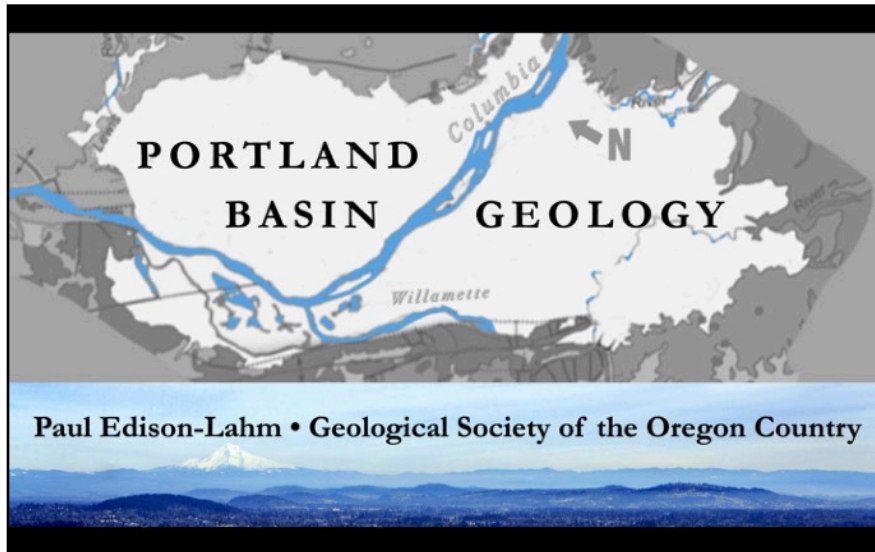




Volume 67 ♦ Number 10 ♦ October 2021 ♦ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

# October Zoom Program

Paul Edison-Lahm




The geology of the Portland Basin is an amazing story of floods of lava, rock, and ice. Retired attorney and educator Paul Edison-Lahm is Communications Director and Past-President of the Geological Society of the Oregon Country (GSOC)—the oldest collaboration of amateur and professional geologists in the Pacific Northwest. Paul has developed

numerous Portland metro field trips with GSOC, which are the basis for this virtual presentation on the Portland Basin’s dramatic geological history.

**Editor’s Note:** *The October 8 program will be **Zoom only**. See the President’s Message on P. 3 for more information. And see the article below to find out how to watch the program.*

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Paul Brinkman’s September program was great. It was amazing to see—actually see—some of the prep work it took to make Sue, probably the most famous *T. rex* in the world, ready for display in Chicago’s Field Museum. I hope you didn’t miss it.

Using Zoom is a lot easier than you think. Zoom is just a tool to help people get



MATTHEW LYBANON, EDITOR together using the internet. It isn’t just for formal meetings. People even use it for family gatherings. You can get together with family members even if they’re hundreds or thousands of miles away. And it’s easy.

There’s plenty of help in getting started on the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us>. And there are lots of YouTube *Continued, P. 3*

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

## 2019-2022 MAGS BOARD

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(901) 274-7706 ◊ [w.c.mcd@att.net](mailto:w.c.mcd@att.net)

**1st VP (Field Trips)—James Butchko**

(901) 743-0058 ◊

**2nd VP (Adult Programs)—Dave Clarke**

(901) 308-0334 ◊ [dclarke@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:dclarke@fieldmuseum.org)

**Secretary—Mike Coulson**

(901) 907-9441 ◊ [mike.coulson@comcast.net](mailto:mike.coulson@comcast.net)

**Treasurer—Bonnie Cooper**

(901) 444-0967 ◊ [rocks4us@hotmail.com](mailto:rocks4us@hotmail.com)

**Director (Asst. Field Trips)—Vacant**

**Director (Asst. Adult Prog.)—Matthew Lybanon**

(901) 757-2144 ◊ [lybanon@earthlink.net](mailto:lybanon@earthlink.net)

**Director (Youth Programs)—Mike Baldwin**

(901) 853-3603 ◊ [mbaldwin05@gmail.com](mailto:mbaldwin05@gmail.com)

**Director (Asst. Youth Prog.)—James Butchko**

(901) 743-0058 ◊ [butch513j@yahoo.com](mailto:butch513j@yahoo.com)

**Director (Librarian)—Nannett McDougal-Dykes**

(901) 634-9388 ◊ [redchesty@yahoo.com](mailto:redchesty@yahoo.com)

**Director (Asst. Librarian)—Kay MacLaughlin**

(901) 465-6343 ◊ [celticcatssilver@att.net](mailto:celticcatssilver@att.net)

**Director (Membership Services)—Bob Cooper**

(901) 444-0967 ◊ [rocks4us@hotmail.com](mailto:rocks4us@hotmail.com)

**Director (Historian)—Jane Coop**

(901) 685-8103 ◊ [dogsandrocks3@gmail.com](mailto:dogsandrocks3@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor—Matthew Lybanon**

(901) 757-2144 ◊ [lybanon@earthlink.net](mailto:lybanon@earthlink.net)

**Assistant Newsletter Editor—Carol Lybanon**

(901) 757-2144 ◊ [sgcarol@earthlink.net](mailto:sgcarol@earthlink.net)

**Webmaster—Mike Baldwin**

(901) 853-3603 ◊ [mbaldwin05@gmail.com](mailto:mbaldwin05@gmail.com)

**Assistant Webmaster—Mike Coulson**

(901) 907-9441 ◊ [mike.coulson@comcast.net](mailto:mike.coulson@comcast.net)

**Show Chairman—James Butchko**

(901) 743-0058 ◊ [butch513j@yahoo.com](mailto:butch513j@yahoo.com)

**Past President—Charles Hill**

(901) 626-4232 ◊ [hunter3006@aol.com](mailto:hunter3006@aol.com)

## MAGS AND FEDERATION NOTES

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society,  
Memphis, Tennessee

The objectives of this society shall be as set out in the Charter of Incorporation issued by the State of Tennessee on September 29, 1958, as follows: for the purpose of promoting an active interest in the geological finds and data by scientific methods; to offer possible assistance to any archaeologist or geologist in the general area covered by the work and purposes of this society; to discourage commercialization of archaeology and work to its elimination and to assist in the younger members of the society; to publicize and create further public interest in the archaeological and geological field in the general area of the Mid-South and conduct means of displaying, publishing and conducting public forums for scientific and educational purposes.

MAGS General Membership Meetings and MAGS Youth Meetings are held at 7:00 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, Tennessee.

MAGS Website: [memphisgeology.org](http://memphisgeology.org)

MAGS Show Website: [www.theearthwideopen.com](http://www.theearthwideopen.com) or <https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/rocks>

We aren't kidding when we say this is a newsletter for and by the members of MAGS. An article with a byline was written by a MAGS Member, unless explicitly stated otherwise. If there is no byline, the article was written or compiled by the Editor. Please contribute articles or 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](mailto:lybanon@earthlink.net).

All 2021 DMC field trips have been cancelled and rescheduled to 2022. The next MAGS-sponsored trip is currently scheduled for October 2024.

### 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/)
- ➔ DMC: [www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm)



Zoom!

Continued from P. 1

videos on how to use Zoom. To get you started, if all you want to do is join a meeting—such as the MAGS monthly Membership Meetings—watch this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbb-Yqiurgeo>.

The name says it all: **How to Join A Zoom Meeting for the First Time (Zoom: The Basics)**. It will tell you everything you need to know. I guarantee it.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made us change the way we do lots of things. Dave Clarke, our Adult Program chair [official title: 2nd VP (Adult Programs)], is working hard to come up with good programs, including last month's program on Sue and the upcoming October program. (Other examples: What Zircons In Sedimentary Rocks Can Tell Us About Plate Tectonic Processes, The UT-Martin Coon Creek Science Center, Archaeology of the Reelfoot Basin) He'll send you a link that will get you to the program, and if you do what the YouTube video says, getting to watch the program is a piece of cake.

Here is a brief summary of what you need to do to watch the MAGS October program, and all other MAGS Zoom programs. But watch the video. It has more detail, and it's **very** clear.

First, you will need to download and install the Zoom application on the device (computer, tablet, or smartphone) you'll use



to watch the meeting. Don't be timid and miss out on interesting MAGS meetings. It's safe to download Zoom from the official Zoom website (<https://zoom.us>) or from your mobile device's app store, and it's free. Then, a little before 7:00 P. M. on Friday, October 8, click the link Dave will send you and follow the prompts. You don't need to set up a Zoom account just to watch the meeting program. All you need is the application, and the link.

It's really that simple. Watch the video to see it illustrated, and we're looking forward to seeing you on October 8. Millions and millions of people Zoom every day. You can do it too.



**President's Message**

Here is the revised schedule for the remainder of the year. Some of the revisions are the result of low attendance and participation in recent MAGS events.

- 1. Membership meeting -October 8 at the church **canceled**. but the Zoom program will take place (see P. 1)
- 2. Field trip—October 23/24 Potosi, Missouri. We need at least five signups for this trip

by Sunday, October 17

- 3. Holiday Show -November 12/13 at the church **canceled**.
  - 4. Field trip—November, exploring options
  - 5. MAGS Holiday Party—Most likely will be held Saturday, November 13. More information to be announced
- *All MAGS events are subject to current Covid guidelines and community status at the time of the event. Keep your Staurolites crossed.*

W. C.



**NUMBERS!!!!!!!!!!!!**

W.C. McDaniel

3,100,000,000 years, or in English 3.1 billion years, is the age of the oldest rock I have in my collection. The numbers and nomenclature of geology, earth, and time are mind boggling and difficult to even grasp. The rock I have is a Tiger Iron Stromatolite which are the layered trace fossils of microbial life, primarily cyanobacteria. Some of them date back 3.4 billion years, making them the oldest record of life on planet Earth. This rock was collected in Western Australia.

Also, in my Word documents collection I have this phrase I copied many years ago. Not sure of the *Continued, P. 4*

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

48th Annual Central Arkansas

## Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

October 2nd & 3rd, 2021

9:00am to 5:00pm  
Jacksonville Community Center, 5 Municipal Drive  
Jacksonville, Arkansas 72076

FREE ADMISSION!

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, Beads, Kids Dig,  
Demonstrations



Enter our grand prize drawing  
for a chance to win this fabulous  
quartz cluster from Ron Coleman  
Mines in Jessville, Arkansas

Sponsored by: Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society

Contact show chair David Murray for more information:  
870-255-3679 or lenoramur@aol.com

[www.centralarrockhound.com](http://www.centralarrockhound.com)

## 48th Annual Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

### DEMONSTRATIONS

Saturday, October 2 and Sunday, October 3, 2021

**FIRE AGATE Polishing by Bill Alcott**

Front room, tables left of stage.

**ALL DAY Saturday and Sunday**

**FLINTKNAPPING by Dan Freeby**

ON STAGE

**11:00 Saturday and Sunday**

**FLUORESCENTS by Mike Howard**

ON STAGE

**1:00 Saturday and Sunday**

**MAKE AND TAKE \***

**BEADS and Jewelry by Pat Judd**

ON STAGE

**12:00 Saturday and Sunday**

**WIRE WRAPPING by Connie Schoneman**

ON STAGE

**2:00 Saturday**

**TREE of LIFE pendant by Lenora Murray**

ON STAGE

**2:00 SUNDAY**

\*Note: Make and Take demonstrations do not require a fee. Donations for supplies are appreciated. Possible other demonstrations, as time and help permits.

GEODE CRACKING GEM TREES  
FREEFORM CABLING FACETING

If you wish to do one of the above—or others—please call (501) 346-5990.

### Roadcut

*Continued from P.3* origin or accuracy of the phrase but is a good read for looking at time: "If you were to write a history of the Earth's past, allowing just one page per year, your book would be 4,600,000,000 pages long. That's a very thick book—145 miles to be exact. An average reader, reading about 1 page every 2 minutes, would need more than 17,503 years to finish it. And that's with no time out for anything else—no time to eat, sleep, ride a bike, or go to school."

The following photos (the good one, on the right) is from the web site where I purchased the 3,100,000,000-year-old rock. The other photo is a closeup with my iPhone and poor lighting.



## Fabulous Tennessee Fossils

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

### FTF 81

#### The First Cretaceous Gastrolith From Tennessee



One of the more interesting and potentially exciting finds at the UT Martin Coon Creek Science Center was the 2019 discovery of a rock in one of the mounds that we periodically dig-up on the floodplain next to the creek. Every few years, we bring a track hoe on-site and dig down below the modern floodplain of the creek into the Cretaceous-age Coon Creek matrix and stockpile that matrix on the floodplain from which visitors to the site can collect fossils to prepare. These trenches provide us with cut sections to study and help to preserve the deposit by reducing the digging that takes place in the creek bank itself. On April 8, 2019, a group of students visiting the site and digging in the mound came across a rock (Figure 1) about the size of a closed fist. Young Addison Wood, along with a few other friends, uncovered the smoothly rounded rock whose surface was slightly polished. This cobble has the eroded remains of an encrusting calcareous tube adhering to the rock surface (the encrusting organism was a marine worm). Normally, finding a rock buried in sediment would not seem like much at first, but it is a highly unusual occurrence in this case. The Coon Creek deposit is a fossiliferous marine clay and clayey-sand and the seafloor sediments accumulated miles from any shoreline or beach in a setting referred to as being a level-bottom marine seafloor. All known beach-

es from the Cretaceous in this part of the world were sandy, not rocky. No rocks have ever been found in the deposit anywhere that it occurs, so this begs the question—how did this rock get into the Coon Creek deposit?

The rock is smoothly rounded, which is typical of stream action for most rounded rocks of this size. Rounded cobbles, sometimes called “river rock” due to its rounded nature and nearly ubiquitous occurrence as stream gravel, are common to ancient deposits that accumulated as river gravels. River gravels are terrestrial (land) deposits. It is not possible to have a rounded river cobble of this size washed out to the middle of this sea so many miles from shore and all alone. The cobble is simply too heavy to be moved that way. So, if currents cannot be called upon to deposit the rock, how did it get there? Being the size of a fist, it is too large to have been carried by a flying organism and dropped (modern shorebirds are known to use rocks dropped from the air to break shells on the beach), and why would a flying organism drop it into the ocean?

One clue to the answer might lie in the rock type, or lithology, itself. Can the lithology be matched to known geologic formations that could have been accumulating at the same time as the Coon Creek Formation sediments? Were their rocky outcrops

along the shoreline for the Coon Creek sea? The rock type itself is enigmatic, it turns out. The texture and composition is unusual and does not match any known geologic rock formation in West Tennessee. Also, it does not match any geologic formation known from anywhere in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, or any other surrounding state. The rock’s texture consists of angular grains of quartz cemented within a very fine matrix that may have some carbonate because it fizzes in hydrochloric acid, but the fizzing is extremely weak. The amount of carbonate present appears to be very small. We are making thin-sections (microscope slides) of the rock to further investigate the composition and texture of the cobble. Until now we have resisted doing this as it requires us to cut the cobble, and this is a one of a kind specimen.

What was our working hypothesis for this cobble? At the time, we were thinking that the rock could be a gastrolith, or “stomach stone” of a plesiosaur. If correct, this will be the first marine reptile gastrolith reported from Tennessee. Plesiosaurs are short to long-necked swimming reptiles and were known to have occurred in the Late Cretaceous seas of the region. I uncovered several plesiosaur vertebrae in the 1990s from a site in Decatur County and there

*Continued, P. 6*



*Fabulous Tennessee Fossils* was a reported occurrence of the “1st Tennessee plesiosaur” from the 1960s (unfortunately the vertebrae from this specimen, which was housed at the University of Kansas, have since gone missing). Plesiosaurs were known to swallow rocks, either to aid in digestion or as ballast stones. The occurrence of gastroliths in the gut of a swimming reptile would easily explain the occurrence of the rock in the middle of an ocean far from shore. If we can identify the gastrolith rock type and match it to known geologic formations, we may be able to map the migration pattern of this particular plesiosaur. It is unknown if plesiosaurs could “pass” the stones and hence lose one, but it is well-documented that the stones can be associated with the carcass of dead plesiosaurs decomposing on the seafloor. Usually gastroliths occur in groups, but we only have a single cobble, so far. What we need is corroborating evidence of a plesiosaur associated with the cobble, which we have found. Soon after uncovering the cobble, we began to find what appears to be a series of highly corroded peg-shaped teeth in the same portion of the mound, along with phosphate nodules that may have additional teeth or bone within them. The phosphatic remains are in a very poor preservational state compared to other vertebrate material found in the Coon Creek deposit, such as mosasaur and turtle. Perhaps we are finding the scattered remains of a highly decomposed animal that was scavenged? Could

it have sat on the seafloor for an extended period of time and degraded extensively before final burial? Could later diagenesis have altered the skeletal remains? Perhaps this is a “deadfall” specimen? Whales that die at sea are known to fall to the mostly barren ocean floor where they become a temporary “oasis” of resources that attract scavengers and even organisms that will dwell with the skeleton of the deadfall animal. Over time, the carcass gets mixed about, partially consumed with defecated and regurgitated material accumulating with the carcass. We are not sure at this point until we obtain more material and can open a pit to see the distribution of the remains.

Based upon the location and orientation of our trench mound on the floodplain and the location within the mound that the gastrolith and possible teeth are being found, our working hypothesis is that there is more of the deadfall skeleton still buried below this floodplain and perhaps scattered over a considerable area. Our trenching, we think, may have just nipped a small area that contained some of the scattered remains and the gastrolith. Plans are to remove the nearly 12 feet of floodplain material and excavate an open pit horizontally in sections across the flood plain to find and map the extent of the remains. This is a considerable task that will need to be done in phases and will likely take years to complete. Another problem is the location of the remains right on the edge of our parking area, but we can move that. We will keep you posted as we find more of what we hope is

the first plesiosaur from the Coon Creek Science Center site.



Figure 1. Possible gastrolith of a plesiosaur found by Addison Wood in 2019 at the Coon Creek Science Center (Scale in cm; Photo by MAG).

## How Do They Do It?

*Matthew Lybanon, Editor*

“Birds do it, bees do it ...” is the beginning of Cole Porter’s “Let’s Do It.” And that’s the question here. How do birds do it? How do birds navigate accurately over long distances?

If you were lost in the middle of the woods and couldn’t see the sun (cloudy day), you might use a compass. (Today’s method of choice would probably be GPS, but what if your gadget’s battery was dead, or you couldn’t get a signal?) But other animals, including birds, don’t have this option. They have to do it some other way.

Researchers think different birds use different methods for navigation. Homing pigeons are famous *Continued, P. 7*

*How Do They Do It?* for being able to navigate extremely long distances. Their “homing” is so reliable that they were used in World Wars I and II to deliver messages over enemy lines. How do homing pigeons find their way—even on cloudy days?

A pair of researchers from Goethe-Universität Frankfurt and Max von Laue-Straße 13 report that research by others has shown that there are two main physical attributes birds use to navigate. Both involve the Earth’s magnetic field. In their paper published in *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, two researchers outline the current state of the study of navigation in birds and what they found.

In this new (2019, ref. 1) report, husband and wife research team Roswitha and Wolfgang Wiltschko outline research that has been conducted by several groups in the field and what has been found. They also note that one major part of the process is still a mystery—how the bird brain processes the information it receives and translates it into accurate navigation.

The Wiltschkos highlight several studies that have led to evidence of radical pair processing in the eyes via a special protein—allowing the birds to actually “see” the magnetic field as they fly.

The researchers begin their report by noting that several studies have shown that birds navigate long distances by making use of the Earth’s magnetic field. What has been difficult has been figuring out how they do so.

The answer involves a material familiar to most MAGSters. Researchers have discovered a small spot on the beak of pigeons and some other birds that contains **magnetite**.

Another researcher, Cordula Mora (then at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and her colleagues taught pigeons to discriminate between magnetic fields by placing them in a wooden tunnel with a feeder platform at either end and coils of wire around the outside.

The pigeons were trained to go to one end of the tunnel if the coils were switched on, generating a magnetic field, and to the other if they were switched off, leaving Earth’s natural field unperturbed. “I was pleasantly surprised. The pigeons were very fast learners,” says Mora.

Their skills were impaired, however, when the researchers attached magnets to their upper beaks, and also when the upper beak was anesthetized. This suggests that their ability is due to the presence of magnetically sensitive material in this area, the researchers report in *Nature* (ref. 2).

The team then set about seeing how these magnetic signals might be transmitted to the birds’ brains. When they severed the ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve, which leads from the upper beak to the brain, the birds were unable to distinguish between natural and perturbed magnetic fields. But when the olfactory nerve, which carries smell signals, was cut instead, the birds performed fine, dealing a seemingly fatal blow to the idea that they

navigate by relying on odors.

There are scientific investigations into whether animals use the Sun and Moon, Earth’s magnetic field, or recognition of landmarks to repeat their long journeys. And there is good evidence that homing pigeons use the magnets in their beaks.

**References:**

1. Roswitha Wiltschko et al. *Magnetoreception in birds*, *Journal of The Royal Society Interface* (2019). DOI: 10.1098/rsif.2019.0295
2. Mora, C. V., Davison, C. V., Wild, J. M. & Walker, M. M. *Nature*, 432. 508-511 (2004)
3. Wiltschko R, Wiltschko W. *The magnetite-based receptors in the beak of birds and their role in avian navigation*. *J Comp Physiol A Neuroethol Sens Neural Behav Physiol*. 2013;199(2):89-98. doi:10.1007/s00359-012-0769-3



**♪ Adult Programs**

October 8: Paul Edison-Lahm, “Portland Basin Geology” (Zoom)  
November & December: Combined meeting, Holiday Party, Saturday, November 13

**♪ Field Trips**

October 23 & 24: Potosi, Missouri, Druse Quartz & Barite

*Continued, P. 8*

MAGS Notes

Continued from P. 7

November 20 & 21: Hot Springs (tentative)

October Birthdays

- 1 Gail Karr  
Dave Shiffman
- 2 Bill McManus
- 5 Michala Demo  
Matthew Lybanon
- 7 Connor Smith  
Alan Jacobs
- 9 Charles Hill
- 10 Deborah Crowder  
Fulton Ledbetter
- 12 Mary Katherine Stout
- 13 Michael Baldwin
- 14 Patty Herman
- 19 Aaliyah Thomas
- 24 Keith Riding  
Ann Austin
- 27 Arlene Kowalski  
Arlene Oleartchick
- 30 Candida Ludy

Want to Be a Member?

To become a MAGS Member, just go to our website at [www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org) and print out an application form. There is a prorated fee schedule for new Members only. Mail the completed application along with the dues payment to the Membership Director shown on the form. If you are unable to print the application, you can pick one up at the sign-in desk at any of our Friday night Membership Meetings, or simply join at the meeting. Visitors are always welcome at our Membership Meetings but membership is required to attend our field trips.

The most important benefit of

being a MAGS Member is getting to know and make friends with other members who have similar interest in rocks, minerals, fossils, and archaeology. All new Members will receive a New Member Packet, a MAGS ID card, and a monthly newsletter via email. Members are entitled to go on our monthly field trips and get free admission to our annual Show.

Jewelry Bench Tips by Brad Smith

LAYOUT TOOLS



Dimensions on some features of a design can be fluid while others must be accurate for the design to work. When precision on a piece is important, good layout techniques are essential.

These are the tools that I rely upon to get holes in the right place, to achieve correct angles, and to cut pieces the correct length.

I like crisp sharp lines to follow, so I often coat surfaces with a dark marker and scribe my layout lines onto the metal. A square makes quick work of checking right angles or marking where to cut, and the thin center punch helps me mark a place to drill holes exactly where I want them.

Finally, a good set of dividers is probably my favorite layout tool. They let me quickly mark a strip

for cutting, swing an arc, and divide a line or curve into as many equal segments as I need. I keep at least one set of dividers in every toolbox.

INVENTORY RECORD

In an ideal world each of us who sells their jewelry has a good record with photos of all pieces in our inventory. We use it for insurance purposes, to record the cost to produce, to note where the item was sent out on consignment, and maybe to store descriptive text for marketing. Eventually, we note in the record when the piece was sold and for how much.

It's nice to also have good pictures of each piece, but sometimes we don't have time for a full-on photo session. In situations like this it's worth doing a quick group shot with the help of a phone, a camera, a scanner, or even a color copier. The quality is at least sufficient for an accurate identification in case a piece is lost.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

[amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

August Board Minutes

Mike Coulson

Zoom meeting called to order at 6:30. Present: W.C. McDaniel, Mike Baldwin, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Bonnie Cooper, Bob Cooper, James Butchko, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Mike Coulson, Melissa Koontz and Jane Coop.

Old Business:

- Email was sent out for the Holiday Show November 12 and 13.
- 16 total tables to cover the cost of show and insurance.

Continued, P. 9



# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

## August Board Minutes Continued from P. 8

- \$2 admission fee includes chance to win door prize. Children admitted free.
- Earth Wide Open site will be used to promote the show.
- One big grab bag party proposed to fill bags for both shows

### New Business:

- We have a signed MOA with the church for the holiday show. Will go by next week to pay the deposit and do a preliminary measurement for table layout. Not sure of the time.
- Discussion around buying a new printer for club use by the membership chairman. Board approved a budget not to exceed \$300 to purchase an Epson Eco tank type printer and ink refills.

**Show:** All the terms for the Agricenter contract have been finalized. W.C. will go by next week to sign. Dates April 23-24, 2022, with move in Friday, April 22. Returns to the Agricenter. Jim Butchko elected to be Show Chairman for 2022 Show. We have a signed contract for the Show and 18 responses saying yes to participate.

**Secretary:** July minutes were distributed via email to the Board and summarized at the meeting. Minutes approved.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer's report submitted and approved. Good balance in the checking account, and moder-

ate interest made on the club's CDs. Shady Grove Presbyterian Church rent for July, August and September 2021 paid. Received a partial refund for the 2020 show insurance.

**Membership:** Two new Members. August newsletter printing delayed due to old printer. Need to replace printer. Board approved the purchase of a new printer for the Membership Chairman.

**Field Trips:** Club had a good trip July 31 to Discovery Park with about 9 people attending. No future outings scheduled for August. October 23-24: Trip to Missouri for Druze Quartz. Also October: Cobblestone Tour Downtown. W.C. waiting for further details from Drew Buchner. Field Trip to Hot Springs, crystal collecting at Coleman's Mine and Wegner's Mine postponed till fall. Trips to Memphis Stone & Gravel and Coon Creek not yet scheduled.

**Adult Programs:** August: Indoors rock swap and potluck meal. cancelled due to increase in Covid cases. September: Paul Brinkman, T-Rex Sue (at Field Museum). October: George Phillips. Museum of Science in Jackson Mississippi, will talk about important new discoveries. Dave will contact Luke Ramsey from Pink Palace about a talk.

**Junior Programs:** Three names proposed for the Junior Program Group: MAGS Miners, M3 (MAGS

Minor Miners), and MAGS Rock Stars. Board felt M3 offered the most potential for a bold logo and a catchier name. Aug 13: Indoor Rock Swap and Potluck Meal (**Cancelled due to increase in Covid cases**). Sep 10: Native American Arrowheads and Points. Oct 8: Fluorescent Minerals and How Fluorescence Works Nov 12: No meeting in November due to Rock Show. Dec 10: Holiday Party.

**Library:** Four books were added.

**Rock Swaps:** There will be a Labor Day, Monday September 6, Rock Swap at Lou White's 10am-2pm. Jane will bring temperature-appropriate snacks and drinks. Announcement will be in next newsletter. Indoor rock swap and potluck dinner scheduled for August Membership Meeting will be combined with Rock Swap at Lou White's.

**Editor** August newsletter is out. Please send reports, articles, pics, recipes, and book reviews, anything you can think of, to Matthew for possible inclusion in the club's newsletter.

**Web:** Club website has been updated and Rockhound News posted.

Adjourned 7:39.

## August Meeting Minutes

Mike Coulson

Meeting and Indoor Rock Swap cancelled due to increased outbreak of Covid in the area.

## From The Archives

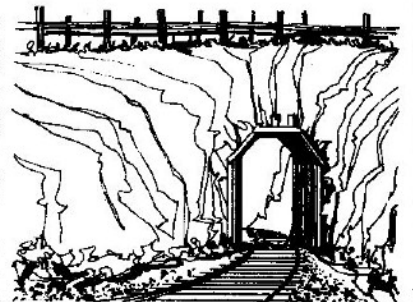
The little article on the right is reprinted from the April 1979 issue of the MAGS newsletter.

## Historic South

Westmoreland, Tennessee, claims the world's shortest railroad tunnel. The little tunnel was built by the old Chesapeake and Nashville Railroad between 1875 and 1880. Apparently the tunnel was built instead of a bridge because farmers in the area didn't want a bridge and didn't want their land disturbed.

The little timber-lined tunnel was hewn out with hammers and the limestone was hauled away by mules.

During the heyday of railroads several trains a day passed through the little tunnel, but now only one or two a week use the track.



**MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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

# MAGS At A Glance

## October 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30 Zoom Board Meeting (October), 6:30 pm	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Zoom Membership Meeting, Paul Edison-Lahm, "Portland Basin Geology," 7:00 pm	9
10	11 	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 MAGS Field Trip, Potosi, Missouri
24 MAGS Field Trip, Potosi, Missouri	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 	1	2	3	4	5	6

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

