



Volume 57 ♦ Number 06 ♦ June 2011 ♦ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

Fluorite In Kentucky

The Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum



Fluorite (often called spar or fluorospar) is a mineral whose crystal system is isometric with cubic crystals, more often massive. It has excellent octahedral cleavage, and may be broken into triangular-faced fragments. Its color may be white, purple, green,

yellow, or brown, and its hardness: is 4.0. Massive fluorite may resemble calcite, but it is heavier and does not effervesce when treated with hydrochloric acid. It is distinguished from gypsum and quartz by its hardness.

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JUNE 4-5 FIELD TRIP, BEN E. CLEMENT MUSEUM, MARION, KENTUCKY

The June MAGS field trip will coincide with the 6th Annual Ben E. Clement Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show. The museum, in Marion, KY, has an enormous collection of specimens, equipment, documents, and photographs from what was formerly the leading fluorite-producing area in the United States.



The museum is at 201 North Walker Street in Marion. Aside from the expected vendors, speakers, kids activities, and demonstrations, this show also provides opportunities to dig for fluorite in area mines. Registration for the digs begins at 9:00 A.M. For more information, contact field trip leader Marc Mueller, (615) 491-5110.

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ

I'm proud to announce that W. C. McDaniel has, after much deliberation, graciously accepted the appointed position of Show Chairperson for 2012. And again, much thanks to W. C. for a job well done in 2011.

It's too hot for me to collect in the field, due to creepy crawlers, poison ivy, ticks, and skeeters. So I'm using my time to sort through what I've already collected, and maybe even get it cleaned.

Don't forget to bring refreshments to the next MAGS meeting.

That is all I have to say.

The Prez

June Program

Geoscience (flooding, to be exact) was responsible for a last-minute change in the May program. Mike Howard was unable to get to Memphis except by a time-consuming, circuitous route, so he had to cancel. But he will try again in June.

The title of his talk will be "Quartz Crystals of the Ouachita Mountains, from Native Americans to Today." Mike is well known to MAGSters, having given several outstanding presentations, as well as being a regular at our Show. He is Geology Supervisor with the Arkansas Geological Survey. Mike has been with the Arkansas Geological Survey for 35 years, and is recognized as an expert on quartz and the geology of Arkansas in general. His Rockhounding Arkansas website,

www.rockhoundingar.com/index.php,

is a good way to get acquainted with the subject matter of his talk. We hope Mother Nature cooperates this time.

Upcoming Display Themes

June: Under the Sea

July: Wood (petrified, unless you've kept a tree growing for a *really* long time)

August: Dinosaurs and Fossils

continued from P. 1 The Kentucky-Illinois fluorspar area once was ranked first in the United States in the production of fluorite. In Kentucky, commercial deposits occur in Caldwell, Crittenden, and Livingston Counties.

One of the most outstanding collections of fluorite is the Clement fluorite collection, located in Marion, Kentucky. Marion is in Crittenden County, home to Kentucky's largest Amish community. This collection consists of various specimens of fluorite collected by Mr. Ben Clement while he worked in the fluorspar district. Mr. Clement assembled over 50,000 pieces of fluorspar from 1920 until his death in 1980.



Fluorite and Quartz on Limestone
Eureka Prospect
Crittenden Co., KY
(close-up)

Since most of the mines are now closed, a visit to this collection is the best way to view the beautiful colored fluorites. In addition to guided tours of the museum, the Clement conducts fee-based field trips to local fluorite mines and prospects, including the Columbia Mine and Eureka Prospect. In addition to fluorite, smithsonite, sphalerite, cerussite, galena, hemimorphite, hydrozincite, quartz, and pyromorphite

may be found in spoil pile material.



The Clement Mineral Museum displays a portion of the lifelong collection of Ben E Clement, one of the giants of Kentucky mining.

Juniors Corner

Carol Lybanon

Hi, Juniors,

Thank you, Matthew Lybanon, for an informative talk on magnetism. If you missed this meeting you missed getting a magnetite sample to add to your rock/mineral collection. So, don't miss the June meeting. We will talk about coal. In July, W. C. McDaniel will tell us about megalodons.



Juniors, we always need supplies for our meetings. We need empty coffee cans for a

future program. Please help by bringing empty coffee cans to our meeting.

Parents, if you would like to present a program or have ideas for programs please call me: Carol. (901) 757-2144.

See you at the meeting.

Junior 'Paleontologists' Discover 11,500-Year-Old Mastodon Hair

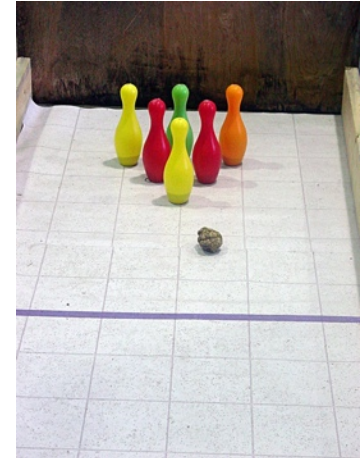
Earlier this year, Linda Azaroff's fourth-grade class received a 2.2-pound (1-kilogram) box containing what one student described as a "clump of dirt." This wasn't just any dirt. The return address was the Mastodon Matrix Project, a program that began in 1999 as a collaboration between the Paleological Research Institution (PRI) and Cornell University. The dirt was matrix collected from a backyard in Hyde Park, N. Y., in 2000, when an attempt to deepen a backyard pond uncovered mastodon remains.

Excavators carted away 10,000 kg of matrix from around the bones, far too much to sort through. So they turned to citizen scientists who volunteered for the Mastodon Matrix Project. Some of those scientists were too young to have earned their Ph. D.'s. The fourth graders at Landisville Intermediate Center in Pennsylvania had a chance to become paleontologists.

The matrix arrived with a set of instructions that guided the class through the same basic process—such as sifting through

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Geode Bowling At The 2011 Show



continued from P. 3 samples with their fingers and toothpicks—professional paleontologists would use as they searched for bits of the 11,500-year-old mastodon along with shells, twigs, seeds and other fossils. A fourth-grade class doesn't typically have the most sophisticated scientific equipment, but the students were armed with plastic magnifying glasses.

The students all agreed on their favorite find: an 8-inch long hair that turned up in Elliot De La Torre's matrix. He described it as black and really stiff. "It could not have been a human hair," he said.

All of the students examined the hair, which had been embedded in the soil, through their magnifying glasses and found that it did not resemble human, dog or cat hair, Azaroff recounted. The conclusion was unavoidable: it came from the mastodon.

"The children felt they had touched and handled something that was thousands of years old," she wrote in an email.

As with other finds, the hair was weighed, bagged, and returned to PRI in New York. Researchers at PRI confirmed the findings of Ms. Azaroff's class. Sure enough, the junior scientists were right.

"The hardest part was probably actually seeing the stuff," because it's so tiny, said Ben Henry. "The best part was trying to figure out what things were there because I really never saw those things in my life before," said Diamondli Lopez. "I liked it when I got dirty," said Kyle Luong.

Real science!

Readers can see the young paleontologists by going to: <http://www.hempfieldsd.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.hempfieldsd.org/lic>

Show Report

W. C. McDaniel

The dealers have packed up and gone on to other shows. The club has packed and returned club material and displays to the storage shed.

The show committee is in the process of winding down, evaluating and assessing the 2011 show and making some tentative 2012 plans. The dates are April 28-29 with show set up Thursday, April 26 and dealer setup Friday, April 27. Get an early start by marking your calendar.

While a more complete show report will be available later the show's attendance was down, primarily on Easter Sunday. Admission income was stable and up in Rockzone and Information areas.

June Rock Swap

Nannett McDougal-Dykes

When? Saturday, June 18, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Where? 9869 Taylor Drive, Olive Branch, MS

Phone: (662) 890-4126

The next rock swap will be Saturday, June 18, at Jim and Hisami McNeil's home. MAGS will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs. Everyone

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continued from P. 4 else please make a side dish or dessert. The McNeils will have things to swap. It's more fun if you bring something to sell or trade.

DIRECTIONS

From Memphis

From I-240 turn south on Lamar (US 78). Take Exit 6 in Olive Branch (15-20 miles; Bethel Road and Hacks Cross Road). At stop sign turn left onto Hacks Cross Road. 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) and 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 say-

ing Lees Crossing, Fairfield Estates) and 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).

New Library Books

Ron Brister

702 Moore 1994 *A Geologic Trip Across Tennessee by Interstate 40* Geology Tennessee

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704 Brown 1957 *Indian Invention of New World Foods and Breakfast at Tanasqui* Archaeology Tennessee

705 Dowd 1972 *The West Site: A Stone Box Cemetery in Middle Tennessee* Archaeology Tennessee

706 Pan American 2005 *Limited Inventory Historic Steamboat Losses Lower Mississippi River Memphis* Archaeology Tennessee

707 Simpson 1977 *New Mexico Gem Trails* Geology New Mexico

708 Zeitner 1956 *Midwest Gem Trails* Geology Midwest

709 Cushing 1964 *General Geology of the Mississippi Embayment*. Geology Tennessee

710 Halliday 1974 *American Caves and Caving* Geology Caves

711 Keller 1999 *Introduction to Environmental Geology* Geology Physical

712 Wyckoff 1999 *Reading the Earth: Landforms in the Making* Geology Physical

713 Small 1978 *The Study of Landforms* Geology Physical

714 Ballard 1955 *The Uranium Prospector's Guide* Geology Prospecting

715 Barnes-Svarney 2004 *The Handy Geology Answer Book* Geology

716 Russell 2001 *Encyclopedia of Rocks, Minerals, and Gemstones* Geology Rocks and Minerals

717 Pinney 1962 *Complete Book of Cave Exploration* Geology Caves

718 Farlow 1997 *The Complete Dinosaur* Geology Dinosaurs

719 Mitchell 1996 *The Rockhound's Handbook* Geology Prospecting

720 Fortey 1991 *Fossils: The Key to the Past* Geology Paleontology

721 Norman 1994

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Collecting Geodes in Nameless, Tennessee

Photos by Kim Hill



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Prehistoric Life: The Rise of the Vertebrates Geology Paleontology

722 Eldredge 1991 *Fossils: The Evolution and Extinction of Species* Geology Paleontology

723 Turek 1988 *Fossils of the World* Geology Fossils



Dylan (Robert Duncan's grandson) found a good one at the Coleman Mine

March 2011 Board Meeting Minutes, Marc Mueller

1. MEMBERS PRESENT:

Neville Mayfield, Doris Johnston, Ron Brister, Paul Sides, Lou White, Charles Hill, Alan Schaeffer

2. REPORTS:

a. *Treasurer:* Our association dues have now been paid.

b. *Membership:* Four renewals and two new memberships have

been received since the last board meeting.

c. *Programs:* The next program will be the geology of the Wells Creek Impact Structure presented by Ron Clendenning. The April program will be on the annual show.

d. *Field Trips:* The Wells Creek trip has been rescheduled to March 20th, and the trip to Vulcan Quarry will be March 26th.

e. *Juniors:* No info available.

f. *Library:* Some new books have been received. New metal cabinets are to be purchased, and help will be needed to assemble them.

g. *Newsletter:* Our new editor, Matthew Lybanon, has distributed the new newsletter.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

a. W.C. McDaniel is in the hospital with a blood clot in his leg. Cornelia will keep us posted on his progress. This event emphasizes the importance of the Assistant Show Committee Chair being fully integrated into the organizing of the show. A consensus was reached that we need a written show planning and procedures guide and separate guides for each show committee position, containing duties, procedures, contacts, deadlines, etc.

b. A national balloon/glider-ride business is offering a free balloon-ride to help charity/non-profit organizations raise money. Neville Mayfield will check into the details.

c. Ron Brister suggested we help sponsor the Chucalissa project to reconstruct a chief's house

and temple over approximately three years.

d. Paul Sides reported that Rada Cutlery Company will give non-profit organizations 40% from their sales of knives and kitchen utensils—something for us to consider as a fund-raising opportunity.

April 2011 Board Meeting Minutes, Marc Mueller

The MAGS Board of Directors met March 31, at St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Ave. Present were: Lou White, Mike Baldwin, Carol and Matthew Lybanon, Marc Mueller, Alan Schaeffer, Ron Brister, Neville Mayfield, W.C. McDaniel, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Doris Jones, Charles Hill, Paul Sides

Paul Sides called the meeting to order.

Secretary: Neville Mayfield read the minutes.

Membership: Neville Mayfield—several new members have joined.

Treasurer: Report—Doris Jones. Bank started a new policy of charging \$17 per month unless at least \$10,000 is held in balance. At Doris's request, the bank has changed the account to a non-profit version in which there is no monthly charge. However, the bank cautioned that it may start such charges in the future on non-profit accounts.

Field Trips: April 16 Vulcan Rock Quarry Parsons, Quartz Mine in May, and Fluorite Trip to Marion, KY in June.

Adult Program: April: W.C. will present Show items.

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MAY 28-29 FIELD TRIP TO FIDDLER'S RIDGE

An enthusiastic group of MAGSters dug for quartz at Fiddler's Ridge (Bear Mountain Mine) in Mount Ida, Arkansas. The afternoon temperatures got up into the 90s, but there was a good breeze up on the mountain and the hunting was good.

Mount Ida, the seat of Montgomery County (a large portion, 63%, is part of the Ouachita National Forest), is 32 miles west of Hot Springs on US 270. The area is on the eastern slope of the Ouachita Mountains, which is where the mines are found.

The word "mine" conjures up visions of dark underground tunnels. But the crystal mines around Mount Ida are open pit surface mines. The crystal is found in clay pockets along quartz veins. The picture shows what that means in practice.

Those MAGSters who missed the field trip are likely to see some of the quartz clusters found there at the next meeting. Eat your heart out! Even the yard rocks are spectacular.

On another note, what is that nagging sense that you've heard the name Mount Ida in connection with

something else? Those old enough to remember when Jack Paar was host of the *Tonight Show* may also remember Charley Weaver's "Letters from Momma." The letters came from Mt. Idy (location not given). Cliff Arquette (head of the Arquette show business



family), who played Charley Weaver, remembered as a child hearing his mother read aloud letters from a family friend who had moved to tiny Mount Ida.



Yes, the picture of "The Wave" in Arizona is pretty spectacular. But the MAGS Rockhound News would rather publish pictures that MAGSters send in, showing their families and friends (and them-

Your Pictures Could Be Here

selves) involved in the kind of activities you joined MAGS to do.

It's easy to submit pictures (or articles). Just email them to lybanon@earthlink.net. Send pictures of your kids (preferably collecting, of course), articles about places to find good stuff, or anything else that's interesting. The newsletter is for you, the members. So if it's interesting to you it will be interesting to the other members.

Another good topic for pictures is the Show. Send in your best shots.



PICTURES WITH THE DINOSAUR ARE ONLINE

One of the new features at the 2011 Show was pictures with the dinosaur. Kids (some of them on their second time around) posed in front of Phillip Loveland's giant dinosaur replica and had their pictures taken. Those pictures are available online, for free viewing and download. Simply go to the MAGS website, memphisgeology.org, and find the picture of the dinosaur and friends. Just click the link under that picture.



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Junior Program: Carol Lybanon:

April—Design and make posters that can be used at the show.

May—Matthew Lybanon will do a presentation on Magnetism.

June—Carol will teach a program on coal and fossil fuel

Show: Neville Mayfield:

Food vendors have been established for the show, Leonard's for the dinner and McAlisters for show items. Any drinks brought to the show have to be Coke products.

Boy Scout program on Saturday.

Library: New books have arrived. New bookcases have been assembled and are ready to go to the church.

Newsletter: Matthew Lybanon. April Newsletter is almost ready.

Historian/Rock Swap: Tentatively, Jimmy McNeil may be available for a rock swap.

New Business: North MS Gem and Mineral Society is starting a new project called Scout Badge

day. They charge \$15 per Scout. They make about \$3000. Maybe we can look at that as a project for next year.

April 2011 Membership Meeting Minutes, Marc Mueller

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on April 8. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Marc Mueller opened the meeting.

Neville Mayfield introduced the guests: Brenda Winstead and Michael & Kathy Foppiano. Sixty six members were in attendance.

For trips a Makeup Field trip planned to Vulcan quarry at Parsons, TN, on April 16. Signup is in the back of the room.

Librarian introduced new books to the collection.

The Juniors adjourned and commenced with their project of making posters for the Earth Wide Open.

W.C. McDaniel announced the schedule of events for the annual Earth Wide Open show April 23 & 24 at the Agricenter.

www.theearthwideopen.com/

He displayed one of the Easter Baskets that would be given away. An appeal for volunteers was made and volunteers signed up on the schedule.

Federation News: SFMS Stamp Program

The cut-off date for stamp donations to this year's SFMS Stamp program is August 1st. SFMS Stamp Program Chair, Jim Robinson, will no longer accept stamps after August 1, 2011. Furthermore, the 2012 SFMS stamp program will be open for a volunteer to assume all of the duties of Chairman. Jim Robinson is willing to train his replacement but he will no longer be able to continue as the Stamp Program Chair next year. Please contact SFMS President, Barbara Green, if you are interested in heading up this important SFMS program for 2012.

Barbara Green
110 Sycamore Dr.
Marietta, SC 29661

E-mail Address:
greentop@bellsouth.net

Fossil Collecting at Blue Springs

Photos by Kim Hill

Blue Springs, between New Albany and Tupelo, Mississippi, is one of our favorite collecting sites.



MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips **The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc**

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee - Copyright © All rights reserved.



DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of Northeast Georgia Mineral Society, Cornelia, GA (Host). (HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the (enter your associated club's name here!)

10:00 AM

Saturday, June 4, 2011

Chunky Gal Mtn., Corundum Knob

Clay County, North Carolina

NO FEE

WHERE: Corundum Knob (also known as Chunky Gal Knob), Clay County, NC.

WHEN: 10:00 AM, June 4, 2011

COLLECTING: Ruby corundum (pink to red), Spinel (black to brown "galaxite" and magnesio-chromite), Sapphirine, Talc, Serpentine, Brucite (white to blueish chalky chunks), Tremolite, Actinolite, Smaragdite (chrome-emerald green amphibole), Pyroxine (chrome diopside/sparse green micro-crystals of weathered amphibolite matrix), Fuchsite and Dunite.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: This is a Forest Service site: surface collecting only, no screening. Watch for fall hazards.

BRING: Rock picks, crack hammers, wedges, chisels, gloves, heavy shoes, bug spray, drink.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the intersection of Buck Creek Rd. and Hwy. 64 (no sign at Buck Creek Rd. which is 2 mi. east of overlook). From Atlanta take I-75 north then follow I-575 to St. Rd. 5 & US 76. Follow past Young Harris then left on St. Rd. 17 into NC. In NC changes to Hwy. 69. Turn right on Hwy. 64 to Chunky Gal Mtn.

DMC CONTACT: Kim Cochran at 770-979-8331

"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!"

DMC 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.

We Missed It!



Saturday, May 28, was Nameless Heritage Day in the little town on the edge of Jackson County, Tennessee, near the Putnam County line north of Interstate 40. The old J. T. Watts General Store, now a museum, was open for visitors, who were able to enjoy a soft drink or eat a Moon

Pie or a baloney and cheese sandwich in remembrance of the past.

According to the *Cookeville Herald-Citizen*, the town got its odd name from postal officials after residents years ago failed to agree on what to call their community.

The general store in recent years has been turned into a museum by Davis Watts to honor his parents and give back to the town. MAGSters have hunted for geodes several times on Mr. Watts's farm.

Too bad we missed it.

Editor's note: Thanks to Kim Hill for the picture.

Calendar

June 2, 2011

Board Meeting, St. Clare Room, St. Francis Hospital, 6:30 P.M.

June 4 & 5, 2011

Field Trip to Ben E. Clement Museum, Marion, KY

June 10, 2011

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

June 18, 2011

Rock Swap, Jim and Hisami McNeil's home, Olive Branch, 9:00-1:00

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

