

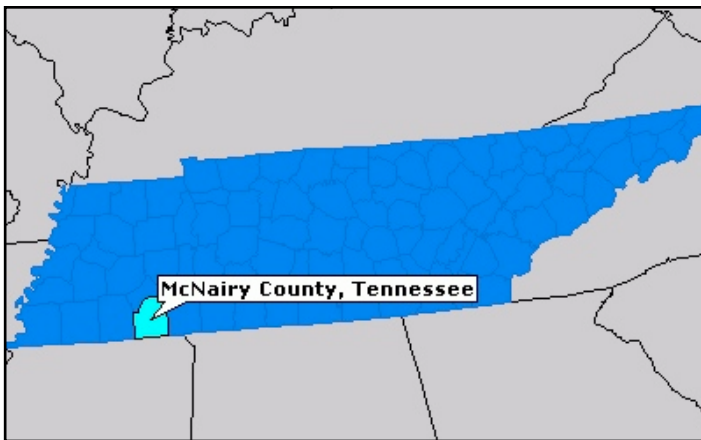


Volume 58 ◊ Number 09 ◊ September 2012 ◊ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

## October Meeting Date Change—See Below

### September Program

*Microfossils of McNairy County, Tennessee*



MAGS Member Dr. Nina Baghai-Riding will present the September 14 program. She is Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Science at Delta State University.

McNairy County is well-known to MAGSters as the home of the Coon Creek Science Center, one of the world's leading sites for Upper Cretaceous marine

shells and vertebrate remains. Walter Berryhill's 1955 Mississippi State University thesis described the microfossils that can also be found in the area. Nina's program will bring us up to date.

**Ref:** [www.memphisgeology.org/images/Coon%20Creek%20book%202nd%20Half%20draft%20final.pdf](http://www.memphisgeology.org/images/Coon%20Creek%20book%202nd%20Half%20draft%20final.pdf) (this is a download from the MAGS website).

In this issue	
September Program	P. 1
Meeting Date Change	P. 1
MAGS and Federation News	P. 2
September Field Trip	P. 3
July Board Minutes	P. 4
July Meeting Minutes	P. 5
September Web Report	P. 5
October Field Trip	P. 6
New Field Trips	P. 7
Proposed Bylaws Changes	P. 7
What's Happening At Chucalissa?	P. 8
8th Annual Geode Fest	P. 8
Jewelry Bench Tips	P. 8
Quote of the Month	P. 8
September DMC Field Trip	P. 9
Potosi, Missouri	P. 10
Calendar	P. 10

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS: OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE CHANGE

The October 2012 MAGS Membership Meeting will be one week earlier this year. It will be on **October 5**, at the regular time (7:30 P. M.) and the regular place (Shady Grove Presbyterian Church). This is a one-time change; the September and November (and later) meetings



will be on the normal dates, the second Friday of the month.

The reason for the change is that the October field trip, to Texas to collect ammonites and other fossils, will be October 12-14. You can read more information about plans for that field trip in the article on P. 6.

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

## 2011-2012 MAGS BOARD

### President—Lou White

3805 Melanie June Drive, Bartlett, TN 38135 ◊ (901) 937-8522

### 1st VP (Field Trips)—Marc Mueller

1415 Shagbark Trail, Murfreesboro, TN 37120 ◊ (615) 491-5110 ◊ skydancer2992@yahoo.com

### 2nd VP (Programs)—Paul Sides

1062 CR 739, Wynne, AR 72396 ◊ (870) 208-9586

### Secretary—Mike Baldwin (acting)

367 North Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017 ◊ (901) 853-3603 ◊ mbaldwin05@gmail.com

### Treasurer—Doris Johnston Jones (acting)

409 Bradford Trail Cove, Collierville, TN 38017 ◊ (901) 832-0437 ◊ darjohnston@aol.com

### Director (Asst. Field Trips)—Charles Hill

2887 Forest Hill Irene Road, Germantown, TN 38139 ◊ (901) 754-1504 ◊ hunter3006@aol.com

### Director (Asst. Programs)—Alan Schaeffer

6854 Corsica Drive, Memphis, TN 38120 ◊ (901) 753-8496 ◊ laserme@aol.com

### Director (Youth)—Carol Lybanon

2019 Littlemore Drive, Memphis, TN 38016 ◊ (901) 757-2144 ◊ lybanon@earthlink.net

### Director (Asst. Youth)—Bonnie Cooper

8695 Baylor Road, Arlington, TN 38002 ◊ (901) 377-0900 ◊ rocks4us@hotmail.com

### Director (Librarian)—Ron Brister

3059 Old Brownsville Road, Bartlett, TN 38134 ◊ (901) 388-1765 ◊ bristerr@bellsouth.net

### Director (Membership)—Neville Mayfield

3982 Glendale Drive, Memphis, TN 38128 ◊ (901) 386-3006 ◊ enmayfield@gmail.com

### Director (Historian)—Nannett McDougal-Dykes

106 Maple Street, Stanton, TN 38069 ◊ (901) 634-9388 ◊ redchesty@yahoo.com

### Newsletter Editor—Matthew Lybanon

2019 Littlemore Drive, Memphis, TN 38016 ◊ (901) 757-2144 ◊ lybanon@earthlink.net

### Webmaster—Mike Baldwin

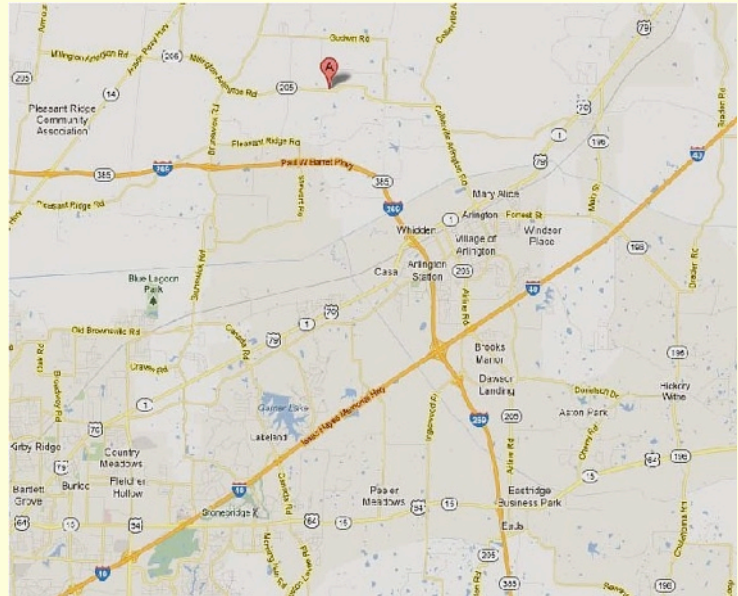
367 North Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017 ◊ (901) 853-3603 ◊ mbaldwin05@gmail.com

### Show Chairman—James Butchko

4220 Dunn, Memphis, TN 38111 ◊ (901) 743-0058 ◊ butch513j@yahoo.com

## September Field Trip Map

See next page for more information about this field trip. This is a joint field trip with the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.



### 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. Bring the kind of things you would like to get. 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, Idajejan, for this idea.

### Links to Federation News

- ➔ AFMS: [www.amfed.org/afms\\_news.htm](http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm)
- ➔ SFMS: [www.amfed.org/sfms/](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/)

The SFMS 2012 Annual Meeting will be October 19-21 in Tampa, Florida, co-hosted by the Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club and The Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society. Check the SFMS website for more information.



# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

---

## MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

[www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org)

\*\*\*\* FIELD TRIP BULLETIN \*\*\*\*

<b>Collecting Site Location:</b>	Memphis Stone and Gravel Company <a href="http://www.msgravel.com">www.msgravel.com</a>
<b>What to collect:</b>	Chert gravels with fossils (Mississippian, Devonian, and Silurian), petrified wood, agate, conglomerate, quartz and other rocks and minerals associated with regional alluvial terrace deposits of Pleistocene / Pliocene age. We will be collecting the gravel from stockpiles.
<b>Date / Time:</b>	September 8, 2012                      10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
<b>Meeting Site:</b>	We will meet at Memphis Stone and Gravel Company's North Plant facility and we will collect there. The facility is located at 10236 Millington-Arlington Road, Arlington, TN 38002.
<b>Difficulty Level (1 {easiest} to 10):</b>	1
<b>Restrictions:</b>	This field trip is open to anyone. Pets must be leashed at all times. No fee is required. See safety statement below.
<b>Tools:</b>	Bucket and rock hammer, we will be surface collecting and no digging is necessary. Spray bottle with water is very helpful.
<b>Safety:</b>	All safety rules must be followed. A copy of the safety rules can be obtained from the Field Trip Leader. Remember, any time eye hazards may exist, such as hammering or prying, safety glasses MUST be worn. This is an active mine with dangerous areas. All young children must be under CONSTANT ADULT SUPERVISION and NEVER allowed to roam around. Shoes must be closed and laced (no flip-flops or Crocs) and must have long pants. Bring plenty of water and sunscreen!
<b>Field Trip Leader:</b>	Alan Parks (home phone 853-6898) (mobile 481-9730) Email: <a href="mailto:alan.parks@msgravel.com">alan.parks@msgravel.com</a> additional information at <a href="http://www.memphisgeology.org">www.memphisgeology.org</a>

Directions: Make your way to Paul Barret Parkway (TN Hwy 385), which is north east of Memphis. Once on Hwy 385 go to the Stewart Road Exit (between Brunswick Road and US Hwy 70). Go north on Stewart Road to stop sign (0.1 miles). Turn left onto Pleasant Ridge Road, go about 1/4 mile and turn right onto Deadfall Road. Take Deadfall Road to Millington-Arlington Road and turn right at stop sign. The entrance will be on the north side of road (about 1/2 mile).

## July Board Minutes

*Mike Baldwin.*

Attending: Mike Baldwin, Ron Brister, James Butchko, Charles Hill, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Neville Mayfield, Marc Mueller, Alan Schaefer, and Lou White.

Meeting called to order at 1830 by President Lou White. Lou introduced James Butchko as the 2013 Show Chairman. In the absence of Paul Sides, Lou announced that the program for the July membership meeting will be "What's in the Dirt" by Lou White.

**Secretary:** July Minutes were distributed by Mike Baldwin and presented to the board by Lou White. Minutes approved with no changes.

**Treasurer:** No report.

**Field Trips:** Charles Hill reported that the North Carolina field trip was a lot of fun. He will give a full report at the July membership meeting. He has samples from Chunky Gal which he will bring to the July membership meeting as giveaways. A discussion about field trips followed. Charles commented that MAGS needs to plan more field trips within 3 hours of Memphis. Because of the current dry weather patterns Sugar Creek and 20-Mile Creek are very low. Nannett McDougal-Dykes will check out 20-Mile Creek this weekend for a possible MAGS field trip there on July 21. Charles mentioned his plans to make a trip through Montana in a couple of years. Perhaps this could be another long field trip for members. Marc Mueller would like to plan a field trip to the Livingston, TN, area, but not to Nameless. Bucket prices for geodes have increased too much. The Ledbetter Farm would be a good alternative. Charles will have a questionnaire in the August newsletter to poll members on their suggestions for future field trips.

**Membership:** No report.

**Historian:** Nannett McDougal-Dykes said plans for the August indoor rock swap/picnic are progressing. There will be a live auction and a silent auction. Nannett asked about the materials in storage that will need to be sorted and prepared for the auctions. Mike Baldwin will have an ultraviolet light at the August rock swap. Members can bring specimens from their collections to test for fluorescence. Carol asked Nannett to provide information for the August newsletter. Nannett will have flyers to distribute at the July membership meeting.

**Library:** No library report but Ron Brister did have three new business items. [01] The University of Memphis Geology Club is currently inactive. If MAGS can provide an information poster, Ron will post it in the UM Geology Department. Perhaps some geology students would be interested in joining MAGS. [02] Chucalissa Museum has raised \$11,000 toward reconstruction of the Native American village on the museum plaza. Ron asked that MAGS consider giving a donation for building materials. [03] Ron has discussed with Robert Connolly, Director of Chucalissa, the feasibility of starting an archaeology group which would meet at the museum on a monthly basis. Ron has written a proposal for training interested members in dig procedures.

**Junior Programs:** Carol Lybanon reported a change in the junior program for July. Rather than painting ammonite casts, the juniors will take a trip to North Carolina right there in the classroom. Carol has bags of dirt from one of the NC mines, which the juniors will sift, wash, collect and identify any gemstones found. Charles Hill will assist Carol. In August the juniors will join the adults for the annual indoor rock swap/potluck.

**Newsletter:** Matthew Lybanon announced that articles and pictures for the August newsletter are due on or before July 15. Matthew brought up four new business items. [01] The Tennessee Trust for Public Land has determined that Memphis does not have enough public parks. Matthew will meet with Rick Wood next week to discuss a proposal to establish the Nonconnah Creek Science Park. [02] James Johnson, MAGS member who lives in Sullivan, Missouri, has a large amount of material to donate to MAGS for the 2013 Rock Zone. Arrangements need to be made to transport the material. [03] Rhonda Cloud, with the Pink Palace Museum is considering changing Coon Creek Day to the first weekend of May, rather than the current last weekend of April, so that it does not conflict with the MAGS Rock Show. She would like to have a display at the show. [04] Matthew gave the board a recap of income and expenses for the 2012 Rock Show. A brief discussion followed.

**Website:** Mike Baldwin will include a short article about and link to the Chucalissa Museum on the homepage of the MAGS website. A short Blue Springs article will also be included. The website will be updated this weekend.

Marc Mueller showed the board the membership packet from the north Mississippi club. The packet included a club patch, membership cards, a list of officers, a membership roster, constitution and calendar.

**Show:** Matthew reported that Ronald McDonald House had been presented with a donation based on the ticket sales [not profits] of this year's show. A lengthy discussion followed concerning the allocation of show funds and the distribution of proceeds. Concerns were expressed that a constitution/bylaws clarification is needed on how monies are distributed. Article V, Sec-

*Continued, P. 5*

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

*July Board Minutes* tion VIII of the  
*Continued from P.4* Constitution  
and Bylaws currently states that the show chair is “to submit a written report within one month of the closing of the show to the Board of Directors, itemizing all monies received from tickets, spaces rented, advertisers, etc., and all monies disbursed for advertising, rent, printing, etc., with all profits put in the show account.”

**New Business:** Lou White asked Carol and Matthew Lybanon to work on a proposed change to the Bylaws which would clarify that the Board of Directors [which includes the Show Chair] decides about allocation of money from the Show account for other than expenses directly related to the Show.

Having no further reports or business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2006.

---

## July Meeting Minutes

*Mike Baldwin*

40 MAGS members and 3 visitors were in attendance at tonight’s membership meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 by President Lou White.

**Visitors:** Membership Director Neville Mayfield welcomed and introduced visitors.

Lou White introduced the 2013-2014 MAGS Nominating Committee: Mike Baldwin [chair], Ron Brister, and Doris Johnston. Due to his mother’s passing, Paul Sides was not at the meeting tonight.

**Field Trips:** Charles Hill gave a report on the recent week-long series of field trips in North Carolina. Charles displayed a variety of specimens from those field trips. He mentioned that he is planning a week-long trip to Montana in 2 years.

**Rock Swaps:** Nannett McDougal-Dykes reported that plans for the August Indoor Rock Swap/Picnic are going well. Please pick-up a flyer tonight. Nannett recognized the 2012 Show Committee members. Nannett also reported that the Ronald McDonald House was presented with a donation from the show. She showed the membership a plaque presented to MAGS by St. Jude.

**Newsletter:** Editor Matthew Lybanon spoke about the proposed Nonconnah Science Park. He emphasized that both MAGS and Memphis would benefit from the park. A petition in support of the park is on the back table for you to sign, if you so desire. Matthew and Carol have been talking with the Trust for Public Land whose goal is to protect land in and around cities. The trust has been in existence for 40 years and their findings show that Memphis needs more parks. The Lybanons spoke to Rick Wood, with the Trust, about Nonconnah Science Park. Mr. Wood vowed to help Memphis develop more parks, including Nonconnah Science Park. Progress is slow but Matthew stated that we are making headway.

**Show:** Neville Mayfield reported that the 2012 Rock Show was the best one yet. Because the show is bigger, it requires more management and more volunteers, therefore we need more members. Please take MAGS flyers, post cards, and applications to share with your friends and neighbors. W. C. McDaniel stated that this year’s show was very well organized and the MAGS members’ participation rate was very high. The 2013 show chairman, James Butchko, stated that we already have 20-30 buckets of rocks that need to be sorted for grab bags and next year’s gem dig. Carol Lybanon mentioned that the “Collection Bucket” is at the back of the room. She asked members to bring dona-

tions. Someone brought several boxes of magnetite tonight.

**Displays:** There were 2 junior displays and 3 adult displays this evening. Nannett McDougal-Dykes displayed pyrite and recent fluorite finds from Marion, Kentucky; Bill Gilbert displayed clam shells with calcite from Ruck’s Pit; and Charles Hill displayed recent finds from North Carolina, including zoesite with rubies and sapphires, tourmaline, garnets and quartz.

**Juniors:** At this time the juniors were dismissed to participate in their program. Carol Lybanon and Charles Hill provided the juniors with dirt from North Carolina, which they sifted and searched for gemstones.

**Program:** “What’s in the Dirt: Rocks, Minerals, Fossils and Other Things” was presented by President Lou White. Lou has been collecting since March 8, 1958, when he found his first Native American arrowhead. He shared his stories and collections with us, which included Native American artifacts, Civil War relics, rocks, minerals, fossils, and bottles. Thank you Lou for a great presentation.

Mr. White’s program concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 20:34, followed by a live auction, refreshments and fellowship.

---

## September Web Report

*Mike Baldwin, Webmaster*

Our pages have been viewed 2.720 million times since they first appeared on the internet in 1998. From July 11 through August 10, 2012, our website had 35,754 hits, averaging 1153.35 hits per day. The top five pages for that time period were: [01] Coon Creek Book-Part 1; [02] Eris-Dwarf Planet Larger Than Pluto; [03] Devonian Fossils of West Tennessee;

*Continued, P. 6*



*September Web Report.* [04] *MAGS Rockhound News*—December, 2007; and [05] *Stonehenge Village Found*. Here's the Stonehenge article from the MAGS website.

### Stonehenge Village Found

*Entered by Mike Baldwin.*

The excavation of a 4,600-year-old village in southern England is changing the way archaeologists think about Stonehenge. Researchers from the University of Sheffield suspect that the same people who built Stonehenge also built and lived in the recently discovered village. Many investigators have viewed Stonehenge as a site used for religious or astronomical purposes, but the team from the Sheffield suggest an entirely different purpose for Stonehenge. Michael Parker Pearson, leader of the research team, looks at it this way. He feels that both the village and Stonehenge were part of a religious complex devoted to the dead. After huge feasts in the village, Pearson suggests that the villagers transported the bodies about 2 miles up the River Avon to Stonehenge, where some of them were interred after cremation. The massive stones memorialized the villagers' deceased relatives.

Before the University of Sheffield began in 2003, researchers in 1967 had detected magnetic traces of dozens of hearths (typical of dwellings) in an area called Durrington Walls. Durrington Walls is a large henge, an enclosure surrounded by an earthen ditch and banks. In September 2006, Sheffield's team uncovered eight

houses at the site. Each house measured about 16 square feet and each had a central fireplace set in a clay floor. Postholes and slots in the floor once anchored wooden furniture. Huge numbers of animal bones and cooking implements strewn across the floors indicated that large feasts had taken place there in ancient days. Julian Thomas of the University of Manchester in England excavated two Durrington Walls structures on a terrace within the henge. These structures were once surrounded by wooden fences and ditches. Thomas suggests that these houses and several others nearby may have served as community leaders' homes or as shrines.

Radiocarbon dating of the houses coincide with previous age estimates for cremated remains discovered at Stonehenge. The Durrington Walls community bordered a stone road 90 feet wide and 560 feet long, which ran from a large ceremonial circle of timbers to the river. Two miles upstream a similar road ran from the river to Stonehenge. The discovery of the Durrington Walls road enhances the relationship believed to have existed between the community and Stonehenge. The Stonehenge road, discovered in the 18th century, aligns with the midsummer-solstice sunrise, while the Durrington Walls road aligns with the midsummer-solstice sunset. Consequently, a set of three enormous stones at Stonehenge frame the midwinter-solstice sunset, while the Durrington Walls timber circle aligns with midwinter-solstice sunrise.

Pearson ascertains that

Durrington Walls may have been used as a place of periodic celebration of life, before transporting their dead up the River Avon to be cremated at Stonehenge and sent into their afterlife. More research is now underway and will continue until 2010, with hopes of finding more evidence of graves and funeral activities in the Durrington Walls area.

*Suburb of Stonehenge: Ritual village found near famed rock site. Science News This Week. Science News. Vol 171, No 5, February 3, 2007. Science Service. Washington, DC. pg 67. Information gathered for educational purposes under the "fair use" provision of the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976.*

### October Field Trip

Plans are being finalized for an October 12-14 field trip to Valley View, Texas. Here are details:

**What:** Ammonites, some of them large. We will visit several sites, some of which are rich in other fossils. One site has a variety of Cretaceous fossils. The Pennsylvanian exposure at another site offers abundance, diversity, and excellent preservation and even some older Cephalopods among the crinoids, brachs, bryozoans, corals, gastropods, bivalves, coprolites, conularia, shark teeth, echinoids ...

**When:** October 12-14, 2012 (travel days October 11 & 15).

**Where:** Valley View, Texas, and surrounding area. Valley View is about 500 miles from Memphis (I-40, I-30, US 82, I-35). It's in Cooke County, approximately 20 miles north of the

*Continued, P. 7*

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

*October Field Trip* Dallas metro-  
*Continued from P. 6* politan area.

If you are interested in going on this trip, contact Matthew or Carol Lybanon at [lybanon@earthlink.net](mailto:lybanon@earthlink.net) or (901) 757-2144

## New Field Trips

*Charles Hill*

Hi, everyone. Since I came back from North Carolina, I have been working hard on finding new locations for field trips. I am looking for places within a three-hour drive, that have enough area to accommodate a large group of people, and with access that is not too challenging. I first started looking at Flint River, Alabama. It is right over the state line, and it is part of the river system draining the Pickwick Lake area. I have not given up on this yet, but I don't think it will work. I contacted the Huntsville club, Rocket City Rocks and Gems, for help. I

have been coordinating with Bill Friday, the newsletter editor for that club, and he offered to show me a few places. I took him up on his invitation, and a friend and I got up early Tuesday morning, 8/7/12, and went to Huntsville.

The first place was mostly fossils, several different kinds from three ages. The fossils are delicate and numerous, but the area is small. Site two holds more promise. The second site also had an abundance of fossils, but it is a creek that is many miles long. Within the city of Huntsville, it is utilized as a drainage ditch. The sides of the creek are native stone, with river rounded stone mixed in with the limestone matrix. We found a lot of different fossils, all of them of a sea floor origin. We also found pink dolomite and yellow/clear calcite. The fossils are larger than at the first site, and access is fair if you're careful. Traveling in the creek is easy, but in places you will have to get your

feet wet. I encountered no water deeper than a foot and a half.

This is a list of fossils and minerals found at site one. Fossils: crinoid crowns and stems, blastoids, horn corals, colony corals, brachiopods, bryozoa, shark teeth, archimedes, and trilobites. Collectable minerals: gypsum and paint agate.

This is a list for site two. Fossils: crinoid crowns, stems, and casts; horn corals; colony corals; brachiopods; and blastoids. Collectable minerals: pink dolomite, jasper, yellow and clear calcite, and three kinds of coal.

We can plan a trip to the second site at some point. I will also be investigating other new sites in the near future. One site that has been suggested is at Pickwick Lake, and it has trilobites. I can go on alternating Mondays or Tuesdays. If anyone wants to come with me, you are more than welcome.

*Charles*

## Proposed Changes To MAGS Bylaws

Two changes to the MAGS Bylaws were approved by the Board and presented to the membership at the August Membership Meeting. In accordance with Article VIII of the Bylaws, the proposed changes will be voted on at the next (September 14) Membership Meeting. Acceptance requires a two-thirds vote of the adult members present and voting.

MAGSters can download a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws from the website, [memphisgeology.org](http://memphisgeology.org). There is a link on the home page. The changes affect two Sections of Article V (Duties of Officers).

- Section VIII (Duties of the Show Chairman). The proposed change would add a new paragraph H (existing paragraph H becomes paragraph I):
  - H. To recommend to the Board of Directors any expenditures over \$100 from the Show account other than those directly incurred in putting on the Show.
- Section XVI (Duties of Officers). The proposed change would add a new paragraph G:
  - G. To decide on and authorize any and all expenditures over \$100 from any checking and savings account, including special funds and Show Checking Account, for other than routine operations.

Please be prepared to vote on these proposed changes at the September 14 Membership Meeting.

## What's Happening at Chucalissa?

Rachael South Bogema

Summer is coming to close at Chucalissa, and the transition between the summer and fall semesters has proven to be quite an exciting time!

Our Americorps team has arrived at the museum, and is already hard at work repairing parts of our Arboretum, clearing trails at T. O. Fuller State Park, and working with the Westwood community on various projects.

This Fall we welcome our Graduate Assistants Mallory Bader, Megan Keener, Patricia Harris, and Brooke Mundy. Our Assistants will be leading school programming, helping with visitor services, and engaging in several special projects around the museum. We promise to keep you updated on what they are up to!

Interested in volunteering at Chucalissa? Come out to our Volunteer Days! We will host our monthly volunteer event on Saturday, September 15, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Visit the museum for an hour or the entire morning to participate in a wide variety of volunteer projects!

Be sure to save the date for our Fall Archaeology Days! We will be hosting the event on Saturday, October 20, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Come out and throw atlats, tour our excavation trench, view various demonstrations, and celebrate archaeology!

**Editor's note:** You can get more information at [www.memphis.edu/chucalissa/](http://www.memphis.edu/chucalissa/).

8th Annual Geode Fest  
\*September 28-29-30, 2012\*  
Chaney Creek Boat Access  
HWY 96 North, Hamilton, IL  
[www.firstcrackgeodes.com/GeodeFest.html](http://www.firstcrackgeodes.com/GeodeFest.html)

## Jewelry Bench Tips by Brad Smith

### CLEANING SOLDER OUT OF A BEZEL



Sometimes when you solder a bezel to a base plate you end up with excess solder that needs to be removed before setting the stone. My choice of tool for this is called an "Inverse Cone" bur used in a rotary tool or flexshaft. It cuts on both the bottom and the side and is shaped so that there's less chance of cutting into the bezel wall than if you used the more common cylinder bur shape. The 2 mm size is useful for most any bezel.

### FAUX SILVER

I'm fortunate to live in a big city that has frequent jewelry shows where I can buy supplies. But there are certain risks in buying at one of these events or from some of the online venues. Recently, a friend bought a package of 12 mm Sterling jump rings that became copper plated in the pickle. There was no sign of any steel contamination, so I tested them with a magnet to discover they were just plated steel.

I ran into a similar misrepresentation a couple years ago. I bought some "genuine" turquoise

beads that I needed for 10 mm cabs only to find they were a white magnetite that had been dyed.

Best solution is to carry a couple simple tools with you when you go to buy stones or findings. I usually carry a ten power loupe and a small vernier caliper to measure things. From now on, I'll also be carrying a small, strong magnet with me to test the findings.

Dealers are not necessarily the problem. Many have no idea their metals are plated. They were duped by their supplier. Regardless of who's to blame, I think it's worth reporting any problems you find to both the dealer and to the show promoter.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at [groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/) or [facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips).

## Quote of the Month

"No fossil is buried with its birth certificate. That, and the scarcity of fossils, means that it is effectively impossible to link fossils into chains of cause and effect in any valid way... To take a line of fossils and claim that they represent a lineage is not a scientific hypothesis that can be tested, but an assertion that carries the same validity as a bedtime story—amusing, perhaps even instructive, but not scientific."—Henry Gee

*Dr. Henry Gee is a British paleontologist and evolutionary biologist who is Senior Editor, Biological Sciences, of the scientific journal **Nature**. While earning his Ph. D. at Cambridge he played keyboard in a jazz band.*



## MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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



### 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 Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society of Charleston, SC (HOST)**

**An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society**

**Meeting time 10:00 AM**

**Saturday, September 22, 2012**

**Savannah River Agate, Girard, GA**

**WHAT:** Savannah River Agate, fossils, and micro-minerals

**WHERE:** River Road outside of Girard, GA

**WHEN:** Saturday September 22, 2012

**TIME:** Meet at 10:00 AM at the Girard city Post Office on Hwy. 23. We will leave promptly at 10:30 A. M.

**CHILDREN AND PETS:** Children and pets are welcome, but need to be supervised as we will be hunting on a dirt road.

**COLLECTING:** This site is part of a public right-of-way so we will be collecting in this dirt road and road cuts for the famous Savannah River Agate/Chert. This material is actually a conglomeration of agate, jasper, chert, and opalite all mixed together to form a layered specimen that will tumble or cab into beautiful display pieces. This rock occurs as black and brown mottled agate and in a large range of pastel colors from greens to yellows to violets. There are also micro-minerals found in the agate/chert vugs such as wavellite, hematite, druzy quartz, barite, hyalite opal, and many others. You may also find scarce fossils of Oligocene-age deposits from 30-35 million years old such as bryozoans, gastropods, echinoids, and other less abundant fossils such as diatoms, barnacles, and tortillas.

**BRING:** A rock hammer and scratching tool. Dig if you want, but fill in the holes after finishing. Chisels and a sledge hammer are needed to find micro-minerals. More importantly, you will need eye protection (face shield would be best) and long heavy pants as this agate can act like shrapnel when cracked with a rock hammer or sledge hammer. Bring a lunch, plenty of fluids, bug spray, sun screen, a hat, gloves, sturdy shoes, and lots of 5 gallon buckets.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Do **NOT** leave the road cuts. Please stay off of private property. Please do not go to the collecting site ahead of the group!

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-20 take Hwy. I-520 (west of Augusta) south to Hwy. 56 and travel south. Go through McBean (do not take Hwy. 56 Spur). Turn left on Hwy. 23 to Girard and meet at the city Post Office on Hwy. 23 at 10:00 A. M.

**CONTACT:** Larry Moss at (843) 225-6931 for more information. Email: jorel611@yahoo.com

# Potosi, Missouri



MAGS makes regular trips to the area near Potosi, Missouri, to collect druse quartz, barite, and other minerals. And we always use insect repellent and look out for snakes. But what the picture shows is above and beyond.

It's an 1,800-pound wild boar that was shot and killed by a

medical radiology worker (another life-saving action by a medical professional). The local folks call them "piney wood rooters." According to the report that provided the picture, a TV documentary said they can be found in Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Florida, and other states (maybe Tennessee?).

The smart money says that if you run into one of these, the best thing to do is to hold still—they don't see very well. Maybe backing away **very** slowly would work.

*MAGS Rockhound News is happy to thank Melba Cole for this bit of interesting news.*

## Calendar

### September 6, 2012

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

### September 8, 2012

Field Trip, Memphis Stone & Gravel Co.

### September 14, 2012

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

### September 15, 2012

Volunteer Day, C. H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

### October 5, 2012 (date change)

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

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

