



Inside this issue...

Page 2

- Officers and Board Members
- President's Corner
- 2007 Dates To Remember

Page 3

- Announcements
- Roadcut

Page 4

- "Paleozoic Footprint Site" article continued

Page 5

- July Birthdays
- Junior Rockhounds
- Web Statistics for June '07

Page 6

- DMC Field Trip Information

Page 7

- MAGS July Field Trip Info
- July Rock Swap

Page 8

- May '07 Board Meeting Notes

Page 9

- May1 '07 Membership Meeting Notes
- Sunshine Report

Page 10

- July '07 MAGS Calendar
- Newsletter Awards

STEVEN C. MINKIN PALEOZOIC FOOTPRINT SITE

MATTHEW & CAROL LYBANON : "The Union Chapel site is one of the world's most important for Early Pennsylvanian vertebrate trace fossils. ...vertebrate trace fossils from the Union Chapel site give paleontologically noteworthy insights into Early Pennsylvanian vertebrate behavior unknown from body fossils or most other trace fossils from rocks of this age. [Martin, A. J., and Pyenson, N. D. 2005. Behavioral significance of vertebrate trace fossils from the Union Chapel Mine Site. In Buta, R. J., Rindsberg, A. K., and Kapaska-Merkel, D. C. (editors), *Pennsylvanian Footprints in the Black Warrior Basin of Alabama*, Alabama Paleontological Society, Monograph No. 1, Birmingham, Alabama: 59-73.]



Cordaites (ancestor of conifers) in this plate. Many varieties of lycopods, sphenophytes and seed ferns were also found by MAGS members.

The June 23 MAGS field trip went to the Steven C. Minkin Paleozoic Footprint Site. The site is located at the Union Chapel Mine, an abandoned coal mine just east of Jasper, Alabama. About 15-20 people (including our guide, Ashley Allen, and two other members of the Alabama Paleontological Society) visited the site. After Ashley gave the group a brief orientation, we began to search for specimens. Fish trails and vertebrate tracks are preserved in a

[cont'd on page 4]

2007 – 2008 Officers and Board of Directors

President – Sandy Ward • 5119 Whiteway Drive, Memphis
TN 38117 • 901-684-1819 • sandypepperspray@comcast.net

1st VP (Field Trips) – Barry Burns • P.O. Box 666, Atoka, TN
38004 • 901-829-4246 • bburns@utmemo.edu

2nd VP (Programs) – Randa Spears • 157 Marne, Memphis
TN 38111 • 901-324-2490 • spearsrg@msn.com

Secretary – Carol Lybanon • 2019 Littlemore Dr., Cordova, TN
38016 • 901-757-2144 • lybanon@earthlink.net

Treasurer – Mike Cannito • 1051 Sandra, Memphis, TN 38122
901-454-9326 • mcannito@memphis.edu

Director (Asst Field Trips) – David Day • 5974 Ivanhoe,
Bartlett, TN 38134 • 901-387-2347 • stonenchanter@
yahoo.com

Director (Asst Programs) – W.C. McDaniel • 2038 Central Ave,
Memphis, TN 38104 • 901-274-7706 • w.c.mcd@
worldnet.att.net

Director (Youth) – Melissa Johnston • 806 S. Cox Street,
Memphis TN 38104 • 901-725-0724 • mjohns2000@
aol.com

Director (Asst Youth) – Ideean Jordan • 104 Plainview,
Memphis TN 38111 • 901-452-4286 • no email address
provided

Director (Librarian) – Ron Brister • 3059 Old Brownsville Rd.,
Bartlett, TN 38134 • 901-388-1765 • ronald.brister@
Memphistn.gov

Director (Membership) – Pam Gurley • 460 E. Swan Ridge Cr.,
Memphis TN 38122 • 901-324-7235 • no email address
provided

Director (Historian) – Cathie Jacobs • 5328 Denwood,
Memphis TN 38120 • 901-680-0686 • jakeandcattoo@
aol.com

Web Coordinator – Mike Baldwin • 367 North Main St.,
Collierville TN 38017 • 901-853-3603 • mbaldwin05@
gmail.com • rockclub@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor – Shelby Hartman • 5116 Whiteway Dr.,
Memphis, TN 38117 • 901-626-1920 •
magsnewsletter@comcast.net

Show Chairman – James Butchko • 4220 Dunn, Memphis TN
38111 • 901-743-0058 • butch513j@yahoo.com

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the members of the Memphis Archaeological and
Geological Society. Please send your comments and
articles to Shelby Hartman 5116 Whiteway Drive,
Memphis, TN 38117, magsnewsletter@comcast.net**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



SANDY WARD: Here we are again, in the middle of another hot summer! I love hot weather! I've lived in Asia and vacationed in some of the hottest spots in the world. I've baked on beaches from Thailand to Jamaica and just about every weekend, all summer long, you'll find me outside all day, somewhere....no straw hat...no sunscreen...just a bandana, rolled and tied around my head to keep the sweat out of my eyes. I drink lots of water and I never give it much thought because the heat has never bothered me....until last weekend. I worked in the yard all day Saturday. It was nearly 100 degrees but I stopped a couple of times and went in the house where the AC was on and drank some water, but by the end of the day I could hardly put one foot in front of the other! I suddenly got that creepy feeling you get when you're fixing to faint and a wave of nausea washed over me. I made it into the house and headed for the kitchen. I grabbed a bottle of cranberry/grape juice out of the fridge, sat down on the cold tile floor and just chugged it straight out of the bottle! It's loaded with sodium and potassium so I thought it might be a better choice than water. I fumbled around in the freezer and found a package of frozen peas and just slapped it on my forehead. In a few minutes, I felt better and I took a cool shower and a nap. Sunday, I stayed in out of the heat! Soooo, even if you're used to being out in the heat, it can sneak up on you sometimes, so when you're out rock hunting or working in the yard, pay attention to the thermometer, drink LOTS of water (and you may even need a little something extra like Gatorade), try to stay in the shade and wear a hat when you're out in direct sun. Take frequent breaks indoors to cool off if possible and **BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!!!**

- Sandy Ward



Announcements

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We would like to welcome our newest MAGS members. They are as follows:

*Jan Williams
Sidney & Mary Elliott
Patti Cherry
Herb & Sue Nichol森
Allen Grewe*

We look forward to having you join us at the monthly meetings and fieldtrips!

MAGS MEMBER GETS AN AWARD!

MAGS member Alan Jacob recently travel to Washington D.C, to accept two awards. The awards were the Secretary of Navy Award for Environmental Restoration and Chief of Naval Operations for Environmental Restoration. Alan is geologist for Ensafe, Inc. a Memphis-based environmental consulting firm. The work was associated with restoration (for public use) of the former site of the Naval Weapons Industrial Plant in Texas.

July Roadcut

W.C. McDANIEL: Roadcut concludes its tour of world class mineral sites by visiting sites in the Americas:

- **Franklin and Sterling Hill, New Jersey-** Over three hundred different minerals were found at these mines including 60 new minerals. The manganese in many of the minerals acts as a fluorescent activator making the specimens (and mines) glow like a fluorescent rainbow under ultraviolet light.
- **Bisbee, Arizona-** The copper mines of this area and multiple other sites have produced a large and varied amount of minerals. The list of minerals include azurite, malachite, turquoise, rutile, gold, silver, uranium, chalcopyrite, chrysocolla, vanadium graphite cinnabar, sphalerite, pyrite, wulfenite, epidote obsidian opal and fluorite .
- **Montreal, Quebec, Canada** – The Francon Quarry, has produced several one-of- produced several specimens of exotic minerals such as the weloganite as well as dawsonite, dresserite, franconite, hydrodresserite, montroyalite, stromtiodresserite, sabinaite, cryolite, and stromtianite
- **Minas Gerias, Brazil.** This area has produced many quartz varieties such as amethyst, citrine, rose quartz, rock crystal, smoky quartz and agate, but also a producer of many fine gemstones especially elbaite tourmaline, topaz, aquamarine and diamonds

Some other mineral sites include The Bancroft, Madoc and Wilberforce areas of Ontario, Canada, Boron mines of California, Keeweenaw Peninsula, Michigan, Magnet Cove, Arkansas, Copiapo and Atacama Desert, Chile Llallagua, Potosi, Bolivia , Rapid Creek and Big Fish River areas, Yukon Territory, The Mississippi Valley region, Phosphate mines of New Hampshire and Maine, Western North Carolina, San Benito & San Diego Counties in California, Black Hills region, Custer County, South Dakota, Cobalt, Ontario, Canada , Mont Saint-Hilaire, Quebec, Canada.

Source-<http://mineral.galleries.com/minerals/fablocal.htm>

Paleozoic Footprint Site *(continued from front page)*

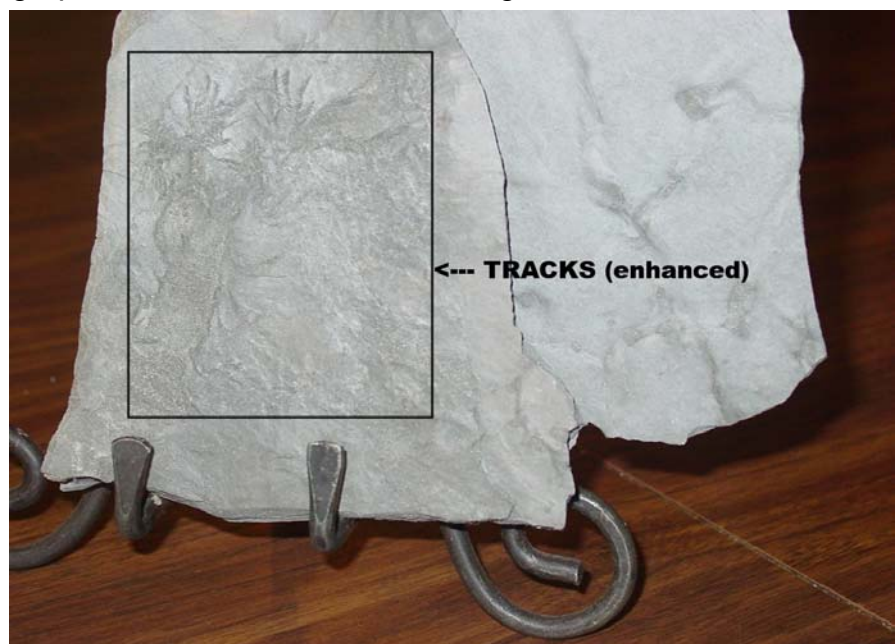


layer of gray, laminated, silty shale of the Pottsville Formation (Early Pennsylvanian) that was probably formed in the upper reaches of an estuarine tidal flat. The sedimentation rate was high enough that the trace fossils were buried quickly and preserved with considerable detail.

The age estimated for the Union Chapel deposit is about 308 million years, at the beginning of the known evolutionary history for egg-bearing vertebrates. Many of the tracks were made by amphibians of the genus *Cincosaurus* (the name was

assigned by scientists who visited the site in 1930; little more was done to study the tracks before the site was rediscovered). Not only are there isolated examples, but also definite trackways, or sequences of more than two steps by opposite sides of the trackmaker (left-right-left or right-left-right). All trackways show clear evidence of walking on four legs. The site is also rich in plant fossils, including lycopods, sphenophytes, seed ferns, and cordaites (ancestor of conifers). We collected for several hours. Photographs illustrate some of the findings. The weather was hot, but the site was interesting enough to keep most of us there for over four hours. The temperature was over 100 degrees when we left.

Ashley Allen (he is the high-school science teacher mentioned in the June newsletter article, whose attention was drawn to the Union Chapel Mine when one of his students told him of the fossil tracks he had found there) was both very knowledgeable and an excellent host. He has offered to lead another field trip this Fall (probably in October), when the weather might be more cooperative. He has also volunteered to present the program at a MAGS monthly Membership Meeting. Everyone who made this trip will be looking forward to his presentation, and to our next field trip to the site.



July Birthdays

The birthstone for July is ruby.



- 2 Elizabeth Kines
- 3 Wayne Williams
- 5 Clay Crumpton
- 7 Paul M. Shipman
- 8 David Day
- 8 John Ouellette
- 9 Laura Henry
- 10 Nannett McDougale-Dykes
- 11 Nathan Bradford
- 11 Evelyn Carrico
- 11 Grayson Pulley
- 13 Lakshmi Tummalapalli
- 14 Sue Nichol森
- 14 Sandy Ward
- 17 Melinda Warren
- 19 Bill Scheffer
- 19 Susan Thomas
- 21 Steve Huber
- 21 Kathryn Miller
- 21 Susan Vaughn
- 22 Truate Bearden
- 22 John Givens
- 23 Myrna Muir
- 23 Doris Parsons
- 24 Robert Enzerink
- 24 Serena Enzerink
- 24 Susan Prodanovich
- 25 Jenny Vaughn
- 30 Maria Wood

RUBY: Known as the gem of Summer, Ruby is the red variety of corundum and is the sister stone of sapphire. Rubies symbolize love and in the past it was believed they possessed the power to bestow peace and harmony. Also the wearer of a ruby was thought to be protected from discord all perils of war.

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

Youth Group News:

We're going to have a great time on July 13th! Mr. Richard Gunter will be showing us how to make Native American pottery just like the Indians made it during the Mississippian period. We will be making "coil pots". Everybody bring a towel and a container to carry your pot home in. They will still be wet when we are finished, and will have to be baked in your oven at home. We'll hand out instructions on how to do that. I'm really looking forward to this workshop! I'll see you all there on Friday the 13th! ---- Yikes!

Melissa Johnston

July Adult Presentation

Members bring your glasses, pencils and pocketbooks for three events:

1. **Glasses-**"Work for Some Rocks." Help sort the 2007 show door prize registration slips and in the process you may win some polished stones.

2. **Pencils-**"Are you smarter than a 5th grade geology student?" Take a series of geology quizzes and you may win some polished stones

Pocketbooks -"Rocks from Dick's Garden." Live auction of material collected from Dick McKitrick's garden. Will include a large quartz cluster, medium size piece of Brilliant petrified wood (site closed) and several pieces of calcite. As usual, bid high and often. Proceeds benefit the club.

Web Site Statistics for June 2007

...a brief look at our website (www.memphisgeology.org) from 1/21/02-6/21/07

Total Vists & Hits		Top page views past 30 days	
Total visits to web site	226,914	Rocknews0607	763 hits
Total hits to web site	817,270	Rocknews1005	679 hits
Visits in past 30 days	10,957	Rocknews0107	570 hits
Hits in past 30 days	31,406	Explorer0604	415 hits
Average daily visits (past 30 days)	296	US State Parks	358 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 Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society (HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the (enter your associated club's name here!)

Saturday, July 14, 2007
Columbia Mines, Marion, Kentucky
FEE SITE

WHERE: The Columbia Mines of Marion, Kentucky but meet at the Clement Mineral Museum

WHEN: Saturday, July 14, 2007

TIME: Day dig 9:00 A.M. CDT and night digs 8:15 P.M. CDT

COLLECTING: Fluorite, smithsonite, sphalerite, cerussite, galena, hemimorphite, hydrozincite, quartz, & pyromorphite. Calcite is by far the most common mineral found, and all other minerals require some digging in the dump to locate.

FEE: The day time digs will cost \$20 and is limited to 30 persons. The night time digs will be \$30 and is limited to 20 persons. The fee entitles you to one five gallon bucket of specimens additional buckets may be purchased. Admission to the Ben Clement Fluorite Museum is \$5. You will be required to sign a waiver for this hunt. You may download the reservation, waiver and information at the following link.

<http://www.marionkentucky.us/clementmineralmuseum/index.htm>

All reservations for the digs will be handled through the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum at www.MarionKentucky.us. Or call **270-965-9257**, or write Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum, 205 North Walker Street, Marion, Kentucky 42064. Information on campgrounds, lodging, and bed and breakfasts can also be obtained from Clement Mineral Museum.

While the primary purpose of this trip is to accommodate SFMS members, the secondary purpose is to help the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum fund its efforts in maintaining a world class fluorite collection and making it available to the public.

WHAT TO BRING: Other than standard collecting equipment, bring plenty of water, snacks, camera, and you will need a portable ultraviolet light. Daytime collectors will need a way to check fluorescence too! Black light boxes or whatever suits you. Night time collectors will need a standard flashlight to travel to and from their cars. The time of the month was chosen because it is the dark of the moon! Short wave and broad spectrum ultraviolet lights are best. Most collectors will share their lights, but do not count on it, after all someone will need to bring a light.

MINE HISTORY: The mines where the dig is to be conducted are located on the Commodore fault system and date back to 1901. Mine shafts on the property have produced fluorite, smithsonite and sphalerite. Other minerals that have been found in the mine dumps include; cerussite, galena, hemimorphite, hydrozincite, quartz, & pyromorphite. Calcite is by far the most common mineral found, and all other minerals require some digging in the dump to locate.

The most common fluorescent mineral is calcite which glows a soft to bright pearly white. There are other colors other than white, but they are fewer in number. Of particular note are specimens of sandstone which glow a coral pink to a bright red in either short wave or broad spectrum ultraviolet light. There are also specimens which glow various shades of pale yellow and bright blue. Please note: that included in the spoil are fragments of mortar and concrete which will also fluoresce. The concrete and mortar was made from rock from the mine.

MTGMS Contacts:

Marty Hart webmaster@gemizo.com

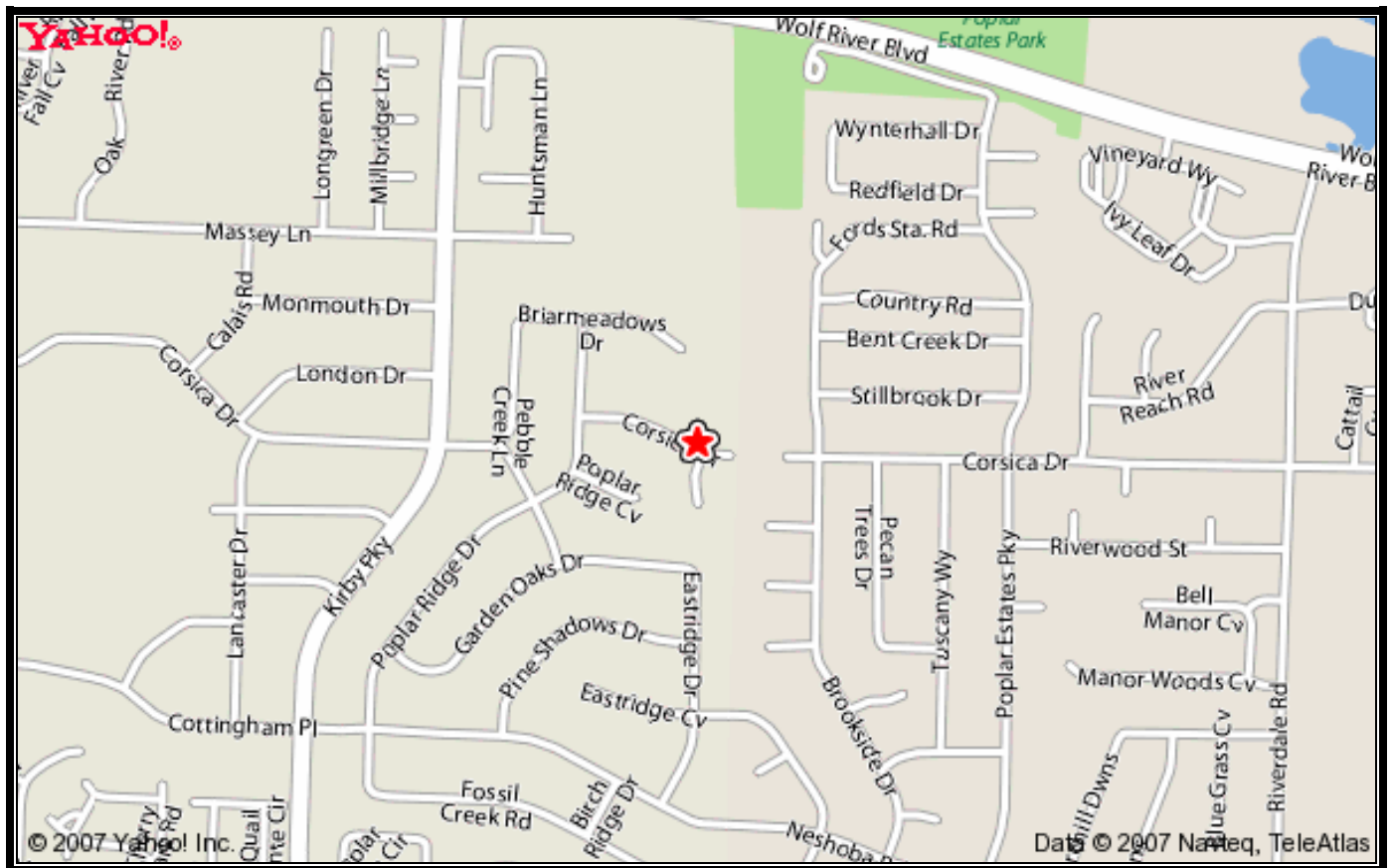
Phil Herren pwherren@comcast.net

MAGS July Field Trip

DAVID DAY : The July 21 field trip will be to Turkey Creek near Starkville MS. To collect Marcasite specimens. If you have previously collected from this site, be sure to bring examples to the membership meeting July 13 along with your expertise to share with both old and new members wanting your collecting suggestions and helpful tips on this months trip or needing more information about our destination. Also, make sure to bring along a sampling of your finds from the two June field trips as we all look forward to seeing the results of you collecting efforts, and mutually benefit from your experience. Details will be available at our July membership meeting or by email, so be sure to sign up and join us.

Rock Swap!

SHELBY HARTMAN : The July Rock Swap will take place at the home of Alan and Debbie Schaeffer. The date and time will be confirmed at the July Membership Meeting. The Schaeffer's address is 6854 Corsica Drive.



May 2007

Board Meeting Minutes

CAROL & MATTHEW LYBANON: The MAGS Board of Directors met May 3 at the Blue Plate Cafe, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M. Those present: Sandy Ward, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Mike Cannito, David Day, W.C. McDaniel, Melissa Johnston, Idajean Jordan, Pam Gurley, Cathie Jacobs, Alan Jacobs, Mike Baldwin, and Shelby Hartman. The minutes from the April Board and General meetings were reviewed, and approved as submitted. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed, and accepted subject to audit. W.C. McDaniel mentioned that he thought the \$2,500 to purchase the Christian Brothers collection was to have come from savings rather than the General Fund. The March Minutes confirm that he is correct. **Field Trips:** David Day reported that the Memorial Day weekend field trip will be to Arrowhead Mine in Mt. Ida, AR. There was a discussion about what hotels are available in the area. David suggested that people check the Mt. Ida website. He will have maps and other information available at the Membership Meeting. Matthew Lybanon reported on an upcoming field trip to Union Chapel Mine near Jasper, AL. The Board decided that June 16 would be a good date, with June 23 a second choice. Matthew will email Ashley Allen (our contact) to try to get the trip firmed up as soon as possible. The Union Chapel Mine field trip may replace the trip to 20 Mile Creek; that trip will be rescheduled. **Programs:** W.C. McDaniel said that the May program will be on meteorites; James Hill will present the program. W.C. asked that members bring in some nice displays for the May meeting, because we will have guests from the Astronomical Society, and we also normally get extra guests right after the Show. W.C. said to check the May newsletter, which lists the programs for the remainder of the year. **Youth Programs:** Melissa Johnston reported that all the young people had a wonderful time at last month's program. This month she will attempt a learning session. The subject will be sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. Carol Lybanon asked if the youth program ever goes on field trips, and suggested that we look into a trip to Coon Creek. **Library:** Ron Brister is not here tonight. those areas. Shelby thanked everyone for getting their information for the newsletter in on time this month. **Web Report:** Mike Baldwin handed out a list of all the recent changes to the site. The Board thanked Mike for his continued good work

Newsletter: Shelby Hartman reported that she needs paper for printing newsletters next month. **Membership:** Pam Gurley received three membership applications at the Show, plus two more. The following applicants were approved for membership: Billy Kennedy, Robert Cooper, Bonnie Cooper, Danny Falkner, Patsy Black, Dr. Jon C. Stanford, and Vickie Stanford. Pam says that we need to let new members know that they have been approved, and that their packets will be available at the Membership Meeting. She said that some people did not realize that their applications had been approved, so she may call new members and let them know. Pam suggests that packets be mailed if they are not picked up by the second meeting. There was also a discussion about what should be in the membership packets. Shelby Hartman will get new membership/library cards printed for Pam. **Rock Swaps:** Cathie Jacobs reported that the May 12 rock swap is this year's first. Doris Johnston Jones will host the swap at 409 Bradford Trail Cove in Collierville. The map to her house is in the May newsletter, along with the rock swap schedule for the rest of the year. **Show Update:** James Butchko is not at the meeting, but W. C. McDaniel reported that the attendance was over 2000. We have some feedback from the vendors. James was a little disappointed that club support was down this year. Volunteerism was down, and the Show Committee was small. We need to work on that so that our Show will continue to be successful. **Old Business:** Alan Jacobs asked the Board if they had given any further thought to changing the Membership Meeting to another night of the week. The discussion considered (1) taking a survey, (2) adding a meeting on another night, and (3) checking to see what parents think about having their children come to a meeting on a school night. Alan will write an article for next month's newsletter, asking members for their input. Changing to another night would require amending the Bylaws. **New Business:** Idajean Jordan asked if we intended to buy a book for our library in memory of Nelson Eddlemon. Some ex-members she talked to at the show said they plan to rejoin. Mike Cannito asked if there is an inventory for the collection we just purchased from CBU. Sandy stated that there is a disk. Mike continued the discussion, saying that we need a current list of everything MAGS owns, and need to find some way to record our sales. David Day wondered why we do not have a field trip exhibit at our Show. W.C. McDaniel said that Alan Parks has a map of field trip locations, and has done this before. There was a brief discussion of getting the youth program to participate in the Show, and display their collections. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

May 2007

Membership Meeting Minutes

CAROL & MATTHEW LYBANON: The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on May 11. The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Ward at 7:33 P.M., with 41 members and 15 visitors in attendance. Pam Gurley introduced guests and visitors: Rick & Janet Honey, Herb & Sue Nicholson, Alan Grewe, Tommy & Brenda Harris, Neyle Sulley, Mary Sidney Elliott, Pattie Cherry, Janet Wehner, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bonvena & Family, Jeremy & Mary Ann Roaten.

Membership: Pam Gurley announced that the annual Membership Directory/Handbooks with Membership and Library cards were available for pickup. President Ward thanked members for their volunteer efforts at the Gem & Mineral show. Remaining lost-and-found items were described.

Field Trip: David Day reported that the Memorial Day weekend trip to Mt. Ida for quartz crystals is scheduled for the 26th, 27, and 28th of May. A visit to Arrowhead Mine is scheduled with a variety of possible options for each day. Planning is under way for June at the Union Chapel Mine in Alabama and the 20 Mile Creek in Mississippi.

Show: Jim Butchko again thanked members for volunteering their time. The grab bags were a huge success. Over 400 bags were sewn and filled and sold out. The Rock Zone was also very successful.

Rock Swap: The first Rock Swap for 2007 was announced at the home of Doris J. Jones from 10:00 to 2:00 on Saturday May 12th. The rock swaps for the remainder of the year were also announced. There was no old business to discuss and no new business was initiated. A portion of the mineral collection that MAGS recently acquired from CBC was on display. Melissa Johnston and the Youth Program adjourned to their meeting at 7:50 P.M.. The guest speaker was introduced by Assistant Program Director W.C. McDaniel: James Hill of the Rainwater Observatory in French Camp, MS, gave the evening program. The presentation, titled "Meteorites: Solving the Mystery of the Solar System, which was delightfully revealed and explained for an enthralled audience. There were three adult displays: Two by Beth Day, (1) jewelry designed using remnants recovered from the floor of the Pipkin Building following the conclusion of the show and (2) examples of unique discoveries collected on the April field trip to Birmingham Ridge; and Cornelia McDaniel, photos and samples of materials collected during February in LaGrange, GA, on the Dixie Mineral field trip to Hogg Mine. Following voting, Cornelia received the prize of a brilliant piece of Iron Pyrite. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M., followed by fellowship and refreshments.



We are sorry to report the passing of lifetime member, Dr. James Prather this month. Dr Prather had been a member since 1979, and has collected with Dr. Cole at Crow Creek. We all appreciate the contributions he made to our club. Our condolences to his family.

Also we are sad to report the loss of Barry Gilmore's father. Our thoughts go Barry and his family.

(To supply reports of members for the sunshine report, please contact Pam Gurley at 324-7235.)

2007 Dates to Remember

	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date For Newsletter Submissions
July	05	13	Jun 27
August	02	10	Jul 25
September	06	14	Aug 29
October	04	12	Sep 26
November	01	09	Oct 24
December	06	14	Nov 28

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 • Special Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st—03 • Adult Article 1st – 06, 2nd— 89, 90, 04, 06; 3rd—92; 4th—85, 04; 5th—91, 03; 6th—87; 8th—04; Honorable Mention—03, 04

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

JULY 2007

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	31				

JULY 5 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting - Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Ave.

JULY 13 7:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting - Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Rd.

JULY 14

DMC Field Trip to Columbia Mines, Marion, Kentucky

JULY 21

MAGS Field Trip to Turkey Creek in Starkville, MS



MAGS Rockhound News
5116 Whiteway Drive
Memphis, TN 38117