



Volume 58 ◊ Number 07 ◊ July 2012 ◊ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

What's In The Ground?

Relics, Fossils, Minerals



MAGS President Lou White will present the adult program at the July 13 meeting. The long-time member will give his unique perspective on what can be found just by looking around. His talk will expand "rockhounding" to include archaeology and paleontology. Interested amateurs have made some real contributions to

all of the MAGS fields of interest, and the term describes Lou perfectly. All you MAGSters who like to go out and hunt for "stuff" will identify with Lou and enjoy his talk.



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MAGS MEMBER PUBLISHES "ROCK & GEM" ARTICLE

Editor's Note: Although fossils were known in ancient times, the word "paleontology" wasn't invented until 1822. And one of the most important paleontologists of the first half of the 19th century was a woman, Mary Anning. This was remarkable when you consider that at that time women who wanted to be taken seriously used male pseudonyms (Mary Ann Evans called herself George Eliot when she wrote *Adam Bede*,



The Mill On The Floss, and other successful novels.). Even today, Joanne Rowling called herself J. K. Rowling (not even her own initials) when she wrote the **Harry Potter** books.

Lori Carter is a MAGS member who lives in the Atlanta area. She published an article about Mary Anning in the June 2012 issue of **Rock & Gem** magazine. MAGSters can read her

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MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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Juniors Corner

Carol Lybanon

There is a little change in the July program. We will have a surprise program that I think will be lots of fun. In August we will join the adults for the indoor picnic and rock swap. The September program will be on ammonites.

➔ **Editor's Note:** *The Nonconnah Creek Science Park Petition, mentioned in the May issue is available for download from the MAGS website, memphisgeology.org. Please collect some signatures and return the signed petition to Matthew or Carol Lybanon. Information: (901) 757-2144 or lybanon@earthlink.net.*



Help Fill the Bucket!

Our club is in need of grab bag material for next year's Show. Grab bags are very popular, and bring in quite a bit of money. We will be asking for rock, mineral, and fossil donations at our monthly meetings. Most of us have some specimens we can spare. Your trash could be someone else's treasure. We have lots of members, and if everyone gets in the habit of bringing something each month we will end up with lots of material to fill grab bags. Thanks, Idajeon, for this idea.

For Fluorite Fans

Thanks to Marc Mueller.

http://www.delminsociety.net/motm/motm_mar2007.shtml

Links to Federation News

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

Mary Anning introduction to Continued from P. 1 that article below.

Who Was Mary Anning?

Lori Carter

“Do you know who Mary Anning was?” For most people the answer to this question is usually another question—“Mary who?” Unfortunately, even in her own time, this question probably received the same response, despite the fact that Mary Anning may have contributed more to paleontology than almost any other single person of her time. Her fossil finds along the cliffs in Lyme Regis, a coastal town in southern England, spurred scientific discussion as well as public interest in the early 1800s, yet somehow she seems to be largely lost to history. My introduction to her was at Telus Science Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, at an annual event called “Night at the Museum”. The more I learned about her the more surprised I was that I hadn’t heard of her, so I wrote an article for *Rock & Gem*, which is now in the June issue. Please read more about Mary Anning. I think you will be surprised too.



man who found the bones in 1987. Stan is the first full-sized T-Rex fossil ever to come to Memphis. Dr. Neal Larson arrived with Stan from the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research, to direct Stan’s assembly.

Here are Stan’s vital statistics:
Order: Saurischia
Suborder: Theropoda
Family: Tyrannosauridae
Genus: Tyrannosaurus
Species: rex
Hell Creek Formation
Late Cretaceous—65 mya
Harding County, South Dakota



Dr. Neal Larson and Director of Museums Steve Pike interviewed for TV news.



Two Dinosaurs, One With Skin, One Without (Pink Palace volunteer suggested this caption).

T-Rex at the Pink Palace

Carol and Matthew Lybanon.

We spent a fun-filled few hours at the Pink Palace Museum on Thursday, June 28. Pink Palace members were invited to watch the assembly of a giant T-Rex skeletal cast. The original 65-million-year-old fossil was discovered in 1987 in South Dakota and is named for Stan Sacrison, the



Stan and MAGS Member Karen Schaeffer.

When you go to the Pink Palace to see Stan, be sure to see the “Bigger Than T-Rex: Giant Killer Dinosaurs of Argentina” exhibit (June 23-September 23). While the Pink Palace is trying to raise money to keep Stan there permanently, they do have a new animatronic T-Rex model on display in the *Continued, P. 4*

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T-Rex at Pink Palace “Bigger Than Continued from P. 3 T-Rex ...” exhibit. The

Pink Palace is running a contest to name the new T-Rex. Nominations will be accepted through August 5. For more details, go to the Pink Palace website, memphismuseums.org.



He already has a name: Stan.

July Web Report

Mike Baldwin, Webmaster

If you have not signed the "Nonconnah Science Park" petition and would like to, you can find a copy of the petition on the homepage of our website, www.memphisgeology.org.

Our pages have been viewed 2.6506 million times since they first appeared on the internet in 1998, with the average visit lasting 6 minutes. The following statistics are for the 05.11.12 through 06.10.12 time period.

Here's a brief look at MAGS website statistics:

- Total page views [31,555]
- Average page views per day [1,018]
- Highest number of pages viewed in a single day [2,526]

Top 5 pages [or documents] not counting the homepage:

- Coon Creek Book-Part 1.pdf [6,930 views]
- sg_Eris.htm [1,138]
- Devonian Fossils.pdf [997]
- RockNewso602.pdf [630]
- Explorero604.pdf [548]

Top 5 countries from which the MAGS website has been viewed:

- U. S.
- Ukraine
- Australia
- Canada
- Germany

May Board Minutes

Mike Baldwin

Attending: Ron Brister, Matthew Lybanon, Lou White, W. C. McDaniel, Doris Johnston, Carol Lybanon, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Mike Baldwin, Paul Sides, Bob Cooper, Bonnie Cooper, and Marc Mueller. Not present were Neville Mayfield, Charles Hill and Alan Schaeffer.

Meeting called to order at 18:42 by President Lou White.

Secretary: In the absence of a permanent secretary, Matthew Lybanon distributed April Minutes and Lou White presented to the board. Minutes approved with minor corrections. Lou led a brief discussion on the need to find a permanent board secretary.

Field Trips: Marc Mueller praised the great article in the May Rockhound News concerning the scheduled May 19, 2012, field trip to Nonconnah Creek. This will be a good first trip for new club members and a good time to promote the Memphis city proposal to establish a new city park along Nonconnah. Carol Lybanon will lead this trip, with W. C. McDaniel set to lead a short expedition to search for bottles. This will be a combination field trip and rock swap. May 26 DMC field trip near

Jackson, MS, to collect jasper, chert, agates and petrified wood. June 2-3 will be the Ben E. Clement Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show in Marion, KY. This show will include a fluorite field trip. June 16-23 are the dates for the week-long collecting trip to NC, which Charles Hill is coordinating.

Editor: Matthew Lybanon reported that input for the June newsletter edition is due by May 15. Please send pictures of any event or subject which might be of interest to other MAGS members. The June newsletter will be out slightly late [or extremely early].

Treasurer: Doris Johnston presented the April treasurer's report. After review, the report was approved, subject to audit.

Junior Programs: Carol Lybanon presented the following schedule for upcoming programs.

- May—crystals presentation by Idajeen Jordan; Mother's Day project by Carol Lybanon
- June—mineral identification and collecting with Carol Lybanon
- July—painting ammonite casts [thanks to Ron Brister for donating the casts]
- August—children join the adults for the indoor rock swap/potluck

Adult Programs: Paul Sides presented the following schedule for upcoming programs.

May—Fossil Fishing in Kansas with Dr. Michael Gibson
June—Swift Creek Influences at Pinson Mounds with Mark Norton
July—TBD
August—annual indoor rock swap/potluck
September—tentative plans for a presentation of Micro-fossils of McNairy County, TN. Bob Cooper asked about micro-fossils. Ron Brister explained that micro-fossils range in size from the size of a pinhead to the size of a red blood cell. A short discussion followed.

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Mining In North Carolina

Matthew and Carol Lybanon



L-R: Charles Hill, Emily Fox-Hill, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Bob Cooper, Bonnie Cooper, Sherry Bright.

MAGS Member Charles Hill did a first-rate job of setting up a fun-filled, adventurous week in North Carolina. The group visited several sapphire and ruby mines near Franklin, drove all the way to Spruce Pine to look for emeralds, and also did some sightseeing. If you missed this trip you missed a good one.



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May Board Minutes **Historian/ Continued from P. 4** **Rock Swaps:** Nannett

McDougal-Dykes is working on the details of the August rock swap/potluck. There will be a silent auction, a live auction, a treasure hunt for the children, among other activities.

Website: Mike Baldwin informed the board that the May newsletter will be posted online in the next day or so, as will the digital copy of Kenneth Boudion's book on the archaeology of T. O. Fuller Park [Chucalissa]. Lou asked about access to the newsletter online. The current newsletter is available through a read-more link in the first article on the left side of the home-page under the schedule of events. The newsletter is also available through an image link on the right side of the home-page.

New Business:

- ▶ Paul Sides—the club laptop operating system needs to be updated. The laptop may be too old to update. This is causing a problem with presenters. Our version of Powerpoint is not compatible with modern presentations. Matter will be discussed at future board meeting.
- ▶ Carol Lybanon—someone at the show last weekend asked if MAGS could provide a variety of rocks and minerals to be used in a gem dig similar to our dig, except this one would be for adults with disabilities. Interest in providing these items was discussed. No further action taken at this time.
- ▶ Carol Lybanon—we are in need of rocks, minerals, and fossils for next year's gem dig. Carol suggested that we "pass a bucket" at each MAGS membership meeting to give members an opportunity to donate materials on a regular basis. A reminder could be placed in each edition of the newsletter. The bucket could be placed by the door at meetings. An email will be sent to members be-

fore the May meeting to introduce the bucket idea.

- ▶ Nannett McDougal-Dykes—we need to address children's safety issues at the next membership meeting. Some children are climbing the poles in the fellowship hall during our meetings. Children need to be reminded of safe practices that affect them and people around them.

Show: W. C. McDaniel reported that this year's mineral, fossil and jewelry show was a huge success in all areas: attendance, vendor sales, earnings, volunteers. W. C. received a round of applause for a job well done. Attendance for this year's show was over 2,600 [a new record]. 236 show tickets were turned in. A list was circulated to the board members who were given an opportunity to "pay up" for any show tickets they may have distributed. The show took in over \$12,000.00 for the two days [60% of it on Saturday]. \$1,582.00 was collected in the RockZone [mostly in the form of 25c tickets]. A show wrap-up is scheduled for July. The grand prize has not been claimed. Ina Ramsey of Cherokee Village, AR, won the prize but was not present when her name was announced at the show. Several attempts have been made to contact her. W. C. will continue to try to get in touch with her.

Having no further reports or business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 19:40.

May Meeting Minutes

Mike Baldwin.

39 MAGS members, 2 guests (Dr. and Mrs. Michael Gibson), and 5 visitors (George Kutzgar, Abraham Perez, Ricardo Ortiz, Marcie Jordan and Mitch Jordan) were in attendance at tonight's membership meeting. Carol and Matthew Lybanon presented an information display and petition (at the sign-in table) seeking support of a proposal to establish a new Memphis

city park, the Nonconnah Creek Science Park.

President Lou White was out of town at meeting time. The meeting was called to order at 19:41 by First Vice-President Marc Mueller.

Visitors: James Butchko welcomed and introduced visitors (listed above).

Field Trips: May 19 field trip to Nonconnah Creek will be led by Carol Lybanon. Carol informed members that we will meet at the collecting site at 9:00. Maps are available at the sign-in table. Carol and Matthew Lybanon will visit the site on Wednesday to check the water level. Heavy rain one or two days prior to the field trip will create conditions unfavorable for collecting. Examples of material found along Nonconnah are on display tonight. It is possible to find crinoids, shells, corals, petrified wood, Native American artifacts, bone, agates, and more. Bring watershoes, bucket, rake, little shovel, snacks and water. There is no shade, trees, grass or mosquitoes.

Marc Mueller advised members who plan to attend the May 26 DMC collecting trip near Jackson, MS, that they might want to go down the day before, since the meeting time is 8:30. Material to be found at this location includes: petrified wood, palmwood, jasper and agates.

Marc Mueller informed members that the June 2-3 Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show, sponsored by the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum in Marion, KY will be hosting fluorite digs during the event which are normally not available. Night digs are possible, but beware of mosquito swarms attracted to the UV lights.

Charles Hill presented the latest information about the June 16-23 collecting trip to the Franklin, NC, area. The full itinerary is in the April MAGS newsletter. Local mines opened in April. Let Charles know soon if you are plan-

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May Meeting Minutes ning to attend
Continued from P. 6 this trip so he
can negotiate
better hotel rates. Saturday, June 16,
will be a travel day; June 17 field trip
to Chunky Gal; June 18 field trip to
Sheffield Ruby/Sapphire Mine; June 19
waterfall tour; June 20 Crabtree Ruby/
Sapphire Mine; June 21 free day; June
22 field trip to Mason Ruby/Sapphire
Mine; June 23 return trip to Sheffield
Mine. Franklin, NC will be the hub
for this trip. Most mines are within 50
miles of Franklin. Bring your own
lunch, snacks, and water on all collect-
ing trips. Marc Meuller interjected
that there are several great rafting/
canoeing rivers in the area.

Show: W. C. McDaniel reported that
this year's was a record show in all
areas: attendance, front desk,
RockZone. Thank you to all the vol-
unteers who helped make this show a
success. Great comments were re-
ceived from dealers, visitors, and
members, all very positive. (Marc) We
have exhausted all of our gem dig ma-
terials, please donate. (W.C.) If you
owe for show tickets, please pay soon.
The price goes from \$2.00 to \$3.00
per ticket in June.

June 9 is the date for the Fossil Road-
show at the Union County Museum in
MS. June 22-23 will be the final rock
sale in Arkansas.

New Members: Neville Mayfield
presented the list of new members
who joined at the show: Bob and
Betty Borger, Walter and Peggy Davis,
Diane Donahue, Jorge Leal, Fred Hi-
daji, Thomas Jones, Krista Lewis, Karl
and Denise Loeblein, Julie Lybanon,
Henry and Marsha Nall, Cyndey
Norwood, Clifton Cunningham,
Chastity Owens, Leonard and Teresa
Roverly, Beth Kowlett, Gene and
Cynthia Slater, and Kimberly and
Jerry Smahay. Welcome to each one of
you. Membership cards are available
at the sign-in table. Membership
cards are not required to attend

MAGS activities but they may be
used to verify your membership when
attending activities of other geology
clubs. Some establishments offer dis-
counts when you present your mem-
bership card.

Displays: 1 adult and 4 juniors pre-
sented displays this evening.

Nannett McDougal-Dykes presented
additional information on mines in
NC. The Sheffield Mine will give you
one free bucket in exchange for 25
cans (cat food type cans). Other
mines offer similar deals. Some accept
film canisters.

Juniors: At this time the juniors
were dismissed to attend their pro-
gram. There were 10 juniors here to-
night: Lauren Schaeffer, Michala
Demo, Ricardo Ortiz, Alberto Ortiz,
Abraham Perez, Luis Ortiz, Angelina,
Ragan Medlin, Danielle Schaeffer, and
Erin Leal. Idajeon Jordan and Carol
Lybanon presented the program.

Old Business: Matthew Lybanon
asked members with outstanding
show tickets to pay. If you have show
receipts, give them to him.

New Business: Matthew and Carol
Lybanon told us about the proposed
Nonconnah Creek Science Park.
MAGS involvement in the park could
be to provide a sign and information
about what has been and what can be
found along the creek. We have a pe-
tition showing support for establish-
ment of the park, if you would like to
sign it. We have approximately 100
signatures so far. Nannett McDougal-
Dykes asked Shelby Farms if MAGS
could set up an information table for
the new park and was granted permis-
sion to do so at any event held in
Shelby Farms Park.

Newsletter: Matthew Lybanon
stated that most members receive the
newsletter electronically. If you do not
have email, he can mail you a hard
copy. Help MAGS avoid the expense

of printing and mailing newsletters by
providing your email address.

Program: Paul Sides introduced to-
night's speaker, Dr. Michael Gibson,
who presented an outstanding over-
view of his UT-Martin paleontology
students' May, 2011 Cretaceous ma-
rine vertebrate fossil expedition to
the badlands of Kansas. The presenta-
tion covered field and lab phases of
fossil collection and preparation (find-
ing excavation sites, uncovering, stabi-
lizing, removing, transporting and
casting). Many of the fossils found on
this expedition (including one of
three mosasaur fossils) will be part of
a collection in the new Discovery
Park of America, Union City, TN.
This museum is slated to open in 2013.

Dr. Gibson's program concluded and
the meeting was adjourned at 20:54,
followed by refreshments and fellow-
ship.

Membership Cards are Available

Neville Mayfield, Membership Chair

MAGS has changed its mem-
bership cards since they were last
issued.

The cards no longer have an
I.D. number, and are good for sev-
eral years, when initialed each year
by the Membership Director or
other board officer.

We no longer mail cards to
everyone because, with approxi-
mately 110 member families/
individuals, it would cost about
\$66 for the mailing, plus, most
members don't need a card. (We
stopped mailing the newsletter
[except to those without email]
and a membership directory for
reasons of economy, also.)

We give cards out at the
monthly meetings, *Continued, P. 8*

Membership Cards and mail them
Continued from P. 7 to any member
who requests
one

The card is actually unnecessary for most MAGS activities, since we have a member roster we can check. Members who take part in field trips hosted by other rock clubs may find the card useful in validating their membership, and the card sometimes will give members a discount at various fee sites, so some members do find the card helpful.

Let us know if you would like a membership card.

QUALITY IN MINERAL SPECIMENS

by Konstantinos Charalampidis

Editor's Note: *The May issue published the first part of a long article that appeared in the official newsletter of The Mineralogical Society of Southern Africa. Some pictures that illustrate the article were published in the June issue.*

The portion in the May issue finished with Section I. Aesthetics, Subsection D. Clarity. It continues below.

E—Display-ability: Not all specimens can be mounted on a base and still look as good as they look in our hand! That's why display-ability is a criterion for aesthetics and since only a number of specimens possess it, it is rare. The following sub-characteristics should be taken into consideration:

I—Relief: This is actually the percentage of each single crystal that is visible, after displaying the piece. The following examples can make this clear. Imagine the

effect of a flat cluster of barite, where only half of each crystal is visible and all have similar size, compared to a cluster of barite crystals in different sizes that jump off the matrix in different directions and some crystals show more faces than the others. Now, imagine a quartz point that has grown against matrix and this contact covers in length two faces of the prism, compared to another crystal with only one contact horizontal, at the bottom of the prism. In both examples the latter case lets more of the crystal be visible.

II - Possible points of view: This defines the number of possible two-dimensional (interesting) views a specimen can give. Most pieces offer one or two obvious ways of display. Some other specimens have a back face which is also interesting—the so-called 'two faces pieces'. Even better, and harder to find, are those specimens that can be displayed and be interesting around an axis. Those are called '360 degree display pieces'. The best and rarest are the ones that can be displayed any way all around and still look great! Those are the hardest to choose a mounting base for and the hardest to find.

III—Focus: Most specimens have a point where the attention is held more than on the rest of the piece. Normally this is the best crystal or some aggregate. When the piece has a single focus point, this would be better in the centre or at the top of the piece, when displayed. When we have multiple focus points, it's better for them to be symmetrically situated and obviously distanced one from an-

other. How often does this happen?

F—Balance: The term 'balance' is normally a function of weight. In mineral collecting it is a matter of relative position. The following sub-characteristics can clarify the term: I-Crystal position, II-Proportions, and III-Polarity.

I—Crystal position: Crystals or aggregates are the most interesting structures on a piece. The position of the crystals, or the best of them, is important for the aesthetics. It's more engaging for the eye when the best crystals are well-positioned in a group(s), than chaotically spread. Also, it is more aesthetic when the crystal or the groups are positioned in the centre or near the edge of the piece than on some random area. Lack of well-positioned crystal(s) could be an advantage if the number of pieces that miss this balance is much less than those which show it.

II - Proportions: The first thing that comes to mind is proportion of size, but proportions of colours, species, quality of different crystals and quality of different species should equally be considered.

—Proportion of sizes: A general rule for that could be 'Interesting should be bigger!' According to that, we need big crystals and small matrix, big crystal for main species and smaller for species of secondary importance (for a given piece), big interesting crystals (i.e. twins) and smaller less important crystals of the same species on a given piece.

Continued in a future issue.

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

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.
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 The Southern Appalachian Mineral Society—Asheville, NC(HOST)
An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society**

**Open 8:30 AM til 5:00 PM
Saturday, July 14, 2012
Thermal City Gold Mine
Union Mills, North Carolina
FEE AREA**

The Southern Appalachian Mineral Society would like to extend an invitation to fellow DMC clubs to join us in panning for gold at a genuine placer mining site in Rutherford County, NC. Thermal City Gold Mine consists of a one mile section of the Second Broad River and about 80 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 flakes and maybe small nuggets. Ample shade, parking, and instruction in panning are always available when needed.

FEE AREA Fee \$10 to pan all day. Gembuckets also available for sluicing for adults and kids as low as \$5 per bucket.

Higher prices for high banking or dredging, need reservation for the trommel/Hi-Banker.

Children: Welcome with Adult Supervision

Pets: allowed on leash

COLLECTING:

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

For additional information on the site, including details about a 'front-end load' or overnight stay, contact the mine at: phone: 828-286-3016, Website: <http://www.thermalcitygoldmine.com/>

HISTORY: This is an unsalted site and many people 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.

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.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: We will meet at the site. From Asheville take I-40 east to exit #85 (Marion/Rutherfordton); proceed south on US-221 for about 8 1/2 miles to the Rutherford County line; the entrance to the mine is on the left (look for signs along the way). Travel time should be about one hour from Asheville.

CONTACT: Tim Barton at 828 885-8248 Vice President of Southern Appalachian Mineral Society in charge of field trips.

Crabtree Emerald Mine



Look closely. Can you find the emeralds?

There are some extensive dumps around the mine, and it is clear the miners did not see or find everything! Recent digging through the dumps has produced a number of nice specimens. Of the minerals that have been found the most sought after is the Emerald,

generally tightly locked into a matrix of quartz, mica, and feldspar. Also found in these dumps are black tourmaline, garnet, fluorite, aquamarine, and golden beryl.



Look closely. Can you find...?

In the whole United States there have been only 2 significant sources of emeralds. One of these is the Crabtree Emerald Mine!

Calendar

July 5, 2012

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

July 13, 2012

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

July 14, 2012

DMC Field Trip, Union Mills, NC

August 10, 2012

Reminder: Save date of August Membership Meeting for Indoor Picnic/Rock Swap.

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

