



Inside This Issue.....

Officers & Board	2
President's Corner	
MAGS Best of Show Rules & Update	3
Adult Program	4
Youth Program	
Sunshine Report	
President's Corner (continued)	
Continuation of Lead Article	5
Continuation of Lead Article	6
Rock Swap Info	
November Birthdays	7
Web Stats	
Dates to Remember	
September '08 Board Meeting Notes	8
September '08 Mem- bership Meeting Notes	
MAGS Field Trip Info	9
Monthly Calendar	10
Newsletter Awards	

In Search of Petrified Wood—2008 Part 1—Search Sites & Results

W.C. McDANIEL : The chatter and splashing sounds of five rockhounds hiking down a crystal clear Tennessee creek were abruptly and loudly interrupted by one of those words that brings instant fear and awareness, “SNAKE.” The snake, quickly identified as a “Midland Water Snake,” was cornered and surrounded so it took the quickest and most direct way out, right between the legs of one those rockhounds. Jokes and comments were made and, just as quickly, the eyes and journey returned to the main objective—petrified wood. The visit to this creek was one of many collecting trips made to several sites over the course of the past several months. Those visits and creeks produced more gold medal specimens of petrified wood than Michael

Phelps produced gold medals during the summer Olympics. The following photographs and comments describe some of the collecting trips and locations. In December a field guide describing some petrified wood collecting tips will be published.

Site 1(Mississippi) –

This site was first visited and written

about in 2004. That year, and subsequent years, the site consistently produced a large number of pieces, many over 100 pounds. However, in 2008 the finds were limited in size and quantity. In addition, there was evidence other people had been in the area. It needs some good hard rains and a break before returning to the area. No photographs from this site are published.

Site 2 (Mississippi) - This site was first visited and written about in 2004.



Site 3- Collected and Photograph by Dan Reed

(continued on page 5)

2007 – 2008 Officers and Board of Directors

President – Sandy Ward • 5119 Whiteway Drive, Memphis
TN 38117 • 901-684-1819 •
sandypepperspray@comcast.net

1st VP (Field Trips) – Barry Burns • P.O. Box 666, Atoka, TN
38004 • 901-829-4246 • bburns@utmemo.edu

2nd VP (Programs) – W.C. McDaniel • 2038 Central Ave.,
Memphis, TN 38104 • 901-274-7706 • w.c.mcd@
worldnet.att.net

Secretary – Carol Lybanon • 2019 Littlemore Dr., Cordova, TN
38016 • 901-757-2144 • lybanon@earthlink.net

Treasurer – Mike Cannito • 1051 Sandra, Memphis, TN 38122
901-454-9326 • mcannito@memphis.edu

Director (Asst Field Trips) – David Day • 5974 Ivanhoe,
Bartlett, TN 38134 • 901-387-2347 • stonchanter@
yahoo.com

Director (Asst Programs) – Carl Warren • 818 Hyden Dr,
Clarksville, TN 38043 • 931-647-8845 •
cwarren506@bellsouth.net

Director (Youth) – Mike Baldwin • 367 North Main St.,
Collierville TN 38017 • 901-853-3603 • mbaldwin05@
gmail.com • rockclub@earthlink.net

Director (Asst Youth) – Idaeon Jordan • 104 Plainview,
Memphis TN 38111 • 901-452-4286 • no email address
provided

Director (Librarian) – Ron Brister • 3059 Old Brownsville Rd.,
Bartlett, TN 38134 • 901-388-1765 • ronald.brister@
Memphistn.gov

Director (Membership) – Pam Gurley • 460 E. Swan Ridge
Cr., Memphis TN 38122 • 901-324-7235

Director (Historian) – Cathie Jacobs • 5328 Denwood,
Memphis TN 38120 • 901-680-0686 • jakeandcattoo@
aol.com

Web Coordinator – Mike Baldwin • 367 North Main St.,
Collierville TN 38017 • 901-853-3603 • mbaldwin05@
gmail.com • rockclub@earthlink.net

Newsletter Editor – Shelby Hartman • 5116 Whiteway Dr.,
Memphis, TN 38117 • 901-626-1920 •
magsnewsletter@comcast.net

Show Chairman – Alan Parks • 831 West Powell Rd, Collierville,
TN 38017 • 901-853-6898 • alanparks@bellsouth.net

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 magsnewslet-
ter@comcast.net

President's Corner



I read an interesting article in the November Federation newsletter, but it was a little scary and it got me to thinking that many of us may not know exactly what properties the specimens in our collections possess and that certainly goes double for me. I believe, as do most of us collectors who are 'hobbyists' rather than scientists, that the beautiful rocks and minerals that are sitting all over my house, my office, my garage and my yard are harmless...they're just 'rocks', right? Well maybe not. The following is an excerpt from an article by AMFED Safety Chair, Theodore J. Reith.

"I have been a rock and mineral collector for more than three decades now. Being a Chemical Engineer, I've typically been more interested in a specimen's chemistry than its geology, though I plan to grow my knowledge of the latter. This is a most wonderful hobby, though all of us must be aware of the potential hazards that some minerals could represent. This was most apparent to me in an acquisition made when still relatively new to the hobby. A vendor offered a very nice specimen of a rather gemmy, yellow and red crystal matrix from Utah, which I had not seen previously at several dozen Shows. What a great new addition! The card identified the specimen as Orpiment and Realgar. The vendor was quite busy and I did not inquire as to the chemical composition of these minerals. At home, I quickly identified this specimen as two arsenic sulfides. Arsenic is an obvious hazard word for most of us. A bit more checking of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) showed it to have a Health rating of 4 (defined specifically as "Lifethreatening, major or permanent damage may result from single or repeated overexposures.") to be listed as a Class B poison ("presumed to present a serious threat to health during transportation") to produce Hydrogen Sulfide when contacted with water, a known respiratory hazard with its own Health rating of 4.*

The lesson to learn – know what you're collecting, in order to include necessary safety considerations for the specific material. The first step would be to discuss the specimen with the vendor (I've found many to be

(continued on page 4)

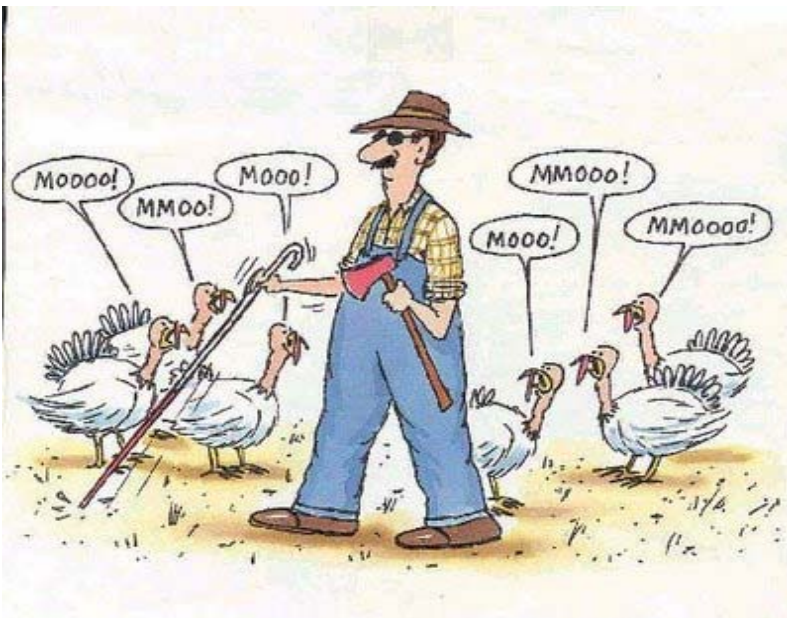
“Best of Show and Found Display Contest” Rules

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	Winner Not Reported
November	Geode	Ledbetter or Pharis Farm	
December	Winners from previous months compete for “BEST OF SHOW.”		



2008 Adult Program Presentations

November 14

Officer Election and Auction

Rocks: Improve/Enhance your rocks with household products. Hands on activity. Members are requested to bring rocks to work and share. Agates, jaspers, chert, petrified wood, fossils are ok.

Silent Auction(s)- two types:

- Traditional high bidder
- New type- Participants purchase "chances" on each item and at the conclusion, names will be drawn and they win the item. No limit on number of chances you may purchase.

December 12

MAGS Holiday Party

Youth Program Presentations

November	Fossil & Mineral ID	Idajean Jordan
December	Holiday Party with Adults	

President's Corner (cont'd from page 2)

well informed), or a knowledgeable person at the collection site. Certainly use all available reference materials. If you have Internet access, there are a multitude of safety information sources if you know the chemical composition of your specimen. Google can certainly be your friend in this search. The MSDS, noted above, is a fine information source even though designed for industrial users of chemicals.

So, what did I do with my colorful, but hazardous specimen? It's clearly marked as to the arsenic content. Handlers, including myself, will use non-cloth gloves or wash hands thoroughly after admiring the crystals, especially prior to eating. Younger children may look, but not touch. And, from that point on, this writer knows what is being added to his collection!

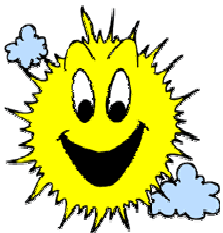
(*A material safety data sheet (MSDS) is a form containing data regarding the properties of a particular substance. An important component of workplace safety, it is intended to provide workers and emergency personnel with procedures for handling or working with that substance in a safe manner.)

Most of us will never come in contact with any truly dangerous specimens, but it's a good idea to know what you're handling, collecting and bringing into your home and how to safely store or display it.

It pays to do your homework...be careful out there!

Sandy

Sunshine Report



Long time MAGS member, Maxine Fulghum has been ill. We hope she is feeling much better.

Pam Gurley

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

“In Search of Petrified Wood” *(cont’d from front page)*

That year the findings were limited when compared to Site 1. In addition, no follow up visits were made until this year. This year the search area was expanded to about 2 miles up and down the creek from our access point. In addition, our search methods were expanded to include much of the sandy bottom in the middle of creek and extensively probing with metal pointed sticks and listening for the distinct petrified wood clink. The expansion of the search area and methods produced a large number of big and good quality pieces of petrified wood.



Site 2- Dan Reed hikes down the creek, about quarter mile down from the access point. Photograph by Don Blalock

Site(s) 3 (Mississippi) This is a new site and was first explored in late winter. This area, located in the suburbs of Memphis, is a series of small to mid size creeks, some looking like a ditch. One of the nicest things about this location is that you can sleep later, stay later, and still be home by supper time. These sites were remarkable in the number, size, and quality of the collected pieces. Many pieces were located by probing with a metal stick

in about 3-4 feet of waist deep muddy water. In many cases you had no idea what you were hauling up until it surfaced. An occasional iron concretion made this task a little more time consuming and at times disappointing. Fortunately there were a lot of good pieces that made this task worthwhile.

Site 4 (Tennessee) - This was a new site for the author but other members of the group had collected at this site. The site, located in West Tennessee, is near where MAGS has collected fossils for many years. The creek was accessed through private property and was one of the smallest creeks searched during the year. The majority of the wood was in the 3-10 pound range with the largest reaching

(continued page 6)



Site 2. These two large pieces were collected about 1 ½ miles from the access point and within about fifty feet of each other. To get them from the creek bed to the driveway required the following: one pick-up truck, one trailer, one canoe, one GPS system, two days, two hand trucks, two dogs, four rockhounds and several feet of rope. Photograph by Barb Reed.

“In Search of Petrified Wood” (continued from page 5)

about 25 pounds. In addition this was the only site where fossils were also found, mostly sponge corals. No photographs of this site are presented in this article.

>><<



Site 3. - Rockhounds Luke and Brandy discuss their day’s finds.
Photograph by Dan Reed

A teaser for the December article: “A Field Guide to Collecting Petrified Wood”



Can you guess what is in the creek?

ROCK SWAP!

On November 15th, Alan and Alishia Parks will be hosting this month’s Rock Swap. This will be the last Rock Swap of the year so be sure to attend! The Parks live at 831 West Powell Road in Collierville. You can contact them at (901) 853-6898. Alan will be frying cat fish. Those attending should bring a side dish or dessert.

Alan, as you know, is the new Show Director, and he requests that everyone bring some gem dig rocks and/or grab bag rocks to donate for the 2009 Show.

The time of the Rock Swap will be announced at the November membership meeting.

November Birthdays



SHELBY HARTMAN

The traditional birthstone for the month of November is topaz. The topaz comes in many colors, but the yellow variety, discovered in the Middle Ages during a quest for a supreme golden stone, is the most familiar. At one

time, all yellow-colored stones were called topaz.

The name topaz is a derivative of the Sanskrit word *topas* meaning "fire." When worn as an amulet, it was as said to drive away sadness, strengthen the intellect and bestow courage. The powdered stone was put in wine and used as a cure for asthma, insomnia, burns and hemorrhage. It was regarded as the stone of fruitfulness and faithfulness and one that conferred cheerfulness on the wearer.

Of all the colors in which topaz is found, the violet-red stones are the most valued. The sherry topaz is so called because its color resembles that of sherry wine. Valuable topaz displays a slightly velvety texture and has a high luster. Citrine, or topaz quartz is sometimes sold as genuine topaz but a reputable jeweler will correctly represent it for what it is. Blue topazes are often quite beautiful and some rare specimens are comparable in color to aquamarines and, more rarely, to sapphires. All colors except yellow and brown are light to very light in tone. Other factors being equal, the darker the tone the more valuable the stone.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 W. C. McDaniel | 17 Edward Lindsey Rucks |
| 2 Caitlin Douglas | 17 Ed Wagner |
| 6 Gwen Lum | 18 Cathie Jacobs |
| 7 Susan Plough | 19 Chris Chrisman |
| 10 Rachel Sejas | 19 Nina Riding |
| 10 Leisa Law | 21 Alex Sejas |
| 10 Docia Lenz | 22 Celeste Long |
| 12 Petrice Gembala | 22 Melba Cole |
| 16 Hugh Ferguson | 23 Shirley Ruth Chrisman |
| 16 Judy Faulkner | 24 Jan W. Williams |
| 16 Briana Burns | 24 Rena Everett |
| 16 Abbey Randolph | 23 Jimmy McNeil |
| 17 Luke Ponce | 28 Alan Parks |
| 17 Cody Gembala | 29 Luke Loveland |
| 17 Logan Pulley | 30 Robert Neill |
| | 30 Alexa Kaitlin Ouellette |

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

Web Site Statistics for October 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.	

September 2008 Board of Directors Meeting Notes : CAROL & MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Board of Directors met September 4 at the Blue Plate Cafe, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:42 P.M. Those present were: Sandy Ward, Barry Burns, Carl Warren, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Mike Cannito, David Day, W.C. McDaniel, Ron Brister, Pam Gurley, Shelby Hartman, and Lou White. The minutes from the August Board & Membership Meetings were reviewed and approved as submitted. Treasurers Report: W.C. McDaniel reminded the Board that receipts from sales of items from the MAGS Collection should reimburse the savings fund for the purchase of the collection. Mike Cannito will transfer the funds from the auction at the last Membership Meeting to the savings fund, and the transaction will show up in next month's report. The report was approved, subject to audit. Field Trips: This month's trip will be to the Union Chapel Mine, on September 20, led by Carol and Matthew Lybanon. On September 27 there will be a bonus trip to Memphis Stone and Gravel, led by Alan Parks. The October 18 trip will go to the fluorite mine in Marion, KY. The November trip (date TBD) will go to Livingston, TN, to collect geodes. The December trip will go to Richardson Landing. Barry Burns asked the Board if it would be possible to move the Membership Meetings to the second Thursday of each month, to open one more weekend each month for longer (4 hours or more) trips. The Board's consensus was that it would be too difficult; it would require a bylaws change and we do not know if the church is available on Thursday. It was suggested that planning field trips well in advance and keeping the membership informed would prevent most of the problems. Adult Programs: The October program will be on Nonconnah Creek. November is open, and the December program will be the holiday party. Library: Ron Brister reported that Marvin Nutt agreed to be assistant librarian. The library still needs a file cabinet, which among other things will provide more storage space for videotapes. Then we will only need to give away duplicates. The books that Alan Parks donated will go on sale for \$8 each at the Membership Meeting. Webmaster: No report; Mike Baldwin is not at the meeting. Newsletter: Shelby Hartman reported that Doris Jones has shown an interest in assisting with the newsletter. Membership: Pam Gurley introduced three membership applications, from Ray Lovelady, Trina, Luke, and Layne Ponce, and Katheryn and Robert Van Cleef. The applications were approved. The Board needs to consider changing the structure of membership dues for 2009. Carl and Melinda Warren will host the October 11 swap; Alan Parks will host the November 15 swap.

Show: The show's new theme is Earth Wide Open. theearthwideopen.com is the show's website. Mike Cannito asked if the 2008 show's profit is over \$4,000. If so, the funds should be moved into the savings account. New Business: Sandy Ward said everyone she asked to be on the nominating committee agreed to run for the Board instead, or simply refused. So, she is the only person on the committee, and there are still some open Board positions: President, and Directors and Assistants for Adult Programs and Youth Programs. Lou White volunteered to head the nominating committee. W.C. McDaniel reported that the lapidary room's lease is up, and the rent will increase from \$238 to \$265 per month. The Board decided that the money coming in is insufficient to support the room, so we will not renew the lease. Some Board Members offered storage space for the equipment. The Board is looking for room to store the equipment, and make it available for use by MAGS Members from time to time. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

September 2008 Membership Meeting Notes : CAROL AND MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on September 12. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Matthew Lybanon, in the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents. There were 44 members and 7 visitors. The visitors were Patty Brunthauer, Jennifer Cox, Deborah Brown, Jade Snider, Patricia Allen, Graydon Swisher, and Megan Shaffer. Pam Gurley welcomed the visitors; she had one new member packet. Alan Parks gave a report on the progress of next year's gem and mineral show. He asked people to look at the new website, theearthwideopen.com to keep informed about the progress of plans for the show. The committee's major new initiative will be to solicit sponsorship from Memphis businesses for the show. Alan asked those who have ideas for sponsors to contact him. Neville Mayfield asked members to donate more materials for the RockZone as the RockZone area in the AgriCenter is much larger than at the Fairgrounds. It is one of our leading revenue sources, so please help. Alan Parks announced that there will be a trip to Memphis Stone and Gravel on September 27. It will begin at the Perry Plant in Mississippi. The details are in the September newsletter. Ron Brister announced that he has copies of Rocks and Fossils Found In Mississippi's Gravel Deposits for sale at \$8 each. Lou White is working on the Board nominees for the 2009-2010 period. There are still a few openings. Lou asked people to volunteer to serve on the Board. The lapidary room's lease has expired, and the Board will find a place to store the equipment. More information will be available later. Paul Sides won Best of Show. Robert Connolly, director of the C.H. Nash Museum, spoke mainly about Poverty Point in Louisiana. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

Saturday Nov 22 and Sunday Nov 23, 2008

***** Field Trip Bulletin *****

Collecting site: The Ledbetter farm in Overton County near Livingston, Tennessee, Dale Hollow Lake at the Cove Creek Landing in Pickett County near Fairview, Tennessee, and the Pharris farm in Jackson County near Nameless, Tennessee.

Fossils & Minerals: We will be collecting quartz crystal geodes at the Ledbetter farm. Also, quartz crystal geodes at the Pharris farm with colors ranging from clear to reddish to smoky. And fossils (crinoids and brachiopods) at the Dale Hollow Lake site.

Motel: Overton Motel, 1035 East Main Street, Livingston, TN 38570, 931-823-7262. Please make your reservation ASAP. There are other motels in the Livingston area. This one has served as a convenient place to meet, eat, and stay.

Driving Directions: From Memphis take I-40 East towards Jackson and Nashville. Continue through Nashville on I-40 East towards Lebanon and Cookeville. Take exit number 288, TN-111 North towards Livingston and Sparta. Go straight onto TN-52 North, through downtown Livingston to the intersection of TN-52 and TN-294. The Overton Motel and restaurant is on the left. This trip is approximately 313 miles, please allow approximately 5 to 5 ½ hours driving time.

Meeting Time/Place: 8:30 a.m., at Overton Restaurant located next to the Overton Motel. . Come earlier if you plan to have breakfast. We will be leaving promptly at 9:00 a.m., for the collecting sites each day.

Saturday's Agenda: We will be driving to the Ledbetter farm to collect geodes. Around noon, we will drive to Cove Creek Landing to collect fossils at Dale Hollow Lake. For the late arrivals, go North on TN-111 towards Byrdstown, and follow the signs to Cove Creek Landing.

Sunday's Agenda: We will be driving to the Pharris farm for more geodes. This is a site where we must pay \$7.00 per 5-gallon bucket-full. From there, we will return to Memphis.

Tools: We will be surface collecting and materials are abundant. Bring leather gloves and buckets. If desired, rock hammer and chisel, also small pry bar. Small wagon or twowheel cart for transporting heavy buckets would be helpful.

Difficulty Level: 1 to 2 on a scale of 1 (easy) to 10 (hard). Please be advised that there is always a possibility for injury at these sites, so any young members must be supervised at all times.

If you want to go, please sign up at the Nov. meeting and include your cell number . Or Email stonenchanter@hotmail.com. If you sign up and decide not to go, please Email or contact David Day 901-387-2347 ASAP.

After we leave Friday 21 Nov. Beth's Cell 901-491-5012 or David's 901-619-9740

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

©2006 Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society.

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)

NOVEMBER 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/ ₃₀	24	25	26	27	28	29

- November 6** 6:30 p.m. **Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue**
- November 14** 7:30 p.m. **Membership Meeting, at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road**
- November 15** T.B.A. **Rock Swap at the home of Alan and Alishia Parks, 831 West Powell Road**
- November 22-23** 8:30 a.m. **MAGS Field Trip to Ledbetter Farm and Pharris Farm (near Livingston, TN)**



MAGS Rockhound News
5116 Whiteway Drive
Memphis, TN 38117