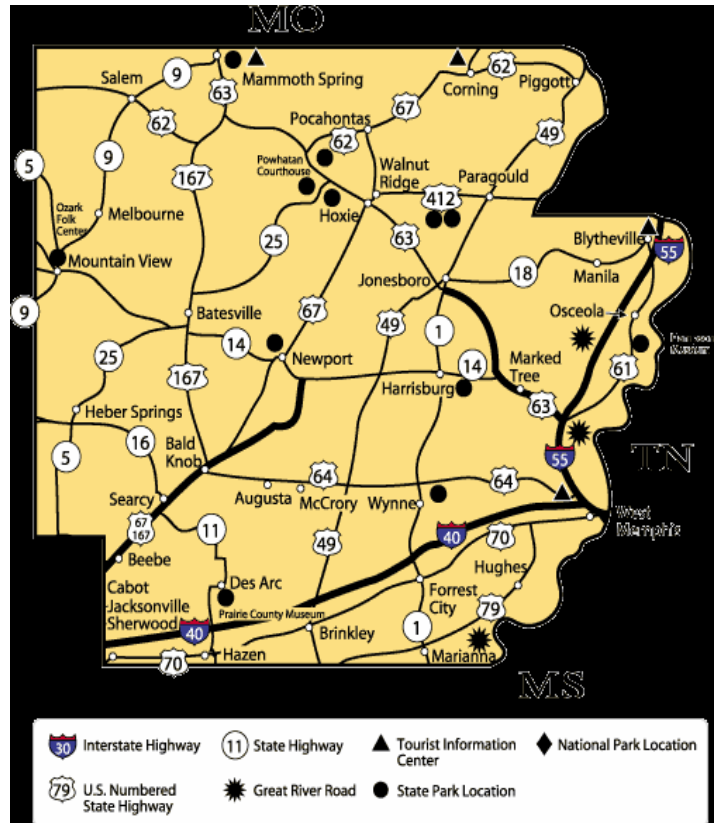
This month's field trip will be a Crowley's Ridge Field Study to be conducted by Paul Sides. He has asked those attending this field trip to meet at the southwest side of the Wynne Wal-Mart parking lot at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 14th. Early arrivals are invited to meet Paul at the Starlight Restaurant on the south side of U.S. Highway 64 west of Wal-Mart at 7:00am for breakfast or coffee.

From the Memphis bridge go west on I-40 to West Memphis, AR. Take I-55 North to Marion, AR. Take the Wynne or Highway 64 exit west to Wynne. (Watch your speed limit especially in Earl and Parkin, AR.)

The collecting site will be along the Hidden Valley Tributary of Copperas Creek. There you may find petrified wood, agates, jasper, oolite, fossiliferous chert, chalcedony and geodes. You may also dig for Eocene fossils 48-52 million years old. Among the Eocene fossils are sharks' teeth, alligators, crocodiles, rays, cutlass fish and other bony fish, sea turtles and whales.

As far as tools, Paul suggests a backpack or buckets, gloves, goggles, bayonet or straight knife for digging, zip lock bags or plastic containers for specimens, paper to wrap fossils or rocks, paper towels and newspaper, geologist's pick, water/drinks and a sack lunch/snack. (Lunch in Wynne is also an option.)

Also, Paul advises that blueberries are in season. If anyone wants to pick blueberries, he suggests doing it early in the morning. Be sure and bring an ice chest to keep the picked berries cool.



ROCK SWAP!

Saturday, June 21 / 11:00am to 2:00 pm
295 Hilltop Circle, Brighton, TN

The June rock swap will be at the home of former MAGS life member Charley McPherson. Prior to his death in 2004, Charley hosted many rock swaps. One of the big features of his rock swaps was the opportunity to see his collection of minerals, fossils and petrified wood. The collection will be opened for viewing. *"It's well worth the drive."*

There will be a potluck style picnic so bring enough for yourself and about 15-20 others. MAGS will provide the cutlery, plates and napkins. If you wish to sell or swap come prepared with your display table.

Direction from 240/I-40

Exit 8 Austin Peay/Highway 14 North.

Travel 23.4 miles to Hilltop Cir. Turn left. Just before turn a white/orange building will be on the left. At first glance Hilltop may look like a private drive.

295 Hilltop is fifth house on right, white mailbox with McPherson name. Members coming from Collierville may want to take 385 toward Millington, exiting onto Highway

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The main purpose of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society is to promote and advance the knowledge of the Lapidary Sciences in the mining, identification, cutting, polishing and mounting of gems, minerals and fossils to the utmost of our geological and lapidary capabilities.

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AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 7th—95 • Small Bulletin Honorable Mention—04, 05, 06 • Adult Article 10th—04; Honorable Mention—05 (x2), 06 (x2) • Junior Article 3rd—98; 8th—03 • Special Pub 4th—03

SFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 1st—86; 2nd—88, 97 • New Editor (Explorer) 4th—03 • Certificate of Excellence—89, 90, 91, 92, 93 • Large Bulletin 1st—87 • Small Bulletin 1st—04, 2nd—06, 4th—03, 3rd—07 • Special Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st—03, 07 • Adult Article 1st—06, 2nd—89, 90, 04, 06; 3rd—92; 4th—85, 04, 07; 5th—91, 03, 07; 6th—87; 8th—04, 07; Honorable Mention—03, 04, 07 • Adult Poetry—07

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

JUNE 2008

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					

June 5	6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
June 13	7:30 p.m.	Membership Meeting, Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road
June 14	8:00 a.m.	MAGS Field Trip to Crowley's Ridge—Meet in Wynne AR
June 21	11am-2pm	Rock Swap at the home of Charley McPherson in Brighton, TN
June 28	9:00am	DMC Field Trip to Thermal City Goldmine in Union Mills, NC



MAGS Rockhound News
5116 Whiteway Drive
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