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MEGALODON

A legend of prehistoric proportions

W.C. MCDANIEL: "A sharp, coppery emptiness rumbled deep within the creature's gut. Two full moons had come and gone since it had last fed, and its need was now overriding. Desperate. Before it, an invisible cone of fear swept the warm, shallow sea clean of life. Shoals of hake and tilefish panicked at its coming, scattering like handfuls of flung metallic spears. At a length of 50 feet and a mass of over 52 tons, it would take more than a mere morsel to satisfy the Megalodon. The enormous shark needed food - big food. A marlin circled lazily to the Megalodon's left, its barred ultramarine flanks glittering in the flickering shafts of late afternoon sunlight. Capable of mind-stuttering bursts of speed, it was too hard to catch for the shark to bother with. But still Megalodon's hunger burned. Skulking silently along the bottom, the Megalodon caught a glimpse of a whale rising gently to the surface to ventilate its lungs. It was a cetothere, slow-moving and about 30 feet long: perfect. But the whale

would only be vulnerable for a few moments, as it recovered from its most recent dive. As the whale drew in fresh air to replenish its spent supply, Megalodon continued its stalk. Closer . . . closer . . . NOW!! The shark pumped its tail powerfully from side-to-side, accelerating rapidly to close the distance between it and the fuel its cells so urgently needed. The Megalodon's jaws gaped wide, revealing triangular, serrated teeth the size of a man's hand. Oxygen-bearing water pounded through its gills exhilaratingly. The Megalodon's upper jaw, slung loosely under its skull like that of other sharks, protruded forward and down: reaching, straining in anticipation of sweet, warm flesh"¹

The legend
Larger than a greyhound bus, bigger than a T-rex, able to consume large qualities of whales on a



daily basis, world wide distribution, teeth as big as your hand and a contested linkage to the modern day Great White Shark of Hollywood fame are some of the common descriptions of megalodon sharks. megalodon, which comes from Greek for "big tooth", has become one the most recognized and awe inspiring names in the fossil kingdom. With that popularity and notoriety comes a blurring of fossil facts, myth, marketing hype, and shark tales. Let's take a look at this creature by jumping into the ancient oceans and reviewing

(cont'd page 3)

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comments and articles to the attention of Shelby Hartman, 5116
Whiteway Drive, Memphis, TN 38117 or via email at magsnewslet-
ter@comcast.net

President's Corner



SANDY WARD: *Greetings! I hope all of you had a safe and fun holiday weekend. Just a couple of things this month —*

A reminder from our library: If you check out MAGS library items, PLEASE don't lose them. Most of our books are very expensive to purchase or replace. Also, please remember to return them in a timely manner so others can have an opportunity to enjoy them, too!

Be thinking about how you can get involved and help utilize our new space in Midtown. We will be sharing some exciting new plans and ideas for our "workshop" space soon. Can you teach a small class on something that you enjoy, like jewelry making, wire wrapping, beading, cutting or polishing/tumbling rocks, etc.? Get involved with your club, it's fun!!!

See you at the meeting —

Sandy

MEGALODON (cont'd from front page)
the fossil history and current research.

Prehistoric sharks

Sharks have been around more than 400 million years. They pre and post date dinosaurs. The oldest shark scales are about 420 million years old, from early Silurian deposits in Siberia. The oldest fossil shark teeth are about 400 million years old from early Devonian deposits, in Europe. The oldest known complete fossil shark remains, are about 380 million years old from Devonian deposits in Antarctica and Australia. Sharks have undergone several evolutionary changes with the current physical structure evolving around the Jurassic period. The megalodon made its first appearance during the Miocene about 18- 20 million years ago and disappeared, about 2 million years ago.

Fossil remains and physical structure of the megalodon. Fossilized remains of sharks are almost exclusively of teeth as the body of sharks is made mostly of cartilage which doesn't fossilize. Megalodon teeth have been found in Europe, India, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, North America, and South America. The size of these teeth is very big and has spawned speculation of how large was the megalodon. The initial estimates, developed during the 19th century, were over 100 feet. A really big whopper. However, the size estimate has been "scaled" back to around 40-60 feet. Now the megalodon is just a whopper.

Weight of the megalodon is estimated to about 40-60 tons. The pictures of fossilize teeth inset herein show a big and impressive creature.

The teeth

Two words sum up the megalodon, BIG TEETH. The picture below is of the largest known megalodon tooth, about 7 5/8 inches, which was found in Chile. The megalodon produced a lot of big teeth with the average size around 3-4 inches. Five to six inches were common. The megalodon, like most sharks, would produce and use hundreds, sometimes thousands, of teeth during its lifetime. Fossil teeth can be found almost any color with the majority of the commercially sold teeth being gray, brown, or black as they come from the tidal basins of the eastern United States with its phosphates deposits.



like most sharks, would produce and use hundreds, sometimes thousands, of teeth during its lifetime. Fossil teeth can be found almost any color with the majority of the commercially sold teeth being gray, brown, or black as they come from the tidal basins of the eastern United States with its phosphates deposits.

(cont'd page 4)

Note- several years ago MAGS gave away a cast of this specific tooth, along with a 4 inch real fossil tooth, as the show's grand door prize. (photo credit misplaced by author from a web site)



Announcements & Tidbits

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

We would like to welcome our newest MAGS members: **Maureen and Stan Johnson**, and **Susan and Jon Thompson**. We all look forward to meeting you at the next membership meeting and on our upcoming field trips!

TIPS FOR PROTECTING SPECIMENS IN THE FIELD

Aluminum foil makes an excellent wrap for protecting specimens in the field. Many people use newspa-

per or tissue which usually "doesn't want to stay wrapped." The two major benefits of using foil is that it is compact and form fitting. A roll takes up much less space than newspaper and you can tear off as much or as little as you need. You can wrap the specimen as tightly or as loosely as you require. Some people pre-cut squares to carry along and others just toss a roll in their backpacks.

There isn't much that hurts worse than finding a

nice specimen in the field and then damaging it while transporting it back to your vehicle. It is a good idea to obtain a tube of Paleobond or any similar cyanoacrylate adhesive, which is sold in a variety of viscosities. Spray accelerants are also available that will produce instant bonding. If you can repair the break in the field while you still have well fitting pieces, it's better to do so than to transport the specimen and risk further damage to the broken sections. See: paleobond.com/

MEGALODON *(cont'd from page 3)*

The megalodon has been 'linked' to the modern white shark. The picture on the right compares a megalodon tooth with a modern white shark. The size difference is considerable. Paleontologists must rely primarily on teeth to reconstruct sharks. There are apparently enough similarities and differences to ignite a debate. However some of the most recent studies conclude the Great White most likely evolved from the mako, not the megalodon.

Carcharodon or Carcharocles? The debate

One of the most contested debates among paleontologists is the evolutionary linkage of the megalodon to the modern Great White. The original linkage was made in the 19th century. Since then several research studies disputes that classification. A

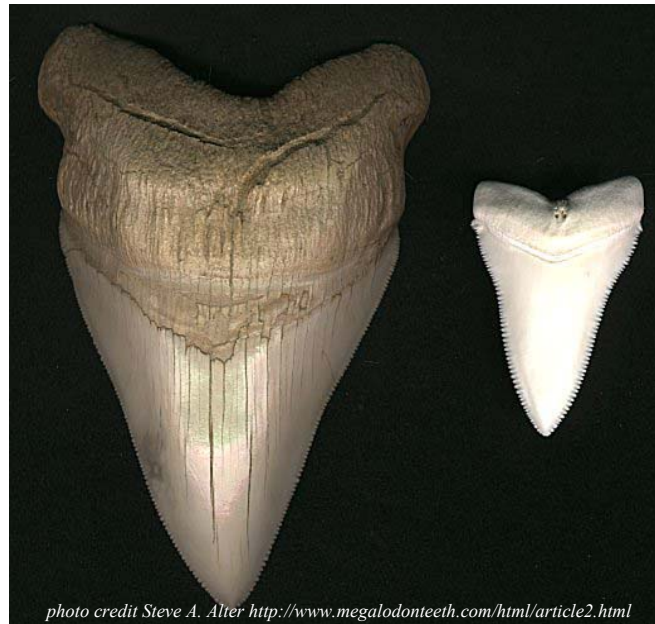


photo credit Steve A. Alter <http://www.megalodonteeth.com/html/article2.html>

summary of the arguments are:

Carcharodon Megalodon proponents - Scientists of this theory site several similarities: in quality and number of

the serrations, form (except for serration size and root depth), the structure of the teeth, and the patterns of tooth development as set in the jaw.

Carcharocles Megalodon proponents - Scientists of this theory observes that the serrations on the Great White teeth do not change in terms of quality or number as the shark ages. They also argue serrations of the Great White are much larger and irregular compared to those of the megalodon. Markings on the blade show distinct differences and you can't ignore the root depth and serration size. Additionally, these scientists compare the internal pores for nerve and blood vessels, and show a distinct difference between the two species. Vessels of the Great White are large and in groups. Megalodon's are small and scattered. The evolutionary linkage does not diminish or change some important facts about the megalodon. Megalodon was a relatively recent species, appearing in the fossil record only about 20 million years ago and disappearing suddenly about 2 million years ago. The teeth size is indisputable and its awe popularity will continue.

1 http://www.elasmo-research.org/education/evolution/origin_megalodon.htm



picture source <http://www.megalodonteeth.com/shop/jaws.html>

The fantasy wish picture of the author collecting sharks teeth in South Carolina...

September Birthdays



September's birthstone is sapphire

Blue is the main color of sapphire but it comes in yellow, pink, orange, and purple. The color, transparency and durability make this a favorite among gemstone lovers. It belongs to the corundum group, characterized by its hardness (9 on the Mohs scale). Its hardness is surpassed only by a diamond. A sapphire's coloring is dependent on the content of other elements, mostly iron and chrome. Many brides now choose sapphire for their wedding ring because the stone is durable and symbolizes constancy and reliability.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Lenette Mewborn | 19 Karen Schaeffer |
| 5 Richard Bradford | 20 Adam Scilken |
| 5 Emily Fox-Hill | 21 Rachel Griffin |
| 5 Barry Walther | 21 Bill Prior |
| 6 Lloyd Marler | 22 Linda Hendrix |
| 7 William Huettel | 23 Park Noyes |
| 10 Alishia Parks | 24 Cecil Perkins |
| 11 Deborah Penyak | 25 Terri DeVoe |
| 11 Amelia Tummalapalli | 25 William Randolph |
| 13 Fred Anderson | 27 Cheri Kines |
| 14 Rhena South | 28 Zoe Laulerkind |
| 15 Bob Dorrough | 28 Jon Thompson |
| 16 Barry McCalla | 28 Bonnie Cooper |
| 17 Ivon Clark | 29 Alan Peterson |
| 18 Natalie Prodanovich | 30 David Manson |
| 18 Anne Warren | |

Web Site Statistics for August 2007

a brief look at our website
(www.memphisgeology.org) from 1/21/02-8/21/07

Total Vists & Hits	
Total visits to web site	881,261
Total hits to web site	244,498
Visits in past 30 days	33,547
Hits in past 30 days	9,123
Average daily visits (past 30 days)	276
Top page views past 30 days	
homepage	581 hits
Rocknews1005	572 hits
Rocknews0807	558 hits
Rocknews0707	293 hits
US State Parks	264 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.

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

Fossil Fuel Quiz: How many can you answer with either (A) coal, (B) oil, or (C) natural gas?

1. _____ There is enough known quantity of this to last approximately another 200 years.
2. _____ Started out as plankton millions of years ago.
3. _____ This fossil fuel provides about 40% of the world's energy.
4. _____ In its early stages, this fossil fuel is a spongy, brown material called "peat."
5. _____ This fossil fuel burns the hottest, making it the most efficient for making electricity.

Answers: 1=A 2=B&C 3=B 4=A 5=C

2007 Dates to Remember

	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date For Newsletter Submissions
September	06	14	Aug 29
October	04	12	Sep 21
November	01	09	Oct 17
December	06	14	Nov 21

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of The Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society - Montgomery, AL(HOST)

An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

10:00 CST, Saturday, September 15, 2007

Douglas Property, Dothan Alabama

FEE COLLECTING SITE - \$0.25 per lb.

COLLECTING: We will be collecting intercostal plains flint and chert. This material ranges in size from small chips to massive boulders. There is a wide variety of colors; brown, creams, yellows, red, and purples. Some of the smaller pieces are solid and jasper-like and will cab or tumble nicely. The larger boulders contain vugs with a drusy quartz covering sea shells. Some also have a thin layer of a purple chalcedony that may be cabbed if cut and polished with care.

FEE: There will be a 25 cent per lb fee for the material collected.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: The site is on the Douglas property (fish ponds and farm land) near Dothan Alabama. The area covers several acres and there are no facilities.

BRING: Sledge hammers, rock hammers, and chisels will be needed to breakdown the larger pieces. A garden rake will be useful to search the hillside for the smaller pieces. Five gallon buckets are also a good idea. It will be hot., bring plenty of fluids, sunscreen, hats and food or snack items.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: We will meet at the Kmart (Big K) parking lot at the intersection of Ross Clark Circle(US 84) and Hwy 431 North(also called Headland Hwy or Reeves St.) in Dothan AL.. We will leave at 10:00 CST for the 10 minute drive to the site.

When: 10:00 CST, Saturday, September 15, 2007

Contact:

David Sherrod, MGMS Field Trip Chair

cell 334-201-4460

email dsher355@bellsouth.net

"Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!" DMC Program / SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose: To collect field trip information from it's member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

MAGS SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

BARRY BURNS: The September MAGS field trip will be to Richardson Landing — if nature allows! We will meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot behind the First Baptist Church in Millington. If you are coming from Memphis, take Highway 51 North through Millington to the intersection of Wilkinsville Rd. and Hwy. 51N. (You will see a WalMart on the left and Perkins on the right at the intersection). Go left on Wilkinsville Rd. and you will come to an immediate four-way stop at West Union and Wilkinsville Rd. The First Baptist Church entrance is just past that four-way stop on the right. (*If you go through the intersection of Hwy. 51N and Wilkinsville Rd. you will see the church about 1/3 mile on your left.*)

Collecting will be from gravel beds along the Mississippi River. Material we will be looking for will be fossils, petrified wood, agate, and jasper. This is an easy site. The only difficulty is a short hill and some large pieces of driftwood to maneuver. You may even want to collect some of the driftwood. Some of the beds require a 1.2 mile walk but there are beds closer.

As always, be aware of critters and be prepared to carry your own food and water. Keep in mind, some vehicles at the boat ramp have been broken into so don't leave anything tempting in view.

Maps will be provided at the September Membership Meeting. Any questions, can be directed to me, Barry Burns, at (901) 355-0764

Please note: If the water level is too high at Richardson Landing, we will likely move our field trip to Nonconah Creek. We will have a sign up sheet at the Membership Meeting and all who plan on attending this field trip can provide your phone number. If the field trip is moved to Nonconah Creek, we can telephone those on the sign up sheet and advise them of the change. Also, we will provide an update on the MAGS website if the location changes. The website can be accessed at <http://www.memphisgeology.org/> .

2007 Adult Presentations

September

“Overview of the Mining Process”

Presented by Alan Parks

The original schedule program by Dr. Michael Gibson has been postponed to February 2008

October

“Fluorescent Minerals”

Presented by Mike Baldwin and Mike Cannito

November

“Exploring a Mineral Collection”

MAGS members will uncrate, unpack, unwrap, and marvel at a 1,100 piece mineral collection purchased by MAGS. The first viewing in decades!

December

Christmas Party

No program

July 2007 Board of Directors Meeting Notes : CAROL LYBANON

The MAGS Board of Directors met July 5, 2007, at the Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. Those present were: Sandy Ward, W.C. McDaniel, Ron Brister, Pam Gurley, Mike Cannito, Mike Baldwin, David Day, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, and Barry Burns. The minutes from the June Board and General Meetings were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report : The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted, subject to audit. **Field Trips :** David Day reported that there is a change in the field trip plans. We will go to Memphis Stone and Gravel on August 18 instead of in July..The July field trip will go to Turkey Creek, near Starkville, MS, on July 21. We will hunt for marcasite. David will have handouts with directions and information at the Membership Meeting. Matthew Lybanon reported on the June 23 trip to the Union Chapel Mine. We hope to return to the site, tentatively next March. We will contact Ashley Allen to secure the date, and ask him to present a program on the site at the General Meeting in February. W.C. McDaniel made us aware of the fact that we need to schedule a field trip with the DMC, so that we can keep our membership current. Mike Baldwin will check what dates are available in 2008 or 2009. **Programs:** W.C. McDaniel reported that our next program will be a three-parter. First, we will sort slips from the Show, for a better data base. We need to set up tables and chairs for this part. Second, we will be asked to play a game, "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?", a quiz with a geology theme. Third, there will be a live auction with material from Dick McKittrick's yard. We will split the proceeds 50/50 with Dick. **Library:** Ron Brister asked Mike Baldwin for help in cataloging 100 books; the catalog will be put on the website. W.C. McDaniel reminded Ron that we need to purchase a book for our library in the name of a member who recently passed away.

Web Report: The newsletter will be up soon. At that time Mike Baldwin will make all other updates to the website. **Membership:** Pam Gurley said there is one new member application, for Deborah Penyak. The Board approved the application. **Rock Swap:** Sandy reports that she got an email from Cathie Jacobs. Cathie said she is trying to get back to normal. Cornelia McDaniel is taking over until Cathie gets back. Melba Cole hosted the June rock swap. The weather was great and we had excellent participation. The July rock swap will be hosted by the Schaeffer family. This rock swap will be on a different day, Sunday, July 29, 4:00-6:00 P.M. There will be a New Orleans theme. Matthew Lybanon volunteered to generate a map and directions to the Schaeffer house, since they will not be at the July Membership Meeting. **Show:** Sandy circulated a letter from the Ronald McDonald House,

thanking us for our contribution. **Old Business:** Some of the Board Members went to see the space in Midtown that we are considering renting, and liked the space and its location. The monthly rental is \$238, all-inclusive. We don't have to sign a long-term lease. We have money set aside to use on this project. We need to include all of our membership so that this effort will succeed. After some discussion W.C. McDaniel volunteered to be the interim chairman to get this project started. Carol Lybanon moved (Matthew Lybanon seconded) that we should rent the space located on South Cox for three months, August-October 2007, with W.C. McDaniel as temporary chair. The money is to come from the Show account. The motion passed. A committee will be formed to plan the use of this space. David Day suggested that a release should be signed each time a person uses the space, and that a sheet should be on the wall with sign-in and sign-out times. **New Business:** Purchase of audio-visual equipment—We need a laptop computer and an LCD projector. We are looking for people who have some knowledge, and possibly also a way to get some discounts on the purchase. Barry Burns said he could help price the laptop and projector, and that he has a screen that he could possibly donate to MAGS. Sandy Ward said that one of our new members also has a connection that we could look into. Mike Baldwin found out that he could check out some of this type of equipment from his place of employment when we need it. 2007 Southeast Federation Directory—Carol Lybanon has a copy, and anyone who needs any information from the directory can call. Several other Board Members also have copies. CBC Collection—W.C. McDaniel wants to unveil the collection at a special event. The collection consists of 50-60 boxes of specimens. As yet, the Board has not chosen a time. One possible time would be the November Membership Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

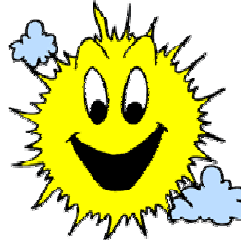
July 2007 Membership Meeting Notes : CAROL LYBANON

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on July 13. The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Ward at 7:43 P.M., with 53 members and 10 visitors in attendance. The visitors were Velma Gunter, McKayla Cusker, Marc Mueller, Lisa and Mason Williams, Maureen Johnson, Caitlin Douglas, Donna Marsh, Anna Marsh, and Susan Thompson. Sandy Ward announced that this was a special Friday the 13th: Happy special birthday to our President. Certificates from the AFMS were presented to Mike Baldwin, Sherri, Baldwin, and Rhena South. Congratulations. **Field Trips:** David Day told about the upcoming field trip to Turkey Creek (near Starkville, MS) on July 21. He is looking for someone to lead this field trip, since he will be unable to attend. Signup sheets and directions are available at the back of the room. Pam Gurley said that this is a very good field trip. The water is shallow and the area is shady. Next month's field trip will be to Memphis Stone and Gravel, on August 18. It will be

June 2007 Membership Meeting Notes (CONTINUED)

to a site we have never visited, and we may have the opportunity to go to more than one site. **Show:** Please pay for your outstanding tickets. We will be displaying our food table at the Big Scoop again this year (July 28) **Library:** Ron Brister called for the return of overdue books. **Rock Swap:** This month's rock swap will be at the home of Debbie and Alan Schaeffer. This month's event will be on a Sunday, July 29, 4:00-7:00 P.M., and will have a New Orleans theme. Maps and driving directions are available on the table in the back of the room. **Youth Program:** Richard Gunter presented a program on making Native American coil pots. All the children looked very busy. He warned the children not to let the pots dry in the sun. They must dry very slowly to prevent cracking, and then be baked in the oven. Each child received complete written directions. Thanks to Richard Gunter for presenting this program. **Adult Program:** Three-part program: (1) Show grand prize entry slips alphabetized, (2) "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grade Geology Student?" quiz (Mike Baldwin won, and W.C. McDaniel provided the prizes of polished stones), and (3) live and silent auctions. **Exhibits:** Adult: Carol and Matthew Lybanon, Union Chapel Mine specimens; and Youth: Ben Mandino, variety of rocks and fossils. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Sunshine Report



If you have any announcements to include in the sunshine report, please contact Pam Gurley at 324-7235

This month we have had no reports of illness.

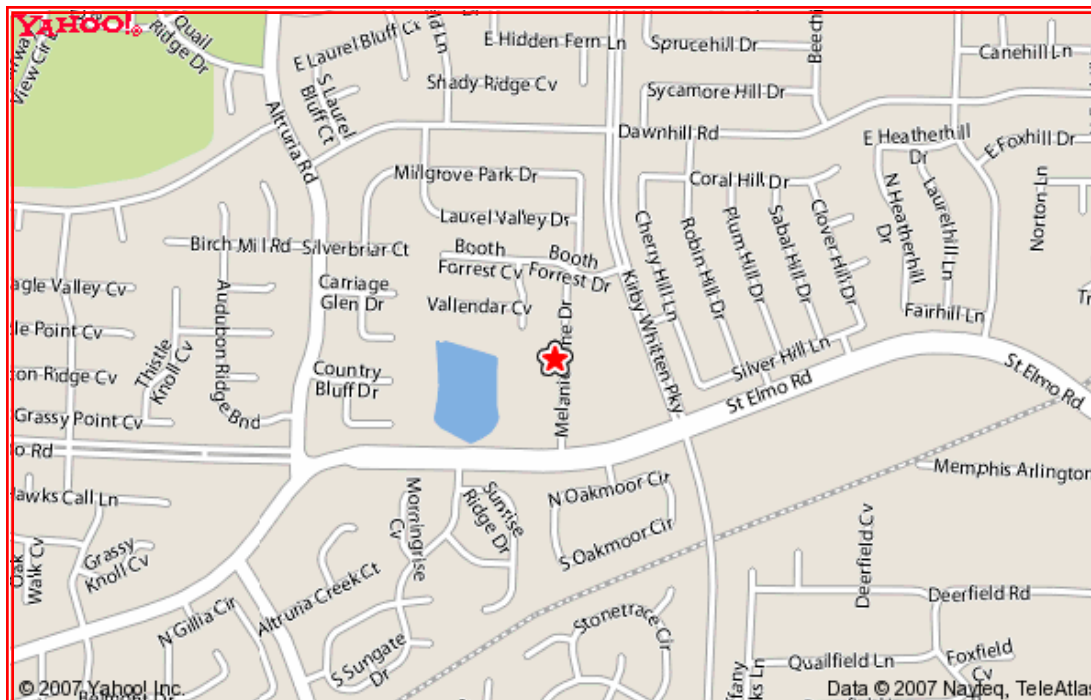
September Rock Swap!

This month's Rock Swap will be held on Sunday, September 16th from 2-6 p.m. — hosted by Lou White at his home located at 3805 Melanie June Drive in Bartlett, TN. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be the day's fare and everyone attending is asked to bring a side dish or dessert. If you plan to sell or trade at the swap,

you need to bring a table for your items. Even if you don't sell, you can still buy or swap. There will be a wide variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, and other goodies to choose from.

From I-40 take Exit 14 at Whitten Rd. Turn left at Whitten Rd. Continue on Kirby-Whitten Rd to St. Elmo Rd. and turn left on St. Elmo. Turn right on Melanie June Rd.

Lou White: 937-8522



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.

Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, other societies may use material published in MAGS Rockhound News provided that proper credit is given and the sense or meaning of the material is not changed. Editor: Shelby Hartman, 5116 Whiteway Drive, Memphis, TN 38117

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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)

September 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						

September 6	6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
September 14	7:30 p.m.	Membership Mtg. at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road
September 15	10:00 a.m. CST	DMC Field Trip, Dothan Alabama
September 16	2:00—6:00 p.m.	Rock Swap—Home of Lou White, Bartlett, TN
September 22	8:00 a.m.	MAGS Field Trip to Richardson Landing



MAGS Rockhound News
5116 Whiteway Drive
Memphis, TN 38117