



Volume 61 ♦ Number 09 ♦ September 2015 ♦ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

More Than Tiny Rocks

Lori Carter

September Program



As a rockhound, you have probably been questioned many times about why you would collect rocks, but even rockhounds often question collecting sand. Most people think sand is tiny rocks, but there is so much more to sand than tiny rocks. We can learn

about geology, mineralogy, paleontology, even biology. In the September program you will get to see sand from various perspectives. There will be samples for everyone to see and take and you are encouraged to bring any sand you would like to share too!

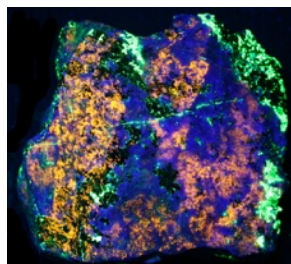
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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

MAGS Member Lori Carter, from the Atlanta area, is coming to Memphis to give our September program. It should be an interesting talk, and it would be nice if we could show her our appreciation by being at the September meeting. It's always nice to have a good crowd.

CAROL LYBANON



In October Dr. James Hardin of Mississippi State University will talk about his finds at the Khirbet Summeily excavation.

If you are interested in fluorescent minerals, come to our November meeting. Mike Baldwin, with the help of Alan Schaeffer and Bob Cooper, *Continued, P. 9*

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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MAGS AND FEDERATION NOTES

President's Message

The end of August brought an end to the 2015 Show year. While dealers have packed and journeyed to other shows and the show's storage shed is all packed and tucked in for next year's show, the financial functions continued up the last of August. The Show will distribute funds to the club checking account, Ronald McDonald House of Memphis, Chucalissa, and maintain a Show checking *Continued, P. 6*

MAGS General Membership Meetings and MAGS Youth Meetings are held at 7:30 P. M. on the second Friday of every month, year round. The meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5530 Shady Grove Road, Memphis, TN.

MAGS Website: memphisgeology.org

We aren't kidding when we say this is a newsletter for and by the members of MAGS. If an article has a byline the author is a MAGS Member, unless explicitly stated otherwise (we welcome articles by nonmembers). If there is no byline, the article was written or compiled by the Editor (a MAGS Member). 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.

September DMC Field Trip

WHERE: Stoney Bluff near Girard, GA

WHEN: Saturday, September 19, 9:00 A. M.-5:00 P. M.

COLLECTING: Savannah River Agate

INFORMATION: Lawrence Moss, (843) 819-0726 or Jorel611@yahoo.com

See P. 6 for information on the (early) October DMC Field Trip.

Links to Federation News

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

Field Trip Safety

Editor's Note: Nobody likes to hear about safety. Field trips are supposed to be about fun, and finding good stuff. Safety isn't fun. But nobody wants to get hurt, either. Safety is the number 1 priority on all MAGS field trips. Following are several articles designed to help you have fun on field trips without getting hurt.

Don't Pick Up A Stick If It Moves!

Sherri and Mike Baldwin

From decades of backpacking and field trips, sprained ankles and blisters, ramen noodles and trail mix, we would like to share a few thoughts about field trip planning and safety with you. As the Boy Scout motto says, "Be Prepared". Be prepared for what? Anything! Whether you are searching for sharks' teeth in 20-Mile Creek, digging for crystals in Mt. Ida, or hiking the Appalachian Trail, you have no idea what lies ahead. Start your planning long before your adventure begins. Find out as much as you can about where you are going. Read the information sheets. Google it. Talk to people who have been there. Know how to get there, what to expect when you arrive, what equipment you need, what materials you will be collecting, and how you're going to get them back to your car. These sound like small things, but your adventure will be so much bigger if you plan for it.

Make a checklist: Divide your checklist into sections: [01] travel, [02] first aid, [03] clothing, [04] water, food and snacks, [05]

equipment, and [06] comfort items. Use your checklist. Check off items as you collect them. After the trip, look at your list and cross through any items you didn't use. Add items you wish you had taken with you. Next trip, pull out your checklist and adjust it for the new destination. Save these checklists for the next time you go to the same place, or somewhere similar.

Travel: Make sure your vehicle is road-worthy. Change the oil. Check the tires. Check lights and windshield wipers. Get cell phone numbers for the trip leader and several other people who are going on the trip. Make a note of the nearest crossroads coordinates to the collecting site and use your phone navigation app to get you where you need to go. Carry the information sheet for the trip with you. Follow the directions on the sheet. Stay with the group. Follow our club convoy guidelines. If you are going to arrive late or are planning to leave the field trip early, tell the trip leader.

First Aid: The field trip leader should have a fully-stocked first aid kit but that does not exempt you from carrying your own family first aid kit. Your kit should contain the essentials: 2-inch and 4-inch nonadherent gauze pads, butterfly bandages, first aid tape, Band-Aids, Q-tips, moleskin, tweezers, scissors, Ace bandage, safety pins, snakebite kit, signal mirror, lip balm, Neosporin, hydrogen peroxide, sunscreen, insect repellent, aspirin, salt tablets, glucose tablets, instant cold pack,

antiseptic soap, and a whistle. Why would you need all this stuff? A good day will be if you don't need any of it. A bad day will be if you need it and you don't have it.

Clothing: Pack for the weather. Carry clothes appropriate for the adventure: water shoes for creek walking; hiking boots for navigating rough terrain; a hat; safety gear like goggles, hard hat, gloves, and steel-toed shoes. Dress in layers. As the temperature of the day changes, put on or take off layers for comfort. Pack at least one complete change of clothes for each member of your group. Clean, dry clothes sure feel good after a long day of collecting or hiking. A windbreaker or rain jacket also feels good on a not-so-perfect day.

Water, food, and snacks: Make a list of all the meals you will need. Pack your meals and snacks in freezer Ziplocs. They're stronger than sandwich bags. Pack one meal for one person in one bag and write their name on the bag with a Sharpie. Do the same with every meal for every person in your group. Pack your snacks in the same manner and then put all these meals and snacks in a tote or box. Take plenty of water. There's nothing worse or more dangerous than not having enough water. Carry a large cooler. Some fast food restaurants will fill your cooler with ice free of charge.

Equipment: Read the information sheet about your field trip. Carry the equipment appro- *Continued, P. 4*

Field Trip Safety

Don't Pick Up A Stick ...
Continued from P. 3

appropriate for your adventure. Don't expect to borrow from fellow diggers. They brought the equipment they need. You should do the same. If you don't know what equipment you need, research it. Ask questions. Figure it out. You will enjoy the experience much more if you are prepared. Use freezer Ziplocs to collect small treasures like sharks' teeth. Don't forget buckets, backpacks, or shoulder bags to transport your treasures back to your vehicle. Carry a pocket knife. Have a 50-100 foot nylon rope in your vehicle in case you need it.

Comfort items: Do you enjoy roughing it or chilling in comfort? You might want to bring lawn chairs, camp shoes, a picnic blanket, a smaller cooler, handiwipes, toilet paper, and sunglasses.

Here are a few random thoughts in no particular order: [01] Stay hydrated; [02] Don't drive where your vehicle shouldn't go; [03] Don't try to access an area that is dangerous; [04] When collecting in a steep area, do not collect above someone else; [05] Recklessness affects everyone. If you horseplay or act carelessly, you or someone else can be injured, causing end-of-fun for you and possibly everyone; [06] Your actions reflect on the club, so act responsibly and be friendly; [07] Listen to the safety briefing before the field trip or, if you are the leader, give a safety briefing before the field trip; [08] Do not go off on a side trip alone. Make sure

the leader knows where you're going and set a time when you will return; [09] Fill any holes you dig; [10] Don't break specimens in the field; [11] The last person through an open gate closes the gate; [12] If you use a rope to lower yourself and others down steep embankments, know how to tie and use knots. Everyone's safety depends on you; [13] Children must be supervised by the responsible adult with whom they came; [14] Beware of these hazards—frostbite, hypothermia, dehydration, sunburn and heat exhaustion. Children are more susceptible to these hazards; and [15] Be aware of your surroundings. Watch out for plants like poison ivy or poison oak. Know how to tell the difference between a king snake and a water moccasin. In our part of the world, non-poisonous snakes have a round head, while poisonous ones have a diamond-shaped head [except the extremely poisonous coral snake in the deep South which has a round head]. Remember this rhyme about the stripes on coral snakes. "Red touching black, friend of Jack. Red touching yellow can kill a fellow." Just remember this very important thing. Don't pick up a stick if it moves! **[See pictures Pp. 5 & 6]**

Editor's Note: Frequently MAGS field trips involve some climbing (climbing down to a creek—and back up—or climbing on rock piles, for example). The following article, from the Federation website, gives you some insight into why it's so hard, and also some suggestions that may help.

Reposing Easily

Whenever we rockhounds go on a field trip, we are likely to be around a creek bed, a road cut, a quarry, a steep bank, or a spoils pile. If so, we should all remember that there is something called the angle of repose.

No, I'm not talking about how flat you should be when you lie down to rest. The angle of repose is a civil engineering term. It is a fact that a pile of anything—sand, rocks, marbles, hay, or whatever—has the property that the slope of the side of the pile determines whether the pile slides down or not. If the slope is over the angle of repose, it WILL slide—sooner or later. If it is less than the angle of repose, it will sit there forever without sliding. The angle depends on the materials in the pile and on their sizes, so there is no general rule as to what angle is safe. Therefore, most road cuts and fills are slightly less steep than the angle of repose.

If you stand below or try to climb a slope that is too steep for the material it is made of, there is a very good chance that the top will come down on you.

It gets more complicated. Consider what happens when you step into the side of a slope. Your foot forms a hollow. This means the material just above and just below your footprint is at too steep an angle. So, it slides down. As it goes, it continuously forms a slope that is too steep, so the material slides and slides and forms a major slump. If you

Continued, P. 5

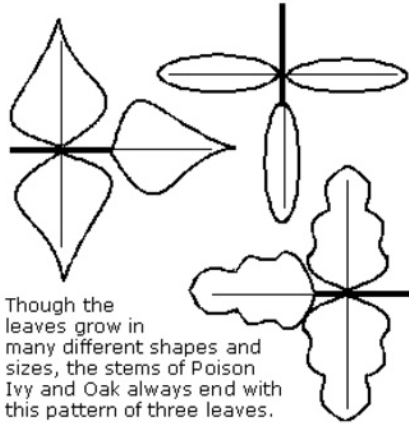
Field Trip Safety

Reposing Easily are trying to
Continued from P. 4 ride it or if you
 are below it,
 that is not good.

When you dig or extract a sample from a pile or a cliff or a quarry wall, the same thing happens. If you dig a tunnel, you have definitely formed a highly unstable slope and the slightest jar may bring it all down on you. That's why mines have shoring. Several children are killed each year because of this. I'm sure you have heard of it.

So, when hunting rocks, test the slope you're on or below for stability before getting into a position where you might get hurt or buried. And, always keep an eye on any rockhound that is above you. They might start something that hurts you!

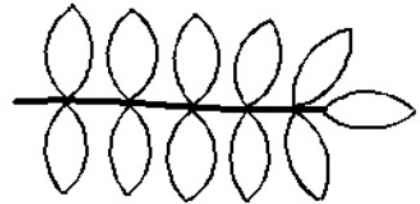
Poisonous Plants



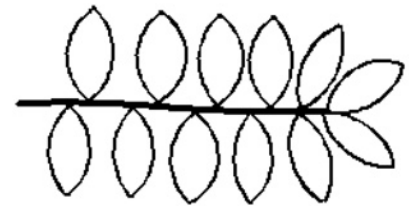
Though the leaves grow in many different shapes and sizes, the stems of Poison Ivy and Oak always end with this pattern of three leaves.

Poison Oak and Poison Ivy: Leaflets Three, Let it Be Often called the "great mimics," Poison Ivy and Oak have a harmless appearance. They are difficult to distinguish from other plants, because they tend to adopt the growth pattern of the plants that surround them.

Poison Sumac, also known as Swamp Sumac and Poison Elder, also mimics the plants growing nearby. The leaves have smooth edges that end with a point.



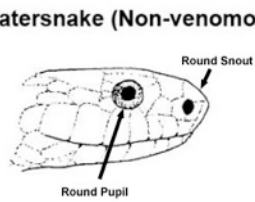
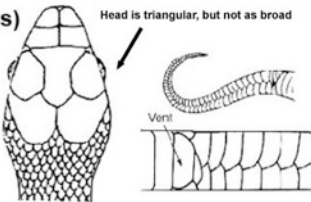
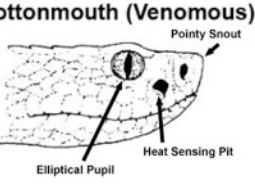
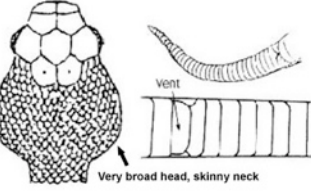




Poison Sumac leaves grow in the above pattern, with paired leaves along each side of the reddish stem, and a single leaf on the end. It imitates many harmless shrubs with leaves as below, alternating along the stem.



Venomous Snakes of Tennessee

Only four species of venomous snakes are native to Tennessee, shown here. Mississippi has nine You can easily get similar information for other states. It's important to find out how to tell the difference between venomous and non-venomous snakes.

	← Copperhead		Pygmy Rattlesnake →	
		Watersnake (Non-venomous)		
				
		Cottonmouth (Venomous)		
				
	← Timber Rattlesnake		Cottonmouth →	

Field Trip Safety

One Member's Approach to Climbing

Bob Cooper

Editor's Note: There are some good knots to use when tying a rope around a tree to help in getting down to a creek and back up again. Bob came up with a different method.



As far as I remember, I bought everything from Tractor Supply. You would need at least 40 feet of rope because of all the knots at one foot separation and whatever goes around the anchor tree. The rope is very soft and easy to hold. It was the largest they had of the soft kind.



Editor's Note: Check out this cool website for tying knots. Click on any knot for animated instructions.

www.animatedknots.com/indexclimbing.php

President's Message account balance
Continued from P. 2 to cover 2016
startup cost
such as facility rental.

The detailed planning for the April 23/24 show will start in the next few weeks, so get ready to help.

W. C. McDaniel

October DMC Field Trip

Information about the October trip is listed in this issue because the date is early in October and attendance is limited.

WHERE: Coon Creek Science Center, McNairy County, TN

WHEN: Saturday, October 3,
10:00 A. M.-2:00 P. M.

COLLECTING: Coon Creek
(Upper Cretaceous) fossils

INFORMATION: Mike Mangrum,
(615) 587-1733 or
Mangrum1972@bellsouth.net



Fabulous Tennessee Fossils

Dr. Michael A. Gibson,
University of Tennessee
at Martin

Coon Creek Peterson Paleograb:

Visualizing Cretaceous Sediment Sampling

I teach two courses that focus on the modern oceans: Oceanography and Marine Geology. Oceanography is a typical general offering for majors and non-majors that explores the geology, biology, chemistry, and physics of the world's modern oceans; obviously salty ocean water is an important aspect of that course. Oceanographers typically classify the sediments at the bottom of the oceans using a "genetic" classification that focuses on the origin of the sediment. For example, continental shelves contain "lithogenous" or "terrigenous" sediment derived from land, tropical areas contain "biogenous" sedi-

Continued, P. 7

Fabulous Tennessee Fossils Continued from P. 6

ments formed by organisms, such as reefs. Deep sea oozes composed of the shells (“tests”) of plankton are also considered biogenous. Meteoritic dust is considered “cosmogenous”. Salt deposits and manganese nodule beds would be considered “hydrogenous” because they precipitate out of water directly. The ship-board oceanographer has many ways to obtain sediments from the deep sea, including devices called “grabs”, so named because they literally take a bite out of the seafloor that is returned to the ship. One popular grab is called a “Peterson grab” after the oceanographer who designed it (Figure 1). It drops to the seafloor open and triggers shut in a rotating clam-shell action that bites a section of seafloor. The grab is then hauled up to the ship and opened on an examination table on the deck (Figure 2). In land-locked Tennessee, such techniques require field trips and boat trips to the Gulf for sampling. I am also a Paleontologist so I often use ancient ocean deposits that now make-up our Tennessee landscape as my study material. Students dig into our famous Coon Creek Formation, essentially a sample of ancient seafloor (Figure 3) from the Cretaceous Period, devoting lots of observation time to the sediments enclosing the abundant fossils. Coon Creek sediments are easy to disaggregate to get to the fossils and analyze the enclosing sediment grains—we lack only the salt water! Paleontology students have a hard time visualizing the watery context of their ancient sample.



Figure 1. Peterson grab used to pull muddy sediments from the ocean floor with 2015 Dauphin Island Marine Geology class. Lead weights drop the grab to the bottom where it triggers and “bites” the seafloor (Photo Michael Gibson, 2015).



Figure 2. Gibson (left) displaying a tube from a burrowing worm within modern Gulf sediments retrieved by a Peterson grab. Note the very muddy nature of the sediment within the gray buckets and how the students have enjoyed their newly found affection for mud by caking themselves with the material (Photo by Lei Wang).

During the summers I also teach Marine Geology at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, just south of Mobile, Alabama. My students are almost always marine biology majors with little geologic training prior to coming to the lab. I have

always been fascinated with their shipboard approach. Once these marine biologists pull-up a Peterson grab, they immediately wash off the sediments! When asked why they wash away the sediments, they point out that the sediments are muddy and they want to get to the living organisms hidden within that sediment. To me, the paleontologist, this seems odd because they are washing away the very medium in which the organisms live in and carry out the ecological roles. When I give them Coon Creek samples with fossils embedded in the sediment, they immediately focus on the fossils and remove the sediment, but they do pay more attention to the dry sediment grains because they are easier to identify when dry. So, my challenge in Oceanography and Marine Geology is to find a way for the marine biologists to appreciate the sediments from their grabs and my challenge for my paleontology students is to find a way for them to better see now dry ancient Coon Creek sandy-clay sediments, or fissile shale, as once wet ocean floor in saltwater.

My solution to this educational conundrum was to simulate what I refer to as a “Peterson paleograb”. I begin by taking students out on a ship to obtain Peterson grabs from the Gulf of Mexico (usually between two and ten miles offshore). I don’t allow them to wash away the sediment and force them to shut their “biological eyes” for a few moments and focus on the water and wet sediments in the grab. Only after thorough examination of the grain size, composition, texture, smell, taste, *Continued, P. 7*

Fabulous Tennessee Fossils etc. of the wet sediments do I allow them to begin looking at the organisms within the sediment. We don't wash the sediments off until we are totally finished with that sample and ready for the next grab. I do this with my paleontology students as well so they can relate the modern to the ancient.



Figure 3. Dauphin Island Sea Lab marine biology students Dana Woodruff (left) and Carissa Clay (right) from the University of Alabama analyzing a reconstituted “Peterson paleograb” of our Tennessee Coon Creek sediments (Photo by Michael Gibson). Note that the Coon Creek bucket is identical to muddy sediments from the modern Gulf shown in Figure 2.

.....
 Later I present a lab activity with mixture of modern and up to three unknown “Peterson paleograbs” for them to analyze. Each team of students gets a bucket with the sediment, shells and seawater already put on their lab stations when they enter the classroom. I add salt water to samples from geologic formations in the southeast that can be as young as Pliocene age (Yorktown Formation of Virginia at ~5 million years old) to our own 70 million year old Coon Creek Formation of West Tennessee (Figure 3). At a glance, it is usually not possible to tell a

modern grab from my “paleograb”. Sometimes I give a truly modern grab and a paleograb with fossils and ancient sediments, sometimes I just provide paleograbs. Evaluations show that this is a favorite activity for the marine biologists and geologists alike. “Reconstituting” an ancient ocean demonstrates the overlaps and limitations of both modern marine geology or biology and marine paleoecology. For me, I can literally taste the saltwater seafloor that once was the Tennessee Coon Creek!

September Birthdays

- 1 Tandi Heger
- Linda McDaniel
- 2 Eric Marbury
- 5 Emily Fox-Hill
- Richard Hill
- 7 Elana Von Boeckman
- 10 Clara Mueller
- Alishia Parks
- 11 Belinda Loyd
- 13 Larry Dunn
- 14 Lisa Goossens
- 16 Michael Montgomery
- 19 Karen Schaeffer
- 20 Bentley Siems
- 22 Dominik Suarez
- 23 Park Noyes
- Mildred Schiff
- 26 Ullis Gonzalez
- 28 Mary Jo Fair
- Bonnie Cooper
- 30 Kelly Buckholdt

July Board Minutes

Mike Baldwin

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm. Present: W. C. McDaniel, Charles Hill, Mike Baldwin, Bonnie Cooper,

James Butchko, Bob Cooper, and Kim Hill.

Secretary: Mike Baldwin distributed June minutes via email to board members earlier in the week. Minutes approved with no revisions.

Treasurer: Bonnie Cooper circulated a copy of the June checking summary. Church rent has been paid through December. Report approved subject to audit.

Membership: Bob Cooper reported that 2 new members were added to the MAGS roster since the last Board Meeting. The new directory has been distributed, and records have been updated.

Field Trips: Charles Hill reported that Bob Cooper led the last field trip to Turkey Creek near Starkville. Upcoming field trips include: July 25 rescheduled trip to Canal Creek; August 15 to 20-Mile Creek; September 20 to Nonconnah Creek behind Halle Stadium; October 17 or 24 to Livingston for geodes; and Jonesboro in November. Three trips are scheduled for 2016, including a DMC/MAGS trip to a brand new Memphis Stone and Gravel location in early spring.

Adult Programs: The programs are set through 2015: July with Jimmy McNeil; August Indoor Picnic and Rock Swap; October program on Israel; November with a look at Fluorescent minerals with Mike Baldwin, Bob Cooper and Alan Schaeffer; and a December party to end the year.

Junior Program: James Butchko reported that the July youth program will be a look at weapons throughout human history.

Historian: No report. Plan for the August Picnic are under way. Details will be in August newsletter.

Librarian: No report.

Newsletter: No report. The July newsletter has been published and distributed via email.

Web: Mike Baldwin reported that hardcopies of the July newsletter are printed and ready to *Continued, P. 9*

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Upcoming Programs will do a show and tell program. You can bring your own rocks to see if they fluoresce.

Continued from P. 1 Our club works hard to present a variety of good programming. Support us by coming to our meetings. We are already starting to plan for 2016. If there is a subject you would like to hear about, let me (Program Director) know and I will attempt to get a speaker.

See you at our meetings.

Carol

July Board Minutes be mailed to those members without email.

Continued from P. 8 Mike has established a MAGS photo gallery on Flickr. He gave an invitation to the Board Members to upload field trip, rock show, and geology vacation pictures to the gallery.

Show: James Butchko told the board that Matthew should have final details for the 2015 show by the August Board Meeting. James is working on materials for next year. Bob Cooper cleaned up 20 5-gallon buckets to give to show for gem dig.

Old Business: W. C. will be asking Members and Board Members to serve on a committee for planning and improving communications with the community.

New Business: W. C. presented proposed by-laws changes. The secretary will restate the changes and email them to the board for review before the August board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

NOTE 1: Secretary restated proposed by-law changes and emailed them to Board Members.

NOTE 2: W. C. received resignation from Ron Brister, Director-Library, stating health reasons. W. C. asked Marc Mueller if he would take that Board position. Marc accepted. A special called Board Meeting will be held before the July Membership Meeting to confirm these changes.

July Meeting Minutes

Mike Baldwin

Special Board Meeting called to order by W. C. McDaniel at Bob's Place at 7:14 pm. Present: WC McDaniel,



Used with permission

Carol Lybanon, James Butchko, John McLane, Charles Hill, Matthew Lybanon, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Bob Cooper, and Mike Baldwin. Motion made, seconded and approved to accept W.C.'s appointment of Marc Mueller as librarian, effective August 1, 2015. Special Board Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Regular Membership Meeting called to order at 7:34 pm by President W. C. McDaniel, who reminded members to turn cell phones down or off and to hold personal conversations until after the meeting. 42 members and 2 visitors were in attendance.

Membership: Bob Cooper introduced visitors.

Field Trips: Charles Hill reported on plans for a field trip to Canal Creek in Southaven. Field trip to Crow Creek is tomorrow. In September, the field trip will be to Nonconah Creek be-

hind Halle Stadium. Plans for the October field trip to Middle Tennessee and the November field trip to Jonesboro, Arkansas, are underway. The Arkansas Club has invited MAGS members to join them for a visit to the Piggot Museum in Piggot, Arkansas, on August 22.

Displays: Three adults brought displays tonight.

Rock Swaps: Nannette shared information about the August indoor rock swap, which will be a potluck. The club newsletter will specify what you should bring to the potluck based on your last name. You can bring items to swap, trade or sell (please bring your own table). There will be lots of door prizes. Come and enjoy the picnic.

Program: Carol recapped upcoming programs: August will be the picnic and September will

Continued, P. 10

July Meeting Minutes be a program
Continued from P. 9 on sand pre-
sented by Lori
Carter. Tonight's program is a look at
what it takes to be a mineral dealer,
presented by Life Member Jimmy
McNeil (Member since 1980). Carol
presented Jimmy with an Arizona
wood trophy as a thank-you for to-
night's presentation.
W. C. reminded Members to vote for
displays, sign up for field trips, enjoy
the refreshments, help clean up, and
attend the field trip tomorrow. Meet-
ing adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Quartz Singing Bowl Raffle



MAGSters who came to the
Indoor Picnic/Rock Swap saw (and
heard) the beautiful quartz singing
bowl that will be raffled at the
Holiday Party.

- ★ 50¢ a chance
- ★ 5 chances for \$2

You can buy tickets at the Sep-
tember Membership Meeting.

September Field Trip

Date: September 12th

Location: Halle Stadium Site on
Nonconnah Creek

Time: 10 A. M.

We haven't been there in years!
We will be collecting the same
rocks and minerals we always find
around here, but as always, some
differences in color and variety will

be seen.

Field Trip Report

Charles Hill

Hi again, all you rockhounds
out there. On August 15 we had a
field trip to Twenty Mile Creek,
and fun was had by all. Although
some people arrived at different
times, we did have eight people
plus me at this dig. The weather
was great at first, and we got
started around 10:00 A. M.

The North Mississippi Gem
and Mineral Society (NMGMS)
also had a field trip there the same
day. They had a huge gathering,
including some Boy Scouts. I had
a lengthy talk with Robert Lang-
ford of NMGMS. He had a great
display, from which I learned a few
things.

When I finally got around to
sifting gravel, I found fossils or
artifacts in every pan. After about
two hours stormy weather started
moving in. Some of us continued
digging until the lightning got
close; then I called a halt and we
went back to our cars. At that
point most people from both
groups left. I took a nap. It is
funny sometimes what you can
sleep through, but I have always
loved a good thunderstorm. After
the rain and thunder subsided, I
went to see if the water level had
come up too much to hunt. It
hadn't, and three cars had stayed
through the storm. We all went
back and dug for a while longer. I
had a good time, made some new
friends, and found my first
mosasaur tooth. What did you
do?

Charles

Jewelry Bench Tips

by
Brad Smith

SMOOTHING EARWIRES

Any time you make your own
earwires, the hardest part for me
is to sand and polish the end that's
inserted into the ear. Any sharp
edge there is no fun. I've tried
using sanding sticks, cup burs, and
silicone polishing wheels. I've
tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and
I've tried spinning the wire in the
Foredom to polish the tip. While
all of these techniques do the job,
none are very easy, and none are as
fast as I'd like.



Then it occurred to me—I
could melt the wire smooth. One
quick touch in the flame of the
propane/oxygen Little Torch does
the trick—not enough to form a
bead on the wire but just enough
to round off the tip. I find it's
worth practicing the maneuver a
couple times on some scrap wire
before trying it on completed ear-
rings.

BALL BURS

I use ball burs quite a bit for
carving and for cleaning up bits of
solder that need to be removed.
The ball shape seems to be more
controllable than other cutting
burs. They're less apt to grab and
walk over your piece.



Continued, P. 11

Jewelry Bench Tips As to sizes
Continued from P. 10 I've found
that 8 mm is a
very useful size for carving while a
half mm or smaller at high speed
works great for signing your name
on the back of your work.

.....
Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips
in "Bench Tips for Jewelry
Making" on [Amazon](#).

**Federal Forestlands
Fossil Collection Ruling
and Why it Matters**

Linda McCall

Editor's Note: Linda McCall is
President, North Carolina Fossil
Club, and a Research Fellow at the
University of Texas at Austin.

Several articles in the Federa-
tion newsletter deal with new
regulations concerning mineral
collecting on Federal lands. They
frequently conclude with a plea to
let your elected officials know how
you feel about the issue.

MAGS trips to the Potosi area
of Missouri usually include some
collecting in the Mark Twain Na-
tional Forest, so new regulations
concerning collecting on Federal
lands might impact that.

Linda's article deals with fossil
collecting, which also concerns
MAGS. The last part of her arti-
cle shows how it is possible to be-
come part of the process, rather
than just commenting on it. Linda
contacted the head paleontologist
of the Bureau of Land Manage-
ment Here is a summary of the
conversation.

.....
1) These laws were enacted and
intended to shut down the large

scale commercial sale of fossils.

2) The current law makes provi-
sions for three groups: 1-Casual
Collectors (mom and pop out for a
walk and find a fossil—you can
keep it); 2-Professionals—get a
permit; and 3-Commercial Deal-
ers—You are out. What it fails to
do is address our Amateur/
Avocational Community. Maybe
they didn't know how many of us
there or how important we are,
who knows?

3) He agrees that the Forest Serv-
ice wording was "unfortunate", the
BLM folks seem to be more open
to the Amateur/Avocational com-
munity and they intend for their
wording to be different.

[*Either #4 is missing or the numbering
is wrong.*]

5) Their wording will come out
sometime this fall and there will
be a 60 day comment period.

6) We should all be prepared to
make constructive comments at
that time—especially comments
aimed at showing them how our
community can assist BLM with
outreach efforts, enforcing protec-
tion of sites, and documenting
what's out there. These are all
things BLM is charged with doing
that they don't have the man-
power to do but WE do.

7) BLM in turn would then either
try to create a 4th category for us
or re-word things to account for us
collecting larger amounts, etc., etc.
to use for outreach, etc., etc.

To that end I will be asking all the
clubs across the country to gather
up the following data and send it
to me.

1) How many members your or-
ganization has.

2) How many outreach events you
do a year (anything that involves
the public).

3) How many people these efforts
reach (you can do it by event, or
just give me a total).

4) How many fossils you give away
each year—estimate a number and
a weight—that will help them in
determining what we can be al-
lowed to collect.

5) Approximately how many field
trips do you run as a club a year?

6) Are any of them on Federal
Land? If so, how many.

7) Does your club publish any pa-
leo literature? What? Any mem-
bers publish non-peer reviewed
literature? If so, what?

8) Are any of your members peer-
review published—who and how
many times?

9) Any projects your club or its
individuals work on with any pro-
fessionals.

10) Donations made to Museums
or Universities—and any that have
been written up

11) Anything else relevant I haven't
thought to ask!

These statistics are all in-
tended to show the government
how valuable and underutilized a
resource we are and that we are a
large enough, and important
enough block to make concessions
for. Please send them as soon as
you can gather them—I know it
might be difficult—we all just do
this stuff—we don't track it, but it
is important now to know the fig-
ures.

Thanks, and fingers crossed
everyone!

MAGS At A Glance

September 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
				Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, St. Francis Hospital		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
					Membership Meeting, 7:30 pm, Sand, raffle tickets	MAGS Field Trip, Nonconnah Creek, 10:00 am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Newsletter deadline				DMC Field Trip, Stoney Bluff near Girard, GA, 9:00 am
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
						DMC Field Trip, Coon Creek, 10:00 am

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society
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