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Messing With Texas *Ammonites*

WC McDANIEL: It started out with Dan Reed's co-worker stating "there are a whole lot of fossils" on my father-in-law's place in Texas. Several months later and a seven hour drive from Memphis Dan Reed and I arrived at location north of Denton and spent 2 days collecting "a whole of lot of fossils." Just about all were ammonites. The site was located on private property. The area consisted of rolling, sloping hills down toward a creek. Ammonites where found in several places including the hillside. However, the majority were found in the creek bed. At the time of our trip the area was experiencing a significant shortage of rainfall so the creek was pretty dry. The ammonites appeared to be coming out of a chalky limestone area. The ammonites in this area were in reasonable good shape while those further down the creek had received some good tumbling action from the creek. The ammonites collected were Eopachydiscus Marcianus, Cretaceous Period (Early Upper Albian Stage) about 101 million years ago.

(continued on page 4)



Photo by Dan Reed: "A whole lot of fossils" almost filled the back of the truck

2009 – 2010 Officers and Board of Directors

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Show Chairman – Vacant

Rockhound News is published monthly by and for the members of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments and articles to the attention of Shelby Hartman, 5116 Whiteway Drive, Memphis, TN 38117 or via email at magsnewsletter@comcast.net

President's Corner



This month's president's column focuses on some recent policy changes and additions to our field trip program. Numbers five and six are new while numbers one, two, three and four have been revised.

- Nonmembers will not be permitted to join and/or participate in any MAGS field trip. Exceptions will require Board approval. Nonmembers may not join on the day of a field trip in order to participate in the field trip.
- An adult member must accompany a junior member on field trips.
- The society shall allow the field trip leader a maximum of \$50.00 toward expenses, including phone calls and printing, for each trip led out of the city of Memphis of more than 100 miles roundtrip.
- The society shall allow \$100.00 to any current club member who finds a new collecting site, and a field trip to the site is completed. The site is subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- MAGS members will not contact private landowners to obtain permission to collect on sites for which the owner has granted the club permission to collect. Any member unsure of the location will seek a decision by the Board of Directors.
- MAGS members are asked not to visit public collecting sites within 10 days prior to a scheduled and published MAGS field trip. Any member unsure of the location will seek a decision by the Board of Directors.

W.C. McDaniel

Comments or Questions regarding MAGS?

Contact W.C. McDaniel, MAGS President, by phone at (901) 274-7706, by mail at 2038 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104, or by email at w.c.mcd@worldnet.att.net.

Check out the clubs website at www.memphisgeology.org

MAGS Field Trips



October 17-18 (Sat/Sun) We'll stay in Tennessee this month as we travel to Dale Hollow Lake for geodes and fossils. We will also be exploring a new geode site on Saturday that reportedly has never been collected. There's a fee of \$10/bucket and it's located close to the Pharris farm in Nameless, TN. That is the town's name.

November 7-8 (Sat/Sun) Crystals in Mt, Ida, Arkansas with Fiddlers Ridge on Saturday and "group choice" on Sunday!

November 28 (Sat) Richardson Landing (southwest of Millington, TN). We will be collecting agates/chert, fossils, petrified wood and river artifacts.

January 1- (Fri-Sun), Potosi, Missouri. We don't do this one often so don't miss it! Ring in the new year collecting Druze Quartz, Barite, Lace Agate. (We will keep an eye on the weather).

There are some possible weekday trips in the works and will be announced as they develop.



Announcements & Tidbits

NEW MEMBERS

MAGS welcomes new members Howard & Victoria Bromley, William DeVore, Mary and Sidney Elliott, Robert & Tammy Gray, Robert Neill, Ray Roberson & Karen Hiatt, and Chuck & Terri Turner. We look forward to seeing you at meetings and on upcoming field trips!

FIELD TRIPS

One last reminder: Due to liability reasons, you must be a MAGS member to attend a MAGS field trip.

SHOW TICKETS

There are some members who still owe for tickets they obtained for friends/family for the 2009 Show.

Please pay this as soon as possible to Dick McKittrick. Make checks payable to "MAGS Show Account" and mail to 5431 Brantford Road, Memphis, TN 38120.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

"Ammonite" (continued from front page)

The ammonite fossil:

- Ammonites were named by a British paleontologist, after the rams horn headpieces worn by priests of the Egyptian sun god Ammon-Ra.
- Ammonites are an extinct group of cephalopods, the class of animals that includes modern-day octopus, squid, cuttlefish and nautilus. Similar to the nautilus in appearance, ammonites were predators that had curled shells made up of many gas-filled chambers that provided flotation.



Photo by Dan Reed. Most of the ammonites were colored light grey. This reddish tint was unusual to the area

Ammonites first appeared during the Silurian Period (435 million to 410 million years ago) and were abundant and widespread in the seas of the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods (175 million to 65 million years ago).



Photo by Dan Reed- Several large segments were located, although no completely intact ammonites were found in this size.



Photo by Dan Reed. Southwest of the primary ammonite producing area. Notice partial ammonite in bottom right of photo

MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM & ROCK SWAP SCHEDULE

Month	Adult Program	Junior Program	Rock Swap *
October	Lapidary workshop (Polishing, beading, etc.)	Fluorescents with Alan Schaeffer and Mike Baldwin Field trip on 10/3 @ 5pm to Levitt Shell for "Mammoth Follies" (See info below)	None scheduled
November	Tennessee geodes with Mike Gibson	TBA	November 14 11a-3p At the home of Alan & Alishia Parks 831 West Powell Collierville, TN Phone: 901-853-6898
December	Holiday Party	Holiday Party	None scheduled

*Remember, if you are attending one of our scheduled Rock Swaps, please bring a side dish or dessert (enough for your party and some to share with the rest of the group) and your drinks. Also, it is suggested that attendees bring lawn chairs and whatever you will need to display if plan on swapping or selling.

In **The Mammoth Follies**, the Hudson Vagabond Puppets use puppets of all kinds: enormous dinosaur puppets, hand puppets, body puppets, and rod puppets to dramatize historic and scientific facts about the great age of the dinosaurs! Go to <http://www.hvpuppets.org/studyguides/mammoth/studyguide.pdf> for additional information about this production.

Hudson
Vagabond
Puppets

For those of you who have never been to the Levitt Shell, it is a wonderful outdoor venue. You will need to bring a lawn chair or a blanket as there is no seating provided. Coolers are allowed but no glass bottles. There isn't a bad seat in the house! Go to levittshell.org for more information on this wonderful Memphis facility.



October Birthdays

1 Susan Hailey	18 Janet Huettel
2 Christina Lagerson	18 Emily Randolph
3 Patricia Podzorski	19 Linda Reeves
4 Layne Ponce	21 Taylor Faddis
4 Patsy Black	21 Janine A. Shipman
5 Matthew Lybanon	21 David Sanford
5 Ben Mandino	23 Heather Baldick
6 Dick McKitrick	23 Brittney Salmon
6 Treat MacDonald	24 Raynee Randolph
7 Alan Jacobs	24 Roy Van Arsdale
9 Charles Hill	24 Keith Riding
10 Nelson Eddlemon	26 Gavin Hidaji
11 Barry Burns	27 Nicholas Wheeler
11 George Everett	27 Dylan George
11 Tracy Motter	28 Anne Fordyce
11 John Thomas Hare	29 Tyler Brunthaver
13 Michael Baldwin	29 Sam Shankman
16 Dr. Joe Young	
17 Flint Loveland	
17 Ivon Clark	
17 Matt Gean	



SHELBY HARTMAN:

Most opal is 50-65 million years old, dating back to the Cretaceous period when dinosaurs roamed the earth. Opal formed as silica from decomposing rocks mixed with ground water which formed a silica gel that collected and hardened in underground cavities and fissures.

Opal's chemical formula is $\text{SiO}_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$. There are two distinct types of opal, common and precious. The way the silica particles form determines which type. In precious opal, silica particles are packed in regular rows and layers. Moving the stone causes light to diffract, or split, as it grazes the opal surface. This light diffusion shows iridescent flashes of green, blue, aqua and sometimes yellowish or red colors which are referred to as "fire."

2009 Meeting Dates

Month	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Submissions
October	Oct 01	Oct 09	Sep 15
November	Nov 05	Nov 13	Oct 15
December	Dec 03	Dec 11	Nov 15

Web Site Statistics for August 2009

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	377,191
Total hits to web site since 1/21/02	1,619,582
Visits in past 30 days	4,183
Hits in past 30 days	31,378

Top page views past 30 days

eris	1,283 hits
rocknews0509	469 hits
rocknews1005	448 hits
rocknews0107	379 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.

2009 ROCK CLUB SHOWS ACROSS THE REGION

October 3-4, 2009, Lexington, KY - Rockhounds of Central Kentucky. 19th Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show & Sale. Kentucky National Guard Armory, 4301 Airport Rd. Hours: 3rd, 10:00 A.M.- 6:00 P.M.; 4th, 12:00 Noon-5:00 P.M. Contact: Kay Fisher, 859.537.1776, kkay19@aol.com.

October 16-18, 2009, Franklin, NC - Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. Annual Leaf Looker's Gemboree. Hours: 16th & 17th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00; 18th, 12:00 Noon-5:00 P.M. Call 1.800.336.7829 for further information.

October 31 – November 1, 2009, Stuart FL– St. Lucie County Rock & Gem Club. 31st Annual Rock & Gem Show. Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy. (A1A). Hours: 10:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. both days. Discount coupon at lcrockandgem.org. Contacts: Dennis Ponte at 772.288.9296 or Norm Holbert at 772.873.0787.

November 13-15, 2009, Pascagoula, MS – Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society. 19th Annual Magnolia State Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Civic Center Building, Jackson County Fairgrounds. Hours: 13th & 14th, 10:00 A.M.–6:00 P.M.; 15th, 10:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Contact: John Wright, 3304 Nottingham Rd., Ocean Springs, MS 39564 or 228.875.9192.

November 13-15, 2009, Louisville, KY – KYANA Geological Society. Annual Mineral, Fossil, Gem, and Rock Show. Resurrection Lutheran Church Gym, 4205 Gardiner View Ave. Hours: 13th, 10:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.; 14th, 8:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.; 15th, 12:00 Noon – 6:00 P.M. Contact: Mike Whitehouse, 4304 Winter Park Dr., Louisville, KY 40218; 502.905.4988, or kyanageo@gmail.com.

November 21-22, 2009, West Palm Beach, FL – Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches. 43rd Annual Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show, Americraft Expo Center at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd. Hours: 21st, 9:00 A.M.– 6:00 P.M.; 22nd, 10:00 A.M.– 5:00 P.M. Contacts: Barbara Ringhiser at bar5678@aol.com or 561.588.5458/ Ellen Jean at ellen-jean24@aol.com or 931.372.8236.

November 27-29, 2009, Mobile, AL – Mobile Rock and Gem Society. 15th Annual Jewelry, Gem and Mineral Show, Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds, Cody Rd and Zeigler Blvd. Hours: 27th, 2:00 PM.– 7:00 P.M.; 28th, 9:00 A.M.– 6:00 P.M.; 29th, 10:00 A.M.– 5:00 P.M.; Contact: Jerry Shirey, 2911 Pretty Branch Drive W., Mobile, AL 36618; 251.786.4777, or Rockhoundjs@aol.com.

December 12-13, 2009 Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Nashville, TN - "Earth Treasures" Show: Tennessee State Fairgrounds; Sat 9am-6pm; Sun 10am-5pm; Adults \$3; Jewelry, gems, beads, minerals, fossils, collectibles, tools, equipment, silent auction, demonstrations, and door prizes. Over 30 dealers. www.MTGMS.org

**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 KYANA Geological Society, Louisville, KY(HOST)
and An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society**

**Saturday and Sunday, October 17-18, 2009
Taylorsville, Spencer County, Kentucky
Lower Kentucky River / Falls of the Ohio State Park "Ordovician rocks and fossils"**

Our plans are to take the participants on Saturday the 17th to a series of road cuts in the area of Taylorsville, Spencer County, Kentucky. We will be collecting Upper Ordovician fossils. Most of the fossils will be loose. Very little digging is required. There are many varieties of brachiopods, bryozoans, pelecypods, gastropods, along with corals, cephalopods, rare finds include trilobites, edrioasteroids, and a very rare cycloostoid was found here a couple of years ago.

Taylorsville State Park will be our meeting site for Saturday morning October 17, 2009 prior to 9:00 a.m EST. Highway 155/55 runs north south through the town of Taylorsville, turn east on to highway 44, take highway 44 to highway 248, take highway 248 east to the entrance of Taylorsville State Park, turn south on Park Road, pass the Park Office and to the covered picnic shelters, park here. If you go too far you will end up at the Possum Ridge Boat Ramp.

For the afternoon we will either continue to collect the Taylorsville area or travel to the Frankfort area and collect in the Middle Ordovician, Lexington Limestone along the valley of the Lower Kentucky River. The KYANA Fossil Study Group has been investigating this area and has been tracking trilobite bearing layers in hope of finding Kentucky's largest Ordovician trilobite *Isotelus*

What to bring: Standard rock hound tools [hammer, chisels, goggles, wrapping materials, buckets] we will be in the sun, sunscreen, sun hat, sun glasses.

You can access our website <http://kyanageo.org/> and see some of these fossils and more.

Sunday the 18th we be touring the Falls of the Ohio State Park. Meet in the Parking lot behind the building at 10:00 AM EST.

What to bring: A shoulder bag or knapsack for carrying snacks, water, dry socks, extra pair of shoes, camera in watertight container, walking stick, sun glasses, sun hat, bug spray, sunscreen. This will be a fairly strenuous tour and will involve crossing the river bottom on algae covered rocks with up to two feet of water and some current. The surface of the Falls is dry beyond this point, and the variety of fossil corals exposed is astounding along with large silicified snails and other fossils. Bring a scale or a form of measurement, some of the coral head are really big. There are no bathroom facilities out on the outer beds. This tour is dependent on the river level.

You can view the Falls of the Ohio website at <http://www.fallsoftheohio.org/>

The camping rates at Taylorsville Lake are; Primitive \$15 Sunday - Thursday, \$ 17 Friday & Saturday, RV \$21 Sunday - Thursday, \$23 Friday & Saturday

Charles Oldham, KYANA Field Trip Chairman. [502] 241-8755 catsmeowstudio1@yahoo.com

August Board Meeting Notes Carol and Matthew Lybanon

The MAGS Board of Directors met August 6 at the St. Clare Room in St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P. M. Those present were Mike Baldwin, Ron Brister, Kimberly Loveland, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Neville Mayfield, W. C. McDaniel, Alan Schaeffer, Paul Sides, Mike Wheeler, and Phillip Loveland. W. C. McDaniel announced that he may not be at this month's Membership Meeting, and will not be at the October 9 Membership Meeting. He also reported that Dan Reed has resigned as Director (Assistant Field Trips), and recommended Robert Duncan to fill the vacancy. A motion to confirm Robert Duncan in that position carried. Also, Doris Jones and Shelby Hartman are out of town, and Nannett McDougal-Dykes is sick, so they are excused from this meeting. Secretary: The July minutes were approved as submitted. Treasurer: No report. Membership: Neville Mayfield reported he has not received any new applications since early July. Field Trips: Mike Wheeler was welcomed to his first official Board Meeting. W. C. McDaniel distributed the tentative field trip schedule. Adult Programs: Paul Sides listed the next several programs. This month's program is the indoor rock swap. Alan Schaeffer will bring some fluorescent rocks to show. Board members were asked to bring canned soda. In November Dr. Mike Gibson will talk about Tennessee Geodes: Their Formation and Age, along with some updates on stromatolites. The December program will be our holiday party. Junior Programs: Alan Schaeffer announced that Carol Lybanon will present the September program (molds and casts). The program on fluorescent minerals will be saved until it gets darker earlier. Kimberly Loveland thanked Mike Baldwin for last month's program, and reported she has made some purchases of items for Junior Members to work on after the formal program. W. C. McDaniel will order the bulletin: "Minerals of the USA" for the Junior programs. They will be used both in the Junior Program and the Show. Show: W. C. McDaniel is still looking for a Show chair. Library: Ron Brister said that lack of space is a real impediment. Newsletter/Webmaster: Mike Baldwin reported there is a problem with website hosting, affecting both the newsletter and the websites, that he is working out with AT&T. W. C. McDaniel asked Mike to make a change so Show

email will be directed to W. C. Mike hopes that people will send more articles for the newsletter. Historian/Rock Swap: Alan and Alishia Parks will host the October swap. Old Business: Neville Mayfield showed the Board the revised MAGS letterhead for approval. It was approved in its present form. New Business: Ron Brister read a letter from Robert Connolly, director of the Chucalissa museum, that asked MAGS to sponsor the printing of 6000 brochures for the newly-developed scavenger hunt, at a cost of \$992. We will be able to print the MAGS and Earth Wide Open logos on the back of the brochure. A motion to sponsor the printing of these brochures, with \$500 from the Show account and \$492 from the club account, passed. The Board reviewed the Standing Rules of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, Inc. Numerous changes to rules 1-19 were approved, and four new rules were adopted. Carol and Matthew Lybanon will reorganize the standing rules and make them available to MAGS Members. Neville Mayfield informed the Board that on August 11, 6:00-8:00 at the University of Memphis, there will be a seminar on nonprofit organization fundraising. A motion was made and passed that Neville will attend the seminar as the MAGS representative, and the club will reimburse the \$49 fee. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P. M.

August Membership Meeting Notes Carol and Matthew Lybanon

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on August 14. No business was conducted. This month's program was the Indoor Rock Swap.

The main purpose of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society is to promote and advance the knowledge of the Lapidary Sciences in the mining, identification, cutting, polishing and mounting of gems, minerals and fossils to the utmost of our geological and lapidary capabilities.

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

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AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 7th—95 • Small Bulletin Honorable Mention—04, 05, 06 • Adult Article 10th—04; Honorable Mention—05 (x2), 06 (x2) • Junior Article 3rd—98; 8th—03 • Special Pub 4th—03

SFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 1st—86; 2nd—88, 97 • New Editor (Explorer) 4th—03 • Certificate of Excellence—89, 90, 91, 92, 93 • Large Bulletin 1st—87 • Small Bulletin 1st—04, 2nd—06, 4th—03, 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 2009

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 1 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting at St. Francis in St. Claire Room behind ER. (5959 Park Ave) **REMINDER: NO FOOD!**

October 3 5:00 p.m. Levitt Shell Field Trip—"Mammoth Follies"

October 9 7:30 p.m. Membership Meeting at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church

October 17-18 MAGS Field Trip to Dale Hollow Lake & Nameless, TN



MAGS Rockhound News
5116 Whiteway Drive
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