



Volume 59 ♦ Number 08 ♦ August 2013 ♦ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

Discovery Park of America

A Major Attraction In Tennessee



by Carol Lybanon

Editor's Note: Union City, Tennessee (population a little over 10,000) is best known to MAGSters because it's near Reelfoot Lake. But something remarkable is coming there.

On Wednesday, July 24, Matthew, Karen, and I got into our car and travelled to Union City, Tennessee. It took us about 2 hours to get there from Memphis. Union City is a small town located in

Obion County, northeast of Dyersburg.

Discovery Park is scheduled to open in the fall. We had no idea what we would be able to see. When we got to the area there loomed this mammoth construction that took our breath away. We were warmly welcomed by Mary Bondurant, Discovery Park's Marketing Director. We viewed a short video that

Continued, P. 7

Change in August 10 field trip. See P. 5 for details.

In this issue

Discovery Park of America	P. 1
Indoor Picnic and Rock Swap	P. 1
MAGS and Federation Notes	P. 2
Got Sand?	P. 3
Pink Palace Field Trip	P. 4
MAGS Upcoming Field Trips	P. 5
Texas Fossil Marathon Update	P. 6
June Board Minutes	P. 6
June Meeting Minutes	P. 8
Earth Discovery Day	P. 8
Jewelry Bench Tips	P. 9
Bitten by T. rex	P. 9
Pictures	P. 10
Calendar	P. 10

The next meeting of the MAGS Archaeology Interest Group will be at 10:00 A. M. on August 17 at Chucalissa.

MAGS PRESENTS "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S INDOOR PICNIC AND ROCK SWAP"

The August 9 Membership Meeting will be the eleventh annual indoor picnic and rock swap. For the picnic (potluck) MAGS will provide the table covers, plates, and cutlery. Board Members will provide the drinks.

Members: Bring food to share. So that we can have a balanced picnic, we request Members to bring an item in one of the three areas



Last names A-J ☞ Desserts

Last names K-S ☞ Entrees

Last Names T-Z ☞ Side Dishes

We encourage you to bring other items.

Continued, P. 10

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, MAGS Rockhounds,

Ice cold watermelon and hunting rocks—that's what I'm talkin' about. Ice down a melon in the morning and by lunch or break time it's good and cold. A cooling rehydration!!!

There's quite a few rockhound vacations planned and occurring. Get out and collect some "good stuff," as Idajean would say: "good stuff."

Thanks to Ron Brister and the Pink Palace Museum for the behind-the-scenes tour of the areas most people don't get to see. Fossils galore from all over, and from some sites that aren't accessible or don't even exist anymore. Like tear down the carwash and put in a parking lot type areas.

Have a great summer. See ya at a dig.

MAGS President
W. Paul Sides

MAGS Rockhound News thanks Mike Baldwin, Lori Carter, Kim Hill, and Matthew Lybanon for the pictures you see in this issue.

Please contribute articles or pictures (everybody likes pictures) on any subject of interest to rockhounds. If it interests you it probably interests others. The 15th of the month is the deadline for next month's issue. Send material to lybanon@earthlink.net.

August DMC Field Trip

WHERE: Chunky Gal Mountain, Corundum Knob, Clay County, NC

WHEN: Saturday, August 17, 10:00 A. M.

COLLECTING: Ruby Corundum, Spinel, Sapphire, Talc, Serpentine, Brucite, Tremolite, Actinolite, Smaragdite, Pyroxene, Fuchsite, Dunite

INFORMATION: Kim Cochran, (770) 979-8331

Links to Federation News

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

Got Sand?

Lori Carter

Last month we learned a little bit about the variety of colors in sand. But then there's the question: what is sand? What is the definition of sand? Generally speaking, the term "sand" indicates the size of a particle. The size that defines sand depends on the frame of reference. Geologists, sedimentologists, engineers, and other people who consider sand for scientific and commercial uses have strict and specific size, granularity, and even angularity requirements. But for people who collect sand, if we deem it to be sand, it is sand. There are three general types of sand based on how it was formed—eroded, precipitated, and biogenic.

Eroded sand is how we usually think of sand being formed, from minerals, rocks, even fossils. Many MAGS members have collected at Chunky Gal Mountain in North Carolina. A creek that runs nearby called Buck Creek contains tiny chips of almandine garnets that are eroding from rocks in the area.



An example of precipitated sand is some oolitic sand (pronounced oh-uh-lit-ick) I collected from Stansbury Island in the

Great Salt Lake, Utah. Oolites are formed from calcium carbonate that is precipitating out the water. It accumulates in layers around a nucleus that can be a bit of rock, shell, or even shrimp poop to form a small concretion called an oolith. As the shallow water moves back and forth, the ooliths accumulate more and more layers, just like when someone rolls snow to make a snowman.



Biogenic sand is formed from organic material like shells, sea urchin spines, sponge spicules, diatoms, and foraminifera. A famous sand from Okinawa, Japan, is called "star sand," and it is the tests (external skeleton) of foraminifera.



As you can see from the pictures, the composition of sand can be quite diverse. This is one of the many reasons people collect sand. Another reason people collect sand is that it is easy to do.

Besides the obvious places like beaches, deserts, and dunes, sand can be found in creeks, lakes, rivers, quarries, gullies, ditches—even even found sand in some geodes. All you need to collect sand is something to scoop it with like a small shovel, spoon, or even the lid of a container, and something to store it in—usually a baggie, jar, or bucket. Once you get it home you may need to screen and wash it to remove pieces so large even a sand collector wouldn't consider them sand, plus leaves, twigs, unfortunate bugs or snails, and very fine particles that would obscure the view of the sand—clay, loam—that sort of thing. Most people store a small portion of the sand for display in a glass vial or similar container. The rest of the sand can be stored in bags or jars for trading with other collectors—which is another reason people like to collect sand—it is uniquely shareable.

At the SandFest conference in November, one of the most popular activities will be the trading. Attendees always look forward to exchanging samples with one another. So even if you have never been to Hawaii, you may come home with some green peridot sand that you traded for some Buck Creek garnet sand. For more information about SandFest, please see the website at www.iscs.sigmabookstore.com. Next month we will take a closer look at biogenic sand including fossil sand.



Don't miss the **Texas Fossil Marathon**—see P. 6.

Big Turnout for Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the Pink Palace

Good Stuff at the Pink Palace by *Kim Hill*

On July 13 I got another MAGS field trip under my belt. While this one was indoors it was a fantastic day. We all met up in the lobby at the Pink Palace and I believe I heard that more than 40 people attended. After a brief intro by Ron Brister we were escorted to the back rooms of the Pink Palace and told we could open cabinets and drawers! And we could touch what we found as long as we put everything back in its original place!

We found front claws and foot claws of T-Rex and some raptors. We saw leg bones and jaw bones and full skulls. There were unique minerals. There were some drawers with big crab fossils, rocks with fish fossils and small dinos, drawers of items collected from Nonconnah Creek and Coon Creek. And as I passed a group in one room, loud oohhs and aaawws came from it. So as soon as I could slide my way in (it was a small room) I saw what they were oohing and aawing over—SPHERES!!!

Now I am an admitted marble maniac, but these were far bigger than most of my marbles, and the colors were awesome. There were several made from petrified wood; who would have thought so much color would come out of the wood? There were giant agate spheres, and some perfectly clear—no bubbles in them—crystal spheres. Rose crystal spheres and many more—it was hard to leave those drawers the same way I found them.

I could only bring one of the grandkidlets, and she is hard to impress, but I found her eagerly opening drawers and cabinets and peering into shelves. What a great way to spend the day! And while I can't

speaking for the others I am pretty confident in saying everyone had a great time at the Pink Palace. THANKS, RON!!!!



**More pictures
on P. 5**

A Few More Samples of What We Saw at the Pink Palace



MAGS Upcoming Field Trips

Month	Date and Location	Trip Status
August	<p>August 10</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rock tour (inside and outside) at the McDaniels. Also a few marbles, bottles, yard art, and assorted stuff. 2. Crystal/Quartz cleaning demonstration. 3. Bring a bucket for “free” rocks (mostly small/medium yard grade rocks). For every ”free” bucket you promise to volunteer at least two hours at the 2014 Show. 4. Lemonade and cookies 	trip bulletin available
September	<p>Aug. 31-Sept. 2, Labor Day Weekend North Central Texas, Ammonites and other fossils</p>	trip bulletin available
September	<p>September 28—Coon Creek (date tentative), admission required</p>	trip bulletin to be published
October	<p>October 12—Gravel pit near Jonesboro, Ark., new site for MAGS</p>	trip bulletin to be published
November	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Planning Stages 	trip bulletin to be published
December/ January-2014	<p>January 3-5, Missouri tentative</p>	trip bulletin to be published

Editor’s Note: The August 10 field trip has been changed from the trip that was published in last month’s issue of *MAGS Rockhound News*. For more information on field trips (except for the Texas trip), contact W. C. McDaniel at (901) 274-7706 or w.c.mcd@att.net. For information on the Texas trip, contact Matthew or Carol Lybanon at (901) 757-2144 or lybanon@earthlink.net.

Texas Fossil Marathon Update



Hey there, buckaroos. Are you ready to wrangle some Texas-size ammonites, plus other Cretaceous and Pennsylvanian fossils? We have an action (and fun)-filled long weekend planned for you in Cooke County, Texas.

You probably know someone who went there last November. Just ask them if it was worth the trip. This time we plan to visit a prime new site and some of the good ones from last year's trip, plus you'll get to meet members of the Dallas Paleontological Society. Our plans also include getting together to eat in some really great places!

Here are some details:

Schedule: Join us for all or any part of the trip.

- ▶ August 30, travel day
- ▶ August 31-September 2, collecting
- ▶ September 3, travel day

Location: Valley View, Cooke County, Texas, and surrounding area.

What to Bring: Rock hammer and chisel for removing excess matrix or removing fossils from bedrock. Knee pads would be helpful. Buckets or sturdy bags for hauling the finds out. Most places have some water to wade through or at least mud so old sneakers or even mud boots would be good. Screens for sifting out teeth would be useful for some sites.

How to Get There: Driving directions from Memphis: Take I-40 W to Little Rock. (Optionally) take the I-440 bypass to I-30 W. Continue on I-30 W into Texas. Take exit 199 onto US-82. Follow US-82 W until it intersects I-35 at Gainesville. Enter I-35 S and continue about 12 miles to exit 486. The total distance is about 500 miles.

Hotel Information: Motel 6 Valley View (formerly Valley View Inn & Suites), 1000 S Interstate 35, Valley View, TX 76272, (940) 726-3447. If you make reservations through the Motel 6 website make sure you pick the right motel. There is more than one Valley View in Texas, and if you aren't careful you may book the motel 100 miles away in Wichita Falls. You have to enter the motel's address or ZIP using the site's "Advanced Search" feature to find the right one. Calling the motel directly is simpler. Valley View (this Valley View) is in Cooke County, about 45-50 miles north of the beltway (I-635) around Dallas, on I-35.

This motel will be the meeting place. There are also motels in Gainesville (8-10 miles north) and Denton (about 25 miles south). There are a few motels in Sanger (10-12 miles south), but apparently none of the national chains.

This trip is less than a month away, so now is the time to sign up. For information contact Matthew or Carol Lybanon at lybanon@earthlink.net or (901) 757-2144.

June Board Minutes

Carol Lybanon

The MAGS Board of Directors met June 6 at St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P. M. by Ron Brister. President Paul Sides arrived a few minutes later and took over the meeting. Present were: Mike Baldwin, Ron Brister, James Butchko, Bonnie Cooper, Charles Hill, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Neville Mayfield, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Paul Sides, *Continued, P. 8*

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

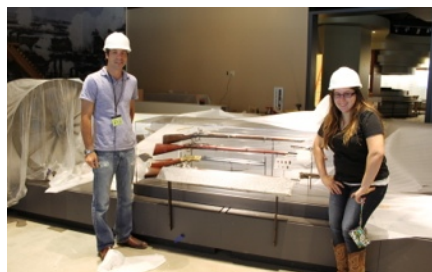
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Discovery Park introduced us to the Park's ideas. Wow, how exciting to be part of such a unique place!
Continued from P. 1 The entire community was invited to join in and contribute to the planning of the facility.

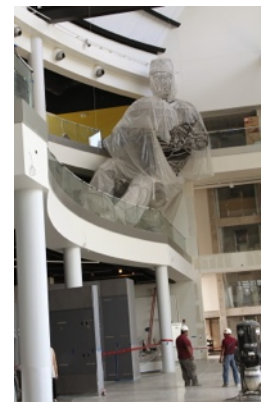
We put on our hard hats and were treated to a wonderful tour of what will be. We took lots of pictures which we are sharing with you in hopes that Discovery Park will pique your interest and you will want to visit after it opens. I am sure we will.

This was my impression and here are the facts.

- Discovery Park is a \$100 million project, funded in part by the Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation.
- Discovery Park, on a 50 acre site, will have indoor and outdoor exhibits.



- Discovery Center is a 100,000 square foot space that will house 10 exhibit galleries. Exhibits will cover science, nature, technology, art, and history.
- Special features: an earthquake simulation theater, a 200 foot high observation tower, a 20,000 gallon aquarium showing Reelfoot Lake's marine life, a dinosaur exhibit, antique cars, and military equipment.



- There will be many children's hands-on learning adventures, including the 60 foot replica of the human body (jungle gym, rightmost picture).
- Outdoor experiences include buildings that depict different eras along with several formal gardens you can stroll through.



This is only a sampling. To find out more about this spectacular attraction in our own back yard, go to www.discoveryparkofamerica.com.

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

June Board Meeting Bob Cooper, and
Continued from P. 6 Marc Mueller.

Secretary: The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer: No report.

Membership: Neville reported that there is nothing new. He hasn't had time to enter the names of the people who joined most recently, but he will get to it. Matthew has dues from two members who renewed, but forgot to bring the money to this meeting. Neville has their names.

Field Trips: Charles reported on the Frankstown trip. The water was a little high but people still found some good stuff. Ron asked people to bring specimens from Frankstown for display. The next field trip is to Crow Creek, on June 15.

Adult Programs: Ron told everyone that he will be out of town. He asked if someone could take the keys from him and bring them to the Membership Meeting. He also asked for a volunteer to handle displays, because W. C. will present the program.

Junior Programs: Jim reported that Mike Baldwin will present the June program, "Edible Plate Tectonics." Bill Gilbert will present the July program, on micromounts.

Show: Jim reported a profit. We need to present a check to Ronald McDonald House. This will be discussed under New Business.

Library: The library will be closed at the June meeting.

Newsletter: Matthew again asked people to send articles. He noted there were six different authors in the June newsletter.

Webmaster: Mike reported that the June newsletter is ready to be posted.

Historian/Rock Swap: Nannett said that the next rock swap, the Indoor Picnic, is scheduled for August.

Old Business:

▶ Ron reported on the Archaeology

subgroup. MAGS Members will prepare cases for presentations. These cases can be used at our gem show, and Members will be allowed to check them out for presentations. The cases will be stored at Chucalissa. The groups next meeting will be June 22.

- ▶ Mike invited MAGS Members to participate in a field trip to Frankstown he is hosting for the YMCA camp.
- ▶ Carol brought up the subject of hospitality hosting at our Membership Meetings. Bob and Bonnie Cooper volunteered to be the hosts for June. Carol will talk it up at the June meeting and get volunteers for the rest of the year.

New Business:

- ▶ The issue of a donation to Ronald McDonald House was discussed. Jim thought that since we used their name for publicity, a \$1,000 donation would be appropriate. Neville's view was that we should decide on a percentage of the profit for donations, so that we don't have to have a new discussion every year. However, after some discussion Nannett moved that we donate \$1,000 to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Memphis from the 2013 Show. The funds will be issued from the Show account. The motion was carried. Mike said that he would print a giant check so that we can get some publicity. Nannett will contact the person at the Ronald McDonald House, and let Mike know when to print the check. Chucalissa will get a check in October. We need to get in touch with TEST to make a donation, and judge projects at the science fair. Mike will contact them to see if we can work this out.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P. M.

June Meeting Minutes

Carol Lybanon

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on June 14. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P. M. 42 Members and 1 visitor were present.

BUSINESS:

- ▶ 17-18 people joined W. C. McDaniel for the Frankstown/Blue Springs field trip. Tomorrow's field trip is to Crow Creek. The creek is low enough. Bring insect repellent and wading shoes.
- ▶ Matthew Lybanon asked for articles and pictures for the newsletter. As Show Treasurer, he reminded people to pay for Member Show tickets.
- ▶ Carol Lybanon asked for volunteers to help with hospitality hosting at meetings. She was very pleased with the response, and will notify members to remind them of which month they signed up for.
- ▶ Jim Butchko reported that the Show made a profit, and also told Members that the Board voted to donate \$1,000 to Ronald McDonald House.
- ▶ Neville Mayfield introduced our new Members.

DISPLAYS: Members introduced their displays. There was a variety of displays: Blue Springs, slag glass, stactite, a rabbit rock, heart rocks, and items from Crow Creek.

The business part of the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P. M.

PROGRAM: W. C. McDaniel presented a program on mimetoliths.

Earth Discovery Day

Alan Goldstein

The Falls of the Ohio State Park is holding Earth Discovery Day on August 24. It highlights many aspects of geology through activities and programs. Visitors can explore our rich Middle Devonian patch reef packed with fossils on the riverbed *Continued, P. 9*

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Earth Discovery Day at the Falls of the Ohio.
Continued from P. 9

Once again we have an earthquake simulator, courtesy of the Indiana Geological Survey, where you can experience a 5.5 to 8.0 shake. We offer guided tours on the fossil bed and have informational booths by paleontology and geology clubs. This year's guest speakers include: Don Mikulic (trilobite expert), Ron Richards (Indiana mastodons), and Charlie Mason (fossil program). Our children's activity area will feature on-going craft projects with geological themes. We have literature on-site about dozens of fossil parks and museums across North America.

New this year (August 25 & 26) we are hosting a fossil symposium for serious amateurs—the theme is Silurian. Contact me for information, space is limited.

A long-standing tradition continues, with local quarries donating fossil-bearing Silurian Waldron shale and Devonian limestone residuum. Dig for brachiopods, bryozoans, corals, crinoids, cystoids, snails, clams, and trilobites in our Fossil Collecting Piles. Search the mineral collecting pile from Rosiclare, Illinois, for fluorite, sphalerite, barite, and more! Collecting is prohibited on the river bank and fossil beds, so we can direct your club to other places to collect fossils.

This would be an ideal weekend field trip. We hope members of your group will be able to attend this year!

Admission is \$2 age 2-12, \$5 age 19+. Event details can be

found at the park's web site: www.falloftheohio.org/special_events.html, or contact me at agoldstein@dnr.in.gov, (812) 280-9970, ext. 403.

Alan Goldstein is the Interpretive Naturalist at Falls of the Ohio State Park in Clarksville, Indiana.

Jewelry Bench Tips by Brad Smith

FOREDOM MAINTENANCE

If you have a Foredom flex-shaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it's running properly. But how to do that? You've probably lost the little booklet that came with the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of videos on how to do it.

The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and handpiece maintenance. Few if any special tools are needed. You can watch the videos at www.foredom.net/videolibrary.aspx and repair parts are available from most jewelry supply catalogs.



JUST A DROP

Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy bench items for putting a drop of oil or glue just where you want it.

The small metal tubing lets you squeeze out very small drops and reach into tight places.

I use the small one on the left for oil when I'm sawing or drilling harder metals like steel. And I use the bottle on the right from a plastics store for the fast drying glues used to join pieces of acrylic.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book *Bench Tips for Jewelry Making* on Amazon.

Bitten by T. rex



Researchers found a part of a T. rex tooth wedged between two tailbones of a duckbill dinosaur unearthed in northwestern South Dakota. The tooth was partially enclosed by regrown bone, indicating the smaller duckbill had escaped from the T. rex and lived for months or years afterward.

The research, published July 15 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, is based on the first fossil ever found with a T. rex tooth embedded in the bones of its prey. It provides evidence that T. rex was a hunter, not a scavenger.

Indoor Picnic & Rock Swap



Continued from P. 1 Sell, swap, or buy.

Sellers, bring your own tables.

There will be other events, activities, and door prizes. Bring your fluorescent minerals; we'll have a UV light. Juniors will join the adults this month.



Junior Display at Meeting



Juniors Concentrating on Their Program

Calendar

August 1, 2013

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

August 9, 2013

Indoor Picnic/Rock Swap, Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 7:30 P.M.

August 10, 2013

MAGS Field Trip, McDaniel residence

August 17, 2013

MAGS Archaeology Group Meeting, Chucalissa, 10 A.M.

August 24, 2013

Earth Discovery Day, Falls of the Ohio State Park, Clarksville, IN

August 31-September 2, 2013

MAGS Field Trip, Valley View, TX

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

