

Volume 68 & Number 06 & June 2022 & A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

# June Program

Table Activities, Displays, Demonstrations, and More



Our **June 24** meeting will be a little different. We are planning to have several of our Members give you some suggestions about what to do with field trip finds and things you may have bought at the Show. This meeting will be more hands-on than listening. Several of the activities will involve agates. Also, how to clean amber and see if there's anything interesting inside. There will be displays, demonstrations, and a silent auction. And more. The President's Message on P. 3 gives more details. See you there.

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#### FASCINATING FLUORESCENT MINERALS!

After years of collecting, I sold my collection in 2019, but discovered I could not stay away from the hobby. This time I decided to collect only fluorescent minerals, as I had just purchased two new UV lights, the longwave being a UVBeast 365nm flashlight and the shortwave being a WayTooCool Triple. Both are portable,



MIKE HOWARD

come with chargers, and well suited to take to the field at night!

I also set up a Fluorescent Minerals Spreadsheet (Excel Clone) so I could keep an alphabetical catalog of my specimens and where they are stored or displayed. That is working out well and presently I have over 250 specimens that *Continued*, P.4

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# 2022 MAGS BOARD

President–W. C. McDaniel (901) 274-7706 ◊ w.c.mcd@att.net 1st VP (Field Trips)– James Butchko (901) 921-3096 ◊ 2nd VP (Adult Programs)–Dave Clarke (901) 308-0334 ◊ dclarke@fieldmuseum.org Secretary–Mike Coulson

(901) 907-9441 ◊ mike.coulson@comcast.net

Treasurer–Bonnie Cooper (901) 444-0967 ◊ rocks4us@hotmail.com

Director (Asst. Field Trips)-Vacant

Director (Asst. Adult Prog.)–Matthew Lybanon

(901) 757-2144 ◊ lybanon@earthlink.net

Director (Youth Programs)–Melissa Koontz (901) 650-7095 ◊ melissakoontzphd@gmail.com

Director (Asst. Youth Prog.)–Mike Baldwin (901) 494-9262 ◊ mbaldwin05@gmail.com Director (Librarian)–Nannett McDougal-Dykes

(901) 634-9388 ◊ redchesty@yahoo.com

Director (Asst. Librarian) – Vacant

Director (Membership Services)–Bob Cooper

(901) 444-0967 ◊ rocks4us@hotmail.com Director (Historian)–Kathy Baker

(901) 828-2457 ◊ kbaker1053@aol.com

Newsletter Editor-Matthew Lybanon (901) 757-2144 \u03c8 lybanon@earthlink.net

Assistant Newsletter Editor–Carol Lybanon (901) 757-2144 ◊ sgcarol@earthlink.net

Assistant Webmaster-Mike Coulson (901) 907-9441 § mike.coulson@comcast.net

Show Chairman–James Butchko (901) 921-3096 ◊ butch513j@yahoo.com

Past President–Charles Hill (901) 626-4232 ◊ hunter3006@aol.com

# 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: <u>https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/</u> 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 <u>lybanon@earthlink.net</u>.

# June DMC Field Trip

WHERE: Propst Farm, Maiden, NC WHEN: Saturday, June 25, 9:00 A.M. COLLECTING: Corundum, Quartz, Kyanite (rare) CONTACT: Dodany Garcia, (786) 424-5241, motordanny@yahoo.com

### Links to Federation News

- AFMS: www.amfed.org/afms\_news.htm
- SFMS: <u>www.amfed.org/sfms/</u>
- DMC: www.amfed.org/sfms/\_dmc/dmc.htm

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# **President's Message**

A "crystal" ball look at the Show.



### Show22

With much anticipation the 2022 Show was presented in April. Here is a summary of how things went:

- The Show was completely sold out of all dealer spaces.
- All exhibitor and demonstration space were committed.
- A new concessioner was in place for this year.
- Move it with table vendor on Thursday went smoothly.
- Hitch with the shed vendor as they could not move us until Friday morning.
- Once everything was in the building the dealer and exhibitor move-in went smooth-ly.
- While the absence of the Show Dinner was noted it provided club members the opportunity in planning for the arrival of show patrons at 9:00 am on Saturday.
- Attendance was brisk both days, the Rockzone stayed busy, and we sold out of grab bags.
- Attendance and Show income were consistent with previous years and will help with our 2023 planning.
- Volunteer participation was

excellent. Sunday night break down was completed by 7:00 pm.

• Our cost increased this year and will continue to be a challenge in future years.

### 2023 Show

Planning for the 2023 Show will begin this summer.

### June Program

- **1.** The date moves from June 10 to **June 24** at 7:00 pm.
- 2. The meeting format will be modified.
- 3. No speaker.
- 4. Table activities:
- Amber—clean raw pieces of amber and discover if something is inside.
- Agate magnets—glue magnet and agate together creating a fridge magnet.
- Agates—hand polish using mineral or natural show polish paste.
- Agate makes a pendant.
- **5.** Table displays and demonstrations:
- Silent auction of some MAGS memorabilia.
- Rock tumbling.
- 6. Metal detecting.
- **7.** Artifacts and mineral identification.
- 8. More to be added.

*W. C.* 

### MAGS Show Volunteer Prizes Carol Lybanon

The volunteer prizes were awarded at the May Membership Meeting. There were 12 winners. If you were not there, you can pick up your prize at our next regular meeting, which will be June 24—a change from the normal date for June only. I probably will not be there, but the prizes are labeled and stored in the library. Check with Nannett.

The winners are:

- 1. Abalone Shell—Arlene Oleartchick
- 2. Ammonite-W.C. McDaniel
- 3. Staurolite in Schist—Debbie Schaeffer
- 4. Petrified Wood—Christine McManus
- 5. Small Bowl–Jonté Bouchard
- 6. Ammonite—Kim Hill
- 7. Iron Pyrite—Richard Hill
- 8. Ammonite—Leigh Butchko
- 9. Petrified Wood Bowl—Sarah Siegel
- 10. Stained Glass—Leigh Butchko
- 11. Ammonite—Cheryl Yarbrough
- 12. Onyx Bookend—Jon Stanford

Prizes must be picked up no later than the August Indoor Rock Swap. If you have any questions, call me: (901) 493-6700.



Can you find the food or drink item on the MAGS RockFood Table that isn't made of rock?

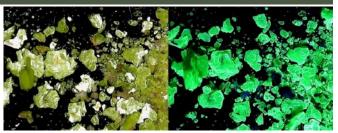
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Fascinating Fluorescent Minerals! Continued from P. 1

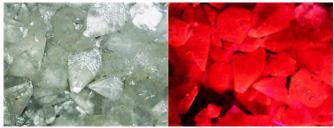


Hackmanite Syenite, China, 4.0 inches in length. a. Natural Light. b. LW UV 365 nm. fluoresce, either LW or SW or both!

I have not restricted my collecting to only Arkansas, or even the USA, as there are many sites around the world that are yielding specimens for the UV market. For this short article, I have chosen at random photographs of fluorescent minerals in my collection. All photographs were taken by me with either my HP Photosmart 6.2 megapixel auto digital camera or my Chinese USB LED microscope.



Autunite, Margnac, Hfe, Vienne, France. a. 10x, Natural Light. b. 10x, LW UV 365 nm



Calcite, Kelly Mine, Socorro, New Mexico a. 10x, Natural Light b. 10x, SW UV 254 nm



Fluorite, Newlandslide Quarry, Stanhope, Durham, England a. FOV = 4 in., Natural Light b. FOV = 4 in., LW UV 365 nm

# June Field Trip

Our next field trip is going to happen on June 18th and 19th at Hot Springs Arkansas. A good place to stay is the Hot Springs Village Inn. I wasn't able to wrangle any discounts but there are other hotels and motels in the area. We will meet at 9:30 A.M. at Ron Coleman Mining, 211 Crystal Ridge Lane, Jessieville, AR 71949. This is just 4 miles from the Village Inn. It is about 210 miles or a 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hour drive from Memphis.

The fee for digging your own crystals is \$25 per day for adults (\$20 for seniors) and \$5 for children 7-15 years old. Kids 6 and under are free. Contact Jim Butchko for more info. For those who want to stay over, we can do something Sunday also.

Jim Butchko, (901) 9211-3096, j.butchko@yahoo.com.



### No Paddle Needed ...



... up this creek. On May 21 MAGS joined a group of scouts and other waders looking for treasures in 20 Mile Creek, officially known as the W.M.

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**An Arkansas Mini-Vacation** Matthew Lybanon



America's grand ballrooms are gone now. What today's hotels call ballrooms are just big rooms where, typically, businessmen stand around, some spilling their drinks, prior to the banquet that follows a day of meetings.

But there are exceptions. The Arlington Hotel & Spa in America's first resort, Hot Springs, Arkansas, was a grand hotel in the days of grand hotels. (Well-known gangsters and other less notorious famous people stayed there. One

Remember ballrooms? Most of of the gangsters was Al Capone. He was a frequent guest; Room 443 still bears his name. The car in one of the pictures was Capone's; for a time it was on display in the Arlington's lobby.) The Arlington still is, and its grand ballroom is still used by people who come to (gasp!) dance.

> People like us. One Sunday in May Carol and I drove past Bathhouse Row, the eight bathhouses where the famous and not-so-famous came for "the waters" (the hot springs that gave the town its

name). Now Bathhouse Row is a National Historic Landmark District, and the Arlington is just past it, on the next corner.

The ballroom is on the second floor, and approaching it from the beautiful spiral staircase feels a lot better than just taking an elevator. The Stardust Big Band has played for a monthly dance in the Arlington's ballroom for years.. We had a fun afternoon there, and then went for a relaxing dinner to help us get ready for the next day.



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### An Arkansas Mini-Vacation Continued from P. 5

How could rockhounds go to Hot Springs without digging for quartz? We couldn't. After checking out of our hotel it took just a few minutes to go up Arkansas Highway 7 to the Ron Coleman Mine. During World War II, when it was known as the Blocker Lead No. 4 Quartz Mine, it was placed under federal control to supply quartz crystals for military radios and other military needs; Arkansas quartz was considered to be the best for those applications. The Ron Coleman Mine is still in op-

No Paddle Needed ... Browning Cre-Continued from P.4 taceous Fossil Park, near Frankstown, Mississippi. A handrail made it easy (well, easier) to get down to the creek, and the water was fine.



Excavations uncovered numerous marine fossils at a location about halfway between Corinth and Tupelo (Mississippi) in 1990, during work to widen US-45. Not surprisingly, word got out and fossil hunters were attracted to the site. News of the find was so exciting to the community that the local Booneville High School got funding through a National Science Foundation grant to make the site a teaching field laboratory while the construction was taking place. eration, and people like us still pay to go through the tailings and bring home treasures.

It was a preview of the June MAGS field trip (see separate article on P. 4). We had plenty of company but there was room for everybody. And the weather couldn't have been better—cool but comfortable, cloudy but dry. People of all ages were digging for treasures (not only digging; some of our best finds were lying on the surface). We saw some real rockhounds (the four-footed kind), and watching them was almost as much fun as digging—and a lot

The shark teeth at the Browning Fossil Park site can be found mostly in the Demopolis Formation. This formation is characterized by layers of calcite-rich clay, chalk, and sand. The shark teeth are found in sandy layers right where the Demopolis formation overlies the Coffee Sand formation. In practical terms, this means you have to dig in the creek bed sand to find shark teeth. It's also possible to find artifacts, as the picture shows.



There was rain in the area off and on during the whole weekend, but the only water we encountered during this field trip was in the creek. And where did the time go? Everybody took home some treasures, and it was a good day. easier.

It was just a 3-hour drive from Memphis, but those two days were a complete change of pace from the normal routine. We can still hear the music and the rain is cleaning the quartz, even the yard rock that barely made it to the car (who knew that 2.65 g/cm<sup>3</sup> meant that a rock that size would be that heavy?). The red clay washed out of our mining clothes (good job, washing machine), and today is just another day. But we have good memories.

All photos by M.L.



# Federation News

Please welcome the Kanawha Rock and Gem Club, South Charleston, West Virginia, to the SFMS DMC Field Trip Sharing Program! They will be hosting their first DMC trip in July 2024.

### Jewelry Bench Tips by Brad Smith

When you drill a hole, there's always a burr produced on the underside of the metal. We all have our

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### **Fabulous Tennessee Fossils**

Dr. Michael A. Gibson, University of Tennessee at Martin **FTF 88** Coral Reproduction

Birds do it. Bees do it. Based upon the ever-climbing population statistics, people do it. How about fossil corals? Did they do it? You betchya they did! Corals are members of the Phylum Cnidaria (because of their stinging cells) that secrete a calcified skeleton in which they live (the corallite). MAGS collectors will recognize many fossil corals from Paleozoic West Tennessee marine deposits, such as tabulates and rugosans, and scleractinian corals from the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras (including the modern corals we encounter on a beach walk).

A combination of growth stages (polymorphic ontogeny) and reproductive style in the cnidaria is used to subdivide the cnidaria into different classes and subclasses. Cnidaria can be solitary or colonial, attached or freeliving, and demonstrate both sexual and asexual reproduction, which is manifested as an alternation of generations. Also, reproduction alternates between sexual and asexual states from one generation to another, usually with one of the two states dominating within a particular class of cnidaria. Which phase of alternation of generations that is dominating is used as one of the criteria to separate the cnidaria into classes. One of the two polymorphic growth stages is referred to as the "medusa stage" because the cnidarian consists of individuals that are free-living and

swimming (nektonic habit) with a body form shaped like a mushroom. This is the typical jellyfish stage that we see floating or swimming in the ocean. The mushroom-shaped "exumbrella" undulates and moves slowly through the water column with short to long dangling tentacles draping downward (which house the stinging cells). This growth form dominates the life cycles within the classes Hydrozoa and Scyphozoa. In the Class Anthozoa, the "polyp" stage dominates. Cylindrical polyps with a ring of tentacles can be free-living (e.g., Hydra) on the sea floor or are housed within a calcified hard skeleton. Members of the polyp stage that are usually rigidly attached to the seafloor in their skeletons (sessile), like the wellknown coral reefs, or can be motile with polyps moving with a "hopping" or somersaulting motion by muscle contraction.

This polymorphic style of ontogeny is also tied to reproduction methods in the cnidaria through the alternation of generations. A sexual stage involving the exchange of gametes in the water column with the sexes being separate or hermaphroditic (united) results in a free-swimming larva (called a planula) that ultimately settles out of the water column onto a hard substrate to form a polyp-stage cnidarian. It is during this sexual stage that typical mei-



otic genetic recombination occurs. Importantly, the sexual stage allows for motility at the larvae allowing new colonies to be established over distances away from the parents. The larvae also provide food for other organisms that filter-feed from suspension. The sexual stage of reproduction does not leave a strong fossil record, but is well-known from the modern.

Cnidaria also can have an asexual stage in which new polyps or medusae split-off from individuals without meiotic recombination. This process is called "budding". Budding comes in two forms as well: complete budding and incomplete budding. Complete budding is achieved when a branch, the "bud", completely separates from the "parent" coral. It first grows as a side branch and develops its own tentacle ring, stomach region, etc., then the new individual pinches-off and drops to the sea floor. This type of budding is typical of the solitary Hydra. Complete budding results in two free-living individuals. Incomplete budding occurs when the bud remains attached to the "parent" without ever separating. New individuals are added that share their digestive tracts. The new individual is a clone of the "parent", hence asexually produced. Incomplete budding is more typical in the skeletonized cnidarians that build reefs. Within

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Fabulous Tennessee Fossilsincom-Continued from P. 7plete bud-ding there

are two versions: intratentacular and extratentacular budding. In intratentacular budding, the new bud forms within the ring of tentacles. In the skeleton, the new bud appears to be growing from within the central region of the corallite. Intratentacular budding usually results in the loss of the autonomy of the parent, but results in one to several new buds. In extratentacular budding, the new bud originates from outside of the ring of tentacles so appears to come from the outer margin or periphery of a corallite. The parent may continue life as normal.

Intratentacular and extratentacular incomplete budding leaves behind a permanent record of the reproduction within the skeleton of the coral because it occurs in association with the secretion of a new skeleton for the new individual. You could say that these corals have been caught in the act - permanently! Figure 1 is an example of asexual intratentacular budding in Ditoecholasma sp. from the Silurian-age Brownsport Formation near Perryville, Tennessee, that I collected during the 1990s. At first glance at the specimen, you can see the "parent" individual developed a swelling as it grew and entered the budding behavior. Above the swelling emerges two long buds growing from what appears to be the center region of the "parent" corallite, but closer examination reveals that there is a part of a third bud that never fully developed. The two long buds first grew outward and then turned to grow upwards at about the same



Figure 1. Surface of a limestone slab from the Brownsport Formation showing incomplete budding in the coral *Ditoecholasma* sp. (photo credit MAG; scale in cm).

rate to produce parallel branches, but the third bud (oriented outward toward the viewer with the radiating septa visible) is diminutive having only a few millimeters of growth. Close examination of this bud indicates that the bud stopped growing rather than being a broken bud. Perhaps this is what remained of the parent? The bud origination points are obscured, so it is difficult to conclude if this is an example of intra- or extratentacular budding; however, I suspect it is intratentacular.

Figure 2 is the opposite side of the same limestone slab that shows a different genus of coral, *Amplexus*, undergoing budding in which the budding style is clearer. Notice that there are two coneshaped buds that are clearly originating from the outer margin of



Figure 2. Opposite surface of slab in Figure I showing extratentacular incomplete budding in Amplexus (photo credit MAG; scale in cm). the "parent" corallite, hence forming outside of the tentacular ring (extratentacular budding). Both specimens occur within a centimeter of one another and within the same bed, suggesting that they were both toppled by some event at the same time and buried together, both displaying evidence of their reproductive behavior for all to see over 400 million years later. Do you have evidence of reproductive behavior in your fossil corals?



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Jewelry Bench Tips ways of remov-Continued from P. 6 ing them - typically by filing or sanding the area smooth. But doing it this way will put scratches on your piece that will have to be polished off.

A quick way to remove the burr is to grab a drill that's two or three times larger than your hole. Simply twist it in the hole to cut off the burr. I usually do this twisting by hand, but if you have many holes to do, it's easier on your fingers to put the drill into a holder like a pin vise.



### CLEANING STEEL SHOT

Steel shot in a vibratory or rotary tumbler works great to burnish and shine your finished silver pieces. But a common problem is how keep the shot clean. Carbon steel shot can get rusty if exposed to the air, and even stainless steel shot can sometimes develop a blackish coating that's hard to remove.

My solution of choice to clean the shot is Classic Coke. Just pour an ounce or two over the shot and let the tumbler run for an hour or so. A bad case might require a second cleaning. Some folks like to let the bubbles in the Coke dissi-

pate before using it so that gas pressure doesn't build up in the tumbler barrel. I've heard that it's the phosphoric acid in Coke that does the trick.

While you're waiting for the shot to clean up, just settle back and enjoy the rest of the Coke.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith



## 🎵 Adult Programs

June 24: Table activities, displays, demonstrations (note date change) July 8: Timothy Poole, subject TBD

August 12: Indoor Rock Swap .....

### **Junior Programs**

Juniors will join adults until Juniors attendance picks up.

# 🎵 Field Trips

June 18-19: Hot Springs overnight July 16: Hampson Archeological Museum State Park, Wilson, Arkansas, day trip

August 20-21: Blanchard Springs, Arkansas, cave tour

..... New Members

Ariel Brummel

Erin & Kin Dempsey and children Max, Milo, & Adele Billy & Stevie Kennedy Eve & Joel Webster and daughter Khloe .....

## June Birthdays

7

- Pat Judd Ι Liliana Jonkus Jan Harris Koulogianes 14 Yazsin Boteti 15 16 Kin Dempsey Ann Williams Debbie Schaeffer 18 20 Roger Lambert Jennifer Featherston 25 Doris Johnston 26 Donna Leppanen
- Cornelia McDaniel 29

.....

## **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 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 Continued, P. 10

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MAGS NotesMember Packet, a MAGS ID card, and a monthlyContinued from P. 9newsletter via email. Members are entitled to go on<br/>our monthly field trips and get free admission to our<br/>annual Show.





Called to order 6:30 (Zoom). 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.

**Show:** Concessions by Tim will be food vendor, will give 20% of sales to club. Powerpoint for April Meeting is complete. This will be presented to encourage Members to volunteer and promote the Show. May show movie at end of presentation. Carol has set up SignUp Genius and is soliciting volunteers. Carol and Matthew have bought a couple of display posters. Memorial for Leo will be available to display. Wrist bands will be passed out to attendees but will not be required to wear. Security, going with the Sheriff's Department. Thursday setup now moved to Friday. Baldwin's fluorescents will be on display. Show is sold out, we have 30 vendors. No Friday Night Dinner.

**Show Treasurer:** Account balance down due to paying rent and security deposit to Agricenter.

**Secretary:** Minutes distributed via email and summarized to the Board. Minutes approved.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer's report submitted and approved. Deposits for new Members and renewals. Paying rent for April, May and June, discussion on whether to pay for the youth room or not since attendance has



email: beclement@att.net Call: (270) 965-4263

on Facebook or

been low.

**Membership:** 5 new memberships and 7 renewals.

Field Trips: April 9: Nonconnah Creek day trip, perhaps Perkins area. May 21: Frankstown Twenty Mile Creek day trip. June 18-19: Hot Springs overnight trip for crystals. July 16: Hampson Archeological Museum State Park, Wilson, Arkansas, day trip archaeology. 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. April 8: Show and how to volunteer and help promote it. May 13: Lionel Crews, Professor of Physics, U.T. Martin, meteorites. June 10: Jerry Potter, Civil

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War Sultana Disaster. July 8: Timothy Poole, Park Manager, Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Park. August 12: Rock Swap. September: Dr. 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. Mike can set up a table since room will not be available. Mike is preparing a junior program for May in case numbers are up.

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

**Rock Swaps:** August 12: Indoor Rock Swap.

**Editor:** Matthew would like information on programs, field trips, rock swaps, and any other MAGS activities, at least a 3-month schedule. Also anything extra Show-related. Any other articles and pictures will be gratefully accepted.

**Web:** Club Website has been updated. Upgrades at ATT making uploading difficult.

Adjourned 7:40.

### **April Meeting Minutes** *Mike Coulson*

Presentation about upcoming Show asking for volunteers and help promoting the Show. Jim Butchko and Carol Lybanon presented. Around 30 Members attended. MAGS Bucks were passed out to 11 people whose names were drawn at random.

# Asteroid Strike Update

Matthew Lybanon, Editor Pristine slivers of the impactor

that killed the dinosaurs have been discovered, said scientists studying a North Dakota site (the Tanis Site) that is a time capsule of that calamitous day 66 million years



North America 66 million years ago



ago. Also found were a dinosaur leg (from a *Thescelosaurus*), complete with skin, and other fossils, with evidence that the creatures may have died on the day the asteroid struck near the present-day town of Chicxulub on the Yucatán Peninsula.

An article in our May 2019

issue described the research at the Tanis site, which has continued. Space limitations prevent giving much detail here, but MAGSters and others have an easy way to get almost up to date.

Many of you saw the May 11 2part Nova special on PBS, presenting the BBC program narrated by Sir David Attenborough that described this work. You can see the two episodes online if you missed them or if you would like to watch the show again:

https://www.pbs.org/video/dinosaurapocalypse-the-new-evidence-rchsjr/

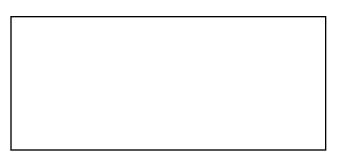
https://www.pbs.org/video/dinosaurapocalypse-the-last-day-h80ueb/

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# MAGS At A Glance June 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2 Zoom Board Meeting, 6:30 pm	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Hex640.w	15	16	17	18 MAGS Field Trip, Hot Springs, AR
MAGS Field Trip	20	21	22	23	24 Membership Meeting, Hands-on Activities, 7:00 pm	25
26 DMC Field Trip, Propst Farm, Maiden, NC	27	28	29 One-time da	1	1	2

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



JUNE 2022