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Nonconnah Creek: Some Recent Discoveries

MARVIN NUTT : I would like to share with you the story of a discovery that I made recently that will be of interest to you and the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. As you know, I have been exploring Nonconnah Creek for many years. I have looked for any publications that might have information on the creek, its geological history, etc... I asked Ron Brister, our librarian, at the October 2007 meeting if there was anything in our library about the creek. He replied that there was one, and checked it out to me. It was a 1981 report that he had participated in writing on the results of the mastodon discovery that was made during excavation of the area where the Mall of Memphis was to be built. As I read the report, I had a feeling of deja-vu. The report described the area of the mastodon discovery as being a meter above the base of the creek composed of blue-gray clay containing tree remains, leaves, seeds, and nuts, invertebrate fossils, etc... Reading the report, reminded me of a site that I had noticed at the creek years before that had trees sticking out of the base of the creek. I had thought that the trees in the base looked strange, but probably the result of a flood.



Mastodon Specimens from Nonconnah Creek

I learned in a geology class at the University of Memphis that Steno's principle of superposition applied to what I had seen years ago. That principle can be stated simply that in the layers of undisturbed sedimentary deposit, the layer on the bottom is the oldest with the layers progressing upward being the newest. Ron checked out the report to me on Friday, our meeting night. I read the report Saturday, and Sunday evening I was at the creek, and was I surprised...Trees were there, (those I had seen years ago, have long since been eroded away), and so were seeds, leaves, and nuts, and of special interest a spruce cone. One of the defining

(Cont'd on page 5)

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ter@comcast.net

President's Corner



Sorry for my absence in last months newsletter and at last months membership meeting. Thank you to Matthew Lybanon for filling in for me and just in case anyone's interested...the Ward Family reunion was, as always a celebration of good food and good memories. It was sad to participate in the decision to close the club room, but unfortunately "participation" was the key issue here...there wasn't any...and as little used as this facility was, combined with an upcoming rent increase, we were forced to let this idea go. Many thanks are due to WC McDaniel for his dedication to this project and hard work (as always), to Robert Duncan who helped get the equipment up and running...to all who taught a class or attended one and all who donated money and/or time to help...and last but not least, a big thank you goes out to David McIlwain (wherever you are) for making it possible to obtain the equipment. He wanted very much for our club to have a place like this to use and learn. Maybe someday we'll try again. Thanks to all of you who have generously accepted the task of serving on our upcoming new board. Unfortunately, we still have several positions to fill. We are still in need of Program Directors and assistants for both the adults and youth members. Please keep in mind that for any organization like ours to exist and run smoothly, it MUST have members that are willing to step up and volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors and well as in many other capacities, so please consider taking your turn at bat. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to do this...I'm living proof of that because ya'll keep letting me come back! (this is my 3rd or 4th time around the 'Board of Directors' block) and you don't have to be a member of the club for 20 or 30 years before you can be on the board...just dive in! If you would like to serve your club as a board member, please contact me ASAP. sandypepperspray@comcast.net or 684-1819.

Sandy

“Best of Show and Found Display Contest” Rules

To display and compete each member is requested to:

1. Bring a single specimen from the location listed in the table on the right (collected on a MAGS field trip or at the same collection site at another time).
2. You must have found the specimen your self.
3. Specimen must be in original form or, if changed/modified, only through lapidary or prep work.
4. Juniors and adults are combined for this contest.
5. One winner will be selected. Winner will determine by members using a point rating from 3(high) to 1(low).
6. Winner will receive a certificate and entry into the Best of Show event in December. A special prize will be awarded to the Best of Show winner at the December Christmas Party.

Best of Show

Month	Type of Material	Location	Winner
March	Druze Quartz	Missouri	David Day
April	Petrified Wood	MS, TN, AR	Carol Lybanon
May	Quartz Crystal	Arkansas	Wayne Williams
June	Fossil	Vulcan or Dale Hollow	John Matthew Erickson
July	No Display—Mineral Sale		
August	No Display— Rock Swap Fund Raiser for Shop		
September	Agate	Gravel bars or pits, etc.	Paul Sides
October	Fossil	Frankstown or Birmingham Ridge	
November	Geode	Ledbetter or Pharis Farm	
December	Winners from previous months compete for “BEST OF SHOW.”		



Announcements & Tidbits

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome Ray Lovelady; Trina, Luke & Layne Ponce; and Kathryn & Robert VanCleaf as new members of MAGS. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings, field trips and club functions!

STAY INFORMED WITH 2009 SHOW PLANNING!

Check out the new Show blog at <http://thememphisshow.blogspot.com/> and stay up to date on the planning of the 2009 Show at its new location at the Agricenter!

WILLIAM HOLLAND ("GROWN UP CAMP")

William Holland will be October 12-18 this year. The \$310 fee includes room, board, and classroom instruction in everything from wirecraft to faceting. Go to www.amfed.org/sfms for more info and list of classes!

2008 Adult Program Presentations

October 10

Alan Parks & Ron Brister
The Geological & Paleontological History of Nonconnah
Marvin Nutt: Extinct and Extant Plant Life of Nonconnah Creek

November 14

Officer Election and Auction

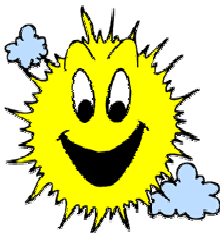
December 12

MAGS Holiday Party

Youth Program Presentations

October	Civil War Artifacts	Lou White
November	Fossil & Mineral ID	Idajeane Jordan
December	Holiday Party with Adults	

Sunshine Report



Our condolences to MAGS member, Ed Underhill, for the passing of his grandmother.

Pam Gurley

If you have any announcements to include in the sunshine report, please contact Pam Gur-

MAGS Field Trip



BARRY BURNS:

The October field trip will be to Marion, Kentucky. This the first time the club has made a trip to Marion so we hope to see many of the club members attend. The drive is approximately 250 miles (3 hours and 50 minutes). The date of the field trip will be October 18 and 19. We will dig on Saturday for fluorite, calcite and barite. For those of you who are into fluorescent minerals, we will also dig that night. On the 19th (Sunday) we will go to the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum. The museum website is www.marionkentucky.us/clementmineralmuseum.com if you want a sneak peek of some of the exhibits.

There are a number of places to stay in Marion. Here are a couple of numbers to call and check room availability and rates. There are more places, just google "marion kentucky lodging" to find more.

Marion Inn: (270) 965-5391

Meyers Bed & Breakfast: (270) 965-3731



A display wall at the Clement Mineral Museum.

“Nonconnah Creek” *(cont'd from front page)*

finds that had assisted with the dating of the mastodon site was that of cones of an extinct North American spruce tree, *Picea crichfieldii*. Needless to say there are no spruce trees native anywhere in the Midsouth today, and apparently haven't been in thousands of years.

I began to reflect on what I had found and wondered if it was possible that a site might be located on the other side of the creek that would be similar to what I had just found. I knew of an area, not too far away, so I went back to the creek to search for such an area. When I got there, it didn't take long before I found that there was an area on the other side of the creek that contained trees sticking out of the bottom of the creek about a meter above the base of the creek in a layer of blue-gray clay. This proved to me that the blue-gray clay layer at the bottom of the creek is extensive. It also indicated that the blue-gray clay area is much older than the creek that has worn the soil in the creek wall to a point a meter below where it is located on both side of the creek.

I made an appointment with Ron Brister, who was working at that time as the curator of exhibitions at the Pink Palace Museum, and took the specimens that I had found to show him. He looked at them, and concluded that they looked exactly like the specimens that had been found in 1981. Then he allowed me to view the entire collection from the mastodon site that was in a museum storage cabinet. We discussed the area of my discovery, and the fact that a similar site was located on the other side of the creek. He was convinced that the discovery was important and has agreed to work with me to conduct an organized exploration of the creek in the area of the discovery. This may even be a project that the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society may like to participate.



October Birthdays



SHELBY HARTMAN The birthstone for the month of October is opal. The opal's name originates from the Latin word "opalus" which means precious jewel. Opals are sought after for their unique ability to re-

fract and reflect specific wavelengths of light. The Romans believed the stone fell from the heavens in a lightning flash. Ancient monarchs treasured the opal and believed it possessed special powers. Often the opal was ground and ingested for what was believed to be healing and protective powers.

The opal dates back to prehistoric times. It is a non-crystallized silica, which is a mineral found near the earth's surface in areas where the geothermal hot springs once existed. As the hot springs dried up, layers of the silica combined with water and deposited into the cracks of the Bedrock, forming the opal. The gemstone contains up to 30% of water so it's quite fragile and should be protected from high heat and chemicals. Most of the world's opal deposits are found in Southern Australia but it is also found in Brazil, Mexico, Czechoslovakia and Nevada.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Susan Hailey | 13 Mike Baldwin |
| 3 Patricia Podzorski | 16 Dr. Joe Young |
| 4 Layne Ponce | 18 Janet Huettel |
| 4 Patsy Black | 18 Emily Randolph |
| 5 Matthew Lybanon | 21 Taylor Faddis |
| 5 Ben Mandino | 21 Janine A. Shipman |
| 6 Dick McKittrick | 21 David Sanford |
| 7 Alan Jacobs | 24 Raynee Randolph |
| 9 Charles Hill | 24 Keith Riding |
| 10 Nelson Eddlemon | 26 Gavin Hidaji |
| 11 Barry Burns | 27 Nicholas Wheeler |
| 11 George Everett | 28 Anne Fordyce |
| 11 Tracy Motter | 27 Dylan George |

2008 Dates to Remember			
Month	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Submissions
October	Oct 02	Oct 10	Sep 21
November	Nov 06	Nov 14	Oct 26
December	Dec 04	Dec 12	Nov 23

Web Site Statistics for September 2008	
a brief look at our website (www.memphisgeology.org) since 1/21/02	
Total Visits & Hits	
Total visits to web site since 1/21/02	337,966
Total hits to web site since 1/21/02	1,304,581
Visits in past 30 days	5,098
Hits in past 30 days	31,353
Top page views past 30 days	
homepage	1,731 hits
rocknews1005	533hits
eris	532 hits
rocknews0908	525 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.	

Rock Swap!!

CATHIE JACOBS: The October 11th Rock Swap will be hosted by Carl and Melinda Warren at 818 Hayden Drive in Clarksville, TN. Their phone number is 931-647-8845. They will be serving chili, hotdogs and German sausage. Everyone attending should bring a side dish or dessert.

On November 15, Alan and Alishia Parks will host a rock swap at their home. The address is 831 West Powell Road in Collierville, TN. Alan will be frying catfish so everyone should bring side dishes or dessert. Alan has also requested that everyone attending please bring gem dig rocks and rocks for grab bags for the 2009 Show.

The times for both of these rock swaps will be announced at Friday's membership meeting.

Directions to October 11 Rock Swap

- ⇒ **Take I-40 East for approximately 132 miles (almost 2 hours)**
- ⇒ **Take exit 143 for TN-13 toward Linden/Waverly**
- ⇒ **Turn LEFT at TN-13/**
- ⇒ **Turn LEFT at North Church Street/TN-13 and continue to follow TN-13**
- ⇒ **Turn LEFT at TN-13/TN-48**
- ⇒ **Make a U-turn at Ashland City Road/TN-12/TN-76/US-41A**
- ⇒ **Turn LEFT at South Riverdale Drive TN-12/TN13/TN-48/TN-76/US-41A**
- ⇒ **Turn LEFT at Glendale Drive**
- ⇒ **Turn LEFT at McCan Drive**
- ⇒ **Turn RIGHT at Hayden Drive**

August 2008 Board of Directors

Meeting Notes : SHELBY HARTMAN FOR CAROL & MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Board of Directors met July 30 at the Blue Plate Cafe, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:42 P.M. Those present were: Sandy Ward, Shelby Hartman, Pam Gurley, Carl Warren, Mike Cannito, Allan Parks, David Day, Ron Brister. Treasurers Report: Mike Cannito corrected data on the last line of the report. He stated that more money is going out than is coming in. Ron Brister made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, and the motion carried. Field Trips: David mentioned that Barry provided information in an email regarding the August MAGS field trip to the National Ornamental Metal Museum. Currently there is a field trip scheduled to Union Chapel Mine for September 20th. Also, there is a trip scheduled to the fluorite mine in Marion, KY, for October 18th. Alan advised that there will be a field trip on September 27th to the Senatobia location of Memphis Stone and Gravel and he will be opening it up to clubs other than MAGS as well. Adult Programs: The August Membership Meeting will a Rock Swap. WC has sent out an email to the membership. He also wanted someone to check if the club needs to purchase cutlery and plates for the August meeting. Sandy said she would pick some up. Youth Programs: Mike Baldwin outlined the Youth Programs in an email. Library: Ron Brister announced he would like to purchase a filing cabinet in which to store tapes. He advised he would wait until the church/rent issue is resolved. Membership: Pam advised the Board of a recent application submitted by Abe & Susan Plough and their children, Stella, Sara and Steve. She also brought up the issue of the Susan Trammel's question. She wants to join and she has an adult niece and adult nephew who want to join. Can they join as a family? It was decided that since the niece and nephew are adults, three adult memberships

must be purchased. If the niece/nephew are in the same household, they can join as a family. Ron Brister asked if the Membership/Library cards could be printed in different colors. Shelby said yes. However, upon checking with supply houses, the only colors available are white, cream and grey. Show: Alan announced he will be having the 3rd planning meeting on Monday, August 4th, at Ronald McDonald House in downtown Memphis. The people at RMH will give the club ideas on marketing RMH's involvement in the 2009 Show. Alan reminded that the Big Scoop will take place on September 6th and volunteers would be appreciated. The food table will be set up and other displays as well. The location will be Audubon Park.

Old Business: New Business: Mike Cannito inquired about discussing the issue of youth members joining without an adult. Sandy indicated he could bring it up at the next meeting. Sandy brought up the issue of officer nominations. Alan expressed his opinion that the Committee to start the nominating process should be in place in September. A slate should be announced in October and a vote should take place in November. Alan also inquired about a memorial for Frank Walker. It was discussed by the Board. Alan said he would talk to Frances to get an idea for a memorial. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M

August 2008 Membership Meeting

Notes : CAROL AND MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on August 8. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. There were 57 members and 8 visitors. The visitors were Jack Snider, Marilyn Free, Irina Ponce, Luke Ponce, Layne Ponce, Gil Bush, Martha Bush, and Ray Lovelady. Pam Gurley welcomed the visitors; she had one new member packet. Sandy Ward said people should see her if they need membership/library cards. She also asked for people to consider running for the Board, and said people may be approached in the next week or two. The August Field Trip will be to the Ornamental Metal Museum. Details are in the newsletter. Ron Brister said the library needs a new file cabinet. Contact him or Sandy if you have one to donate. There was no old or new business. The program was the annual indoor rock swap and picnic. People could sign up for a free spin on Rock Around the Clock. The grand door prize will be awarded at the end. There will also be geode cracking. Marilyn Shiffman won the grand prize. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

**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 Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Jackson, MS.) HOST
An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society**

8:30 AM CST

Saturday, October 25, 2008

Bayou Pierre River near Utica, Mississippi

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be hosting a trip to the Bayou Pierre River near Utica, MS. You will find beautiful agates, some petrified wood, jasper and chert fossils. At one time, palm wood was plentiful at this site, and some is still found by a few people on almost every trip. Children are welcome, and pets on leashes. There are some areas you would need to be careful of your children in.

Directions: We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Hubbard's Truck Stop on Highway slightly south of Utica. You can take Highway 18 from I-20 in Jackson, going toward Raymond. You will pass the turnoff for Raymond, and the turnoff for Utica, shortly thereafter, you will see Hubbard Truck stop on your left, at the intersection of Hwy 18 and MS 27. There is a nice restaurant at the truck stop for those who would like to eat breakfast. It is approximately 30 miles from Jackson to Utica.

Other Essentials: You should bring food, drink and water, there are no stores nearby. We usually all pitch together with a lunch under the trees. You can use a beaver stick(rock stick), and you will need sturdy shoes you can wade in, and bags or buckets you can put your rocks in. Bring sunscreen, hat, and dress according to weather reports; just remember it will probably heat up a little as the morning progresses.

Accommodations: I would suggest motels in Clinton and Pearl MS, which is very near the exit for Hwy 18. West Jackson is a high crime area, so be leery of motels in that area.

Contact: If you have any questions, please contact Janie Hand, 601-825-3989, or RockN-Granny49@aol.com

We will have a general meeting Friday night before the field trip and you are invited. If you are interested in attending, contact myself at the address above, or Betty James at 601-914-6747 or mineralid@comcast.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.

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.

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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, 3rd—07 • Special Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st—03, 07 • Adult Article 1st—06, 2nd—89, 90, 04, 06; 3rd—92; 4th—85, 04, 07; 5th—91, 03, 07; 6th—87; 8th—04, 07; Honorable Mention—03, 04, 07 • Adult Poetry—07

DUES: \$20 (Family); \$16 (Single); \$8 (Junior)

OCTOBER 2008

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	31	

- October 2** 6:30 p.m. **Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue**
- October 10** 7:30 p.m. **Membership Meeting, at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road**
- October 18** **MAGS Field Trip to Kentucky**
- October 25** 8:30am **DMC Field Trip to Bayou Pierre River, Utica, MS**



MAGS Rockhound News
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