

MAGS  Rockhound News

Volume 62 ◊ Number 11 ◊ November 2016 ◊ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

Alabama: Paleozoic Paradise

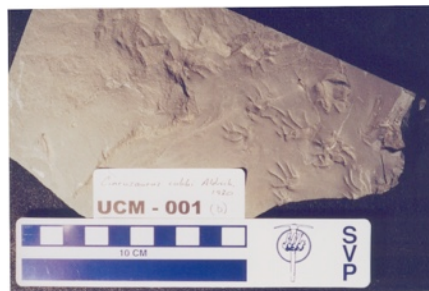
Ashley Allen

November Program



Ashley Allen, the President of the Alabama Paleontological Society, will present the program at the November 11 MAGS Membership Meeting. Ashley was part of an unusual collaboration between amateurs and professionals that rescued the former Union Chapel Mine (UCM) site—now recognized as one of the world’s best Carboniferous tracksites—from reclamation. Ashley’s talk will

include UCM as well as some great Mississippian, Cambrian, and Ordovician information.



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ATTENTION MAGS MEMBERS!

BOB COOPER

Now is the time to start thinking about renewing your MAGS membership for 2017. Some Members have already renewed and you can also. Remember, the MAGS membership runs from January 1 to December 31. The membership fees for 2017 are:

- ★ \$25.00 (Family)
- ★ \$15.00 (Individual-this is a change)



★ \$10.00 (Junior)

You can renew at the MAGS Membership Meetings or by mail. When renewing by mail, make your check payable to **MAGS** and mail to **Bob Cooper, 8695 Baylor Rd., Arlington, TN 38002**. Those of you who have already renewed or will renew by the end of the January 2017

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MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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MAGS AND FEDERATION NOTES

President's Message

On November 11, MAGS will have its own election of officers for the years 2017/18. No debates, early voting, endless TV commercials, commentators or yard signs. So how do we do it? A list of names, presented below, will be placed in nomination at the November Membership Meeting and each adult member may vote on the list of nominations.

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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, TN.

MAGS Website: memphisgeology.org

MAGS Show Website: www.theearthwideopen.com

We aren't kidding when we say this is a newsletter for and by the members of MAGS. If an article has a byline the author is a MAGS Member, unless explicitly stated otherwise (we welcome articles by nonmembers). If there is no byline, the article was written or compiled by the Editor (a MAGS Member). Please contribute articles or pictures (everybody likes pictures) on any subject of interest to rockhounds. If it interests you it probably interests others. The 15th of the month is the deadline for next month's issue. Send material to lybanon@earthlink.net.

November DMC Field Trip

WHERE: Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, SC (fee site)

WHEN: Saturday, November 19, 8:00 A. M. to dusk

COLLECTING: smoky quartz, amethyst, several other varieties of quartz, garnets, mica, epidote

INFORMATION: John Kolmar, (803) 642-3767 or lkolmar@gmail.com

Links to Federation News

➔ AFMS: www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm

➔ SFMS: www.amfed.org/sfms/

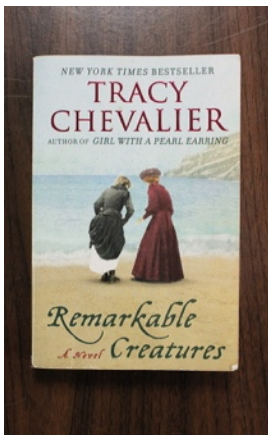
➔ DMC: www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm

Attention MAGS Members!
Continued from P. 1

Membership Meeting will have a chance to win a fossilized bivalve scallop (see picture on P. 1). The drawing for the fossilized bivalve scallop will be held at the end of the January 2017 Membership Meeting. You do not need to be present to win.

Book Review

Kathy Baker



This is a historical fiction book set in the early 1800s on the English coast at Lyme Regis.

The story is a friendship between two women who are fossil hunters. They explore the cliffs made of limestone and make some interesting discoveries.

The mix of history and fiction keeps the story interesting with a cast of characters.

I enjoyed this book especially after I realized that there was an actual person that this book was based on. Her challenges and discoveries were real and important. A history lesson with a twist.

I purchased a copy of this book for the club.

Editor's Note: Mary Anning, "the greatest fossilist the world ever knew," was born in Lyme Regis in 1799. Mary helped to discover the first specimen of *Ichthyosaurus* to be known by the scientific community of London, probably when she was only 10 to 12 years old. Lyme Regis is noted for the fossils found in the cliffs and beaches, which are part of the Heritage Coast, a World Heritage Site.

Starfish



The September 2016 issue of *MAGS Rockhound News* had an article ("Accidental Museum of Paleontology") about a Washington lawyer who finds fossils while walking to work—embedded in the walls of stone-clad buildings. But you don't need to go that far away, or to a city like Washington.

In his presentation at the October meeting, Bill Prior mentioned the Ozark Heritage Arts Center and Museum in Leslie, Arkansas, built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Depression. The native stone walls of this building are covered with fossil starfish.

And you may not even have to go that far. Has anybody had a good look at some of the buildings in downtown Memphis?

New Members

Richard Arnold
Carla McCain

New Membership Level —Paleontological Society

Eleanor Gardner

As you may have seen on the FOSSIL Project's social media accounts or newsletter recently, the Paleontological Society (the preeminent professional society for paleontologists) created a new regular membership category just for amateur/avocational paleontologists. The discounted rate is \$30 per individual per year. Membership benefits include access to two high-level paleontology journals (*Journal of Paleontology* and *Paleobiology*), easier and cheaper registration at meetings of the Geological Society of America and the North American Paleontological Convention, networking with professional paleontologists, and opportunities to apply for Education & Outreach grants.

Read the official letter from the president of the Paleontological Society here:

www.myfossil.org/the-paleontological-society-opens-doors-to-amateuravocational-paleontologists/

Check out the PS website and/or register at

paleosoc.org/benefits-of-membership-in-the-paleontological-society/

If you have questions or concerns, join us at www.myfossil.org and start a conversation in the forums!

The Big(ger) One

On June 7-10, 2016, FEMA joined governmental and non-governmental organizations from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (along with major U. S. military commands, the National Guard, British Columbia, and the government of Canada) in the Cascadia Rising 2016 Exercise. The purpose was to improve the ability to deal with the consequences of an 8.0-9.0 magnitude earthquake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

What is the Cascadia Subduction Zone? A subduction zone is a region where one tectonic plate is sliding underneath another. Along a 700-800 mile stretch off the coast of the Pacific Northwest, the Juan de Fuca Plate is sliding under the North American Plate. This is the Cascadia Subduction Zone, named for the Cascade mountain range, approximately parallel around 100 miles inland.

Just about everyone has heard of the San Andreas Fault. People talk about “the big one,” a massive earthquake that may someday occur along that fault. But every fault line has an upper limit to its potency. For the San Andreas Fault the upper limit is about 8.2—powerful, but not as powerful as the earthquake that could come from that other fault you’ve never heard of.

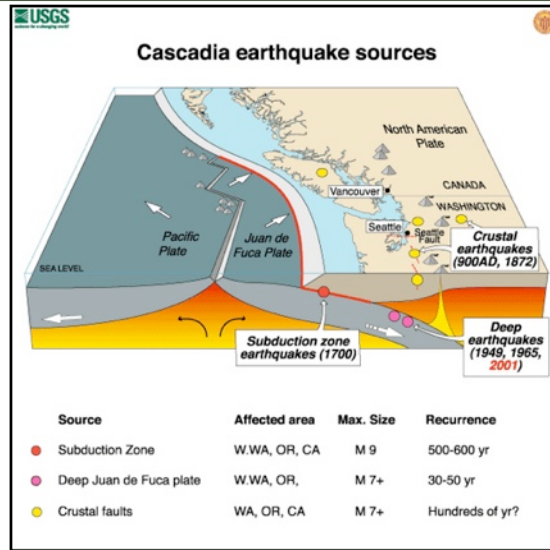
If the entire Cascadia Subduction Zone gives way at once (a “full-margin rupture”), the magnitude of the resulting earthquake would be between 8.7 and 9.2. The magnitude scale is logarithmic, so the upper limit would be 10 times more powerful than “the big one”.

In comparison, the Tohoku earthquake that hit Japan in 2011 was magnitude 9.0. North-east Japan was devastated, more than 18,000 people died, there was a meltdown at

the Fukushima nuclear power plant, and the cost of the damage was an estimated \$220 billion.

Much of the destruction from the Tohoku earthquake came from a giant tsunami that struck the coast only a few minutes after the quake. In the event of a full-margin earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone, about 15 minutes later a tsunami high enough to flood many areas will strike the Pacific Northwest. Kenneth Murphy, who directs FEMA’s Region X (responsible for Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska) says, “Our operating assumption is that everything west of Interstate 5 will be toast.”

That would be 140,000 square miles—Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Eugene, Salem (Oregon’s capital), Olympia (Washington’s capital)—and seven million people. FEMA estimates that 13,000 people would die, 27,000 would be injured, that a million displaced people would need shelter, and food and water would be needed for another 2.5 million. Buildings, bridges, railways, airports, fire



stations, police stations, and hospitals would be devastated. Liquefaction (whereby solid ground behaves like a liquid) would be a factor. The 71,000 people who live in

Cascadia’s inundation zone would need to evacuate in the few minutes after the earthquake before the tsunami hits the coast.

After the event itself, authorities estimate that in the I-5 corridor it will take between one and three months to restore electricity, a month to a year to restore water and sewer service, six months to a year to restore major highways, and 18 months to restore health-care facilities. On the coast it could take longer, especially in areas inundated by the tsunami.

Scientists have found that there have been at least 41 Cascadia events in the last 10,000 years, 19 of them full-margin ruptures. The last big quake was over 300 years ago, and Oregon State University scientists estimate that the Cascadia fault has a 37% chance to produce a major earthquake in the next 50 years, and a 10% chance that it will be a full-margin rupture.

Many MAGSters live in the New Madrid seismic zone. The 1811-1812 earthquakes there were the strongest east

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The Big(ger) One of the Rocky Mountains in recorded history. The Mississippi River ran backward and *Continued from P. 4* Reelfoot Lake was created. Those earthquakes were magnitude 7+. The thought of a much more powerful earthquake, along with a tsunami, in a much more heavily populated area, is horrifying.

Ref: Goldfinger, C., et al, 2012, Turbidite event history—Methods and implications for Holocene paleoseismicity of the Cascadia subduction zone: U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1661-F, 170 p. (Available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/pp1661f/>).

President's Message Nominations
Continued from P. 2 from the floor
are also permitted. So you need to show your commitment to the club by attending and participating in the election of officers. Those who are nominated will appreciate your support.

President, Charles Hill

Vice President Field Trips, Jim Butchko

Vice President Programs, W. C. McDaniel

Treasurer, Bonnie Cooper

Secretary, Mike Baldwin

Membership Director, Bob Cooper

Director Junior Programs, open

Director Librarian, Leah Gloyd

Rock Swaps/Historian, Carol Lybanon

Assistant Director Adult Programs, Dave Clarke

Assistant Director Field Trips, Kim Hill

Assistant Director Librarian, Jane Brandon

Assistant Director Junior Programs, open

Appointed positions (new incoming President will appoint with Board approval):

Show Chairman (appointed in August), Jim Butchko

Web, Newsletter

W. C. McDaniel

November Birthdays

1	W. C. McDaniel
3	Carley Crawford
4	Judy Daffron
10	Benji Blumenthal
11	Bill Cowell
13	Matthew Lambert
15	Phillip Goossens
16	Chris Scott
19	Nina Riding Clyde Chrisman
21	Tabitha Lambert
22	Angela Hill Melba Cole
23	Shirley Ruth Chrisman Brittani Lambert
24	Charles Carter
25	Noel Clark
27	Karen Joseph Dylan George
28	Alan Parks
29	Ashley Von Boeckman Crystal Dunn Mike Pause
30	Tyler Alexander Marlowe Blodgett Helen Kastner Robert Neill

September Board Minutes

Mike Baldwin

Called to order at 6:30. Present: Mike Baldwin, W. C. McDaniel, Charles Hill, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Bob Cooper, Bonnie Cooper,

Jane Brandon, James Butchko, Leigh Butchko, Kim Hill, Leah Gloyd.

W. C. nominated James Butchko as Show Chair for 2017. No nominating committee for 2017-2018. W. C. asked for volunteers and for suggestions. Carol asked that we send out a letter to the members asking for nominees.

Secretary: Minutes approved. Mike has a copy of the constitution, bylaws, and standing rules with him tonight.

Treasurer: Bonnie stated that we still have outstanding checks. Treasurer's report was approved.

Membership: 9 new Members since last Board Meeting. Discussion of standing rule 4, which states "Nonmembers will not be permitted to join and/or participate in any MAGS field trip....Nonmembers may not join on the day of a field trip in order to participate in the field trip." Motion made and carried to strike last sentence. Pro-rated dues will be added to standing rules. After discussion, motion to make 2017 dues \$25-family, \$15-single and \$10-junior carried.

Field Trips: Arkansas trip, September 10. October 15 trip to a Mississippi gravel mine. Alan Parks will grill hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch. November trip will be on third Saturday. December trip to Parsons also on third Saturday, 7 am-noon, led by Nancy Roberts of NMGMS. MAGS will provide coffee and donuts. Charles gave a NC trip update.

Adult Programs: Ashley Allen has a problem with his October date but can do November. Carol is working on securing a speaker for October. Bill Prior was set for

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Fabulous Tennessee Fossils

Dr. Michael A. Gibson,

University of Tennessee at Martin

Tennessee Namesake Index & Guide Fossils: *Calceola (Rhizophyllum) tennesseensis (Roemer)*



Not only does Tennessee have an abundance of fossil riches, but many of the fossils have time significance and are well-known index fossils, guide fossils, or both. As mentioned in the last installment of Fabulous Tennessee Fossils, there are no fewer than 15 index fossils identified in the Shimer and Shrock (1944) *Index Fossils of North America* with “tennesseensis” as a species epithet including: *Rhizophyllum tennesseensis* and *Calceola tennesseensis* (corals), *Centrocrinus tennesseensis*, *Euryocrinus tennesseensis*, *Homocrinus tennesseensis*, *Lampteroocrinus tennesseensis*, *Periechocrinites tennesseensis*, and *Pisocrinus tennesseensis* (crinoids), *Leptellina tennesseensis*, *Merista tennesseensis*, *Strophomena tennesseensis*, and *Trigonirhynchia tennesseensis* (brachiopods), and finally *Ceratopea tennesseensis* (gastropod). Let’s look at a couple of these Tennessee namesakes within the corals.

Shimer and Shrock list two Tennessee namesake index fossils corals: *Rhizophyllum tennesseensis* and *Calceola tennesseensis*. *C. tennesseensis* (Figure 1) is a slightly curved, horn-shaped, solitary rugose coral (tetracoral) with one side that is strongly flattened. Its most distinctive feature is a unique hinged top (operculum) not seen in other groups of rugose corals. Both names actually refer to the same fossil, and illustrate how the taxonomy has been

revised over time since their first discovery in the early 1800’s. The primary genus is *Calceola*, coined in 1799 by Jean Baptiste de Lamarck, the great evolutionary biologist. *C.*

tennesseensis was named by Ferdinand Roemer (mistakenly attributed to Rominger, probably Carl Ludwig Rominger, in the *Index Fossils of North America*). Ferdinand Roemer had visited America in the middle 1900’s and originally described these coral specimens, in German, in 1854 (in *Lethaea Geognostica*, 3rd Edition), but more formally in 1860 (*Die Silurische Fauna Des Westlichen Tennessee*, Breslau; See FTF 3 for more on this famous publication). Interestingly, in his 1860 publication, Roemer grouped this coral taxon’s description with the brachiopods and figured the fossil in his Plate 5 with various brachiopods, gastropods, cephalopods, and trilobites and not with the other corals in his monograph! Was this a case of mistaken identity? The presence of the hinged top (operculum) on an otherwise somewhat triangular shell may have confused Roemer at the time, but he makes no corrections later and no later publications discuss this odd placement. Indeed most of the

Kingdom Animalia

Phylum Cnidaria

Class Anthozoa

Order Rugosa Milne-Edwards & Haime, 1850

Suborder Cystiphyllina Nicholson & Lydekker, 1889

Family Goniophyllidae Dybowski, 1873

Genus *Calceola* Lamarck, 1799

Subgenus *Rhizophyllum*

Species *tennesseensis*

later publications immediately note it is a coral. Regardless, a close study of the internal features should clearly indicate the coral affinity and not a brachiopod. This mystery remains unsolved.

Later in 1866, the Swedish paleontologist Gustaf Lindström (1829-1901) revised the operculate corals by describing a new genus of operculate rugose coral, *Rhizophyllum*, with the primary difference being in the internal growth structure. In 1915, Ray S. Bassler, who worked in Tennessee for a time, compiled an index of fossils from the middle Paleozoic (*Bibliographic Index of American Ordovician and Silurian Fossils*; U. S. National Museum Bulletin 92) in which he listed a revision of *C. tennesseensis* to reflect the modern (at least in 1915) taxonomic understanding of these corals, showing *Calceola* to be subdivided into several subgenera, including the subgenus *Rhizophyllum*, which approximates the Tennessee samples. Thus the most proper name most accepted today is *Calceola*

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Fabulous Tennessee Fossils (Rhizophyllum) tennesseensis. Note that this is a combination of the two original names from the Index. Two fossil taxa become one.

Calceola (Rhizophyllum) tennesseensis is found preserved in the Brownsport Formation. Thomas W. Amsden (1915-2000) conducted the most complete study of the Brownsport for his Ph. D. dissertation from Yale; he completed his degree in 1947. Amsden mapped the Brownsport Formation exposed along the Western Valley of the Tennessee River, especially in Perry, Decatur, Wayne, and Hardin counties. Once while visiting the Peabody Museum at Yale while researching Amsden's early work I came across his actual field maps. It is historically significant to note that his field maps were actually planimetric maps and not topographic maps. The topographic maps (maps that use contour lines to show elevation and land shape) did not exist for this area at this point in time. Amsden used maps that essentially only showed the distances to features (much like the typical gas station map). Amsden's fieldwork was conducted during the war years: 1942-1946. Two years later he published his dissertation as the now classic "bible" to the Silurian of Tennessee—*Stratigraphy and Paleontology of the Brownsport Formation (Silurian) of Western Tennessee* (Peabody Museum of Natural History Bulletin 5 (1949), Yale University Press. Amsden documented the occurrence of the *C. (R.) tennesseensis* noting that it is not a common fossil to find in Tennessee (he only found about 30 specimens), but is diagnostic of the Brownsport and of this geologic age, hence its inclusion as an index and guide fossil for the Middle Silurian in the *Index* and a guide fossil to the Brownsport Formation. It is most abundant in the Lobelville Member of the Brownsport Formation, which is the most fossiliferous part of the Brownsport. Amsden later became the 1990 Paleontological Society Medal recipient for his many great works.

C. (R.) tennesseensis is one of the more easily recognized, even if more rare, fabulous Tennessee fossils to hunt. I have collected the Brownsport since 1988 and I have yet to find a single one. Elusive fossil to be sure. Check your collections and see if you have one. Next month I will highlight some of the echinoderms that are Tennessee namesakes.

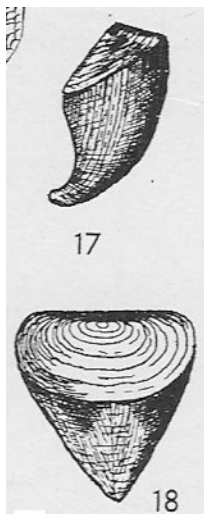


Figure 1. Shimer and Schrock's sketch of *Calceola tennesseensis* from their *Index Fossils of North America* (1944). 17. Side-view showing characteristic tapering curve with operculum in place. 18. Oral view looking down from the top. (Image scanned by Michael A. Gibson from his personal copy).

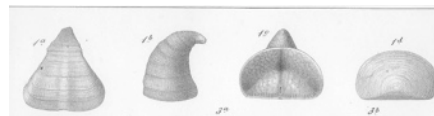


Figure 2. A portion of Ferdinand Roemer's 1860 *Die Silurische Fauna Des Westlichen Tennessee* with his lithograph of *Calceola tennesseensis*. 1a. Flattened lower surface showing concentric rings. 1b. Side-view of up-side-down coral with top of coral facing down and pointed end up. 1c. View of operculum covering corallite. Notice the triangular nature and flattened surface. 1d. Operculum only. (Image scanned by Michael A. Gibson from his personal copy of Roemer, which once had belonged to the great sedimentologist William H. Twenhofel).

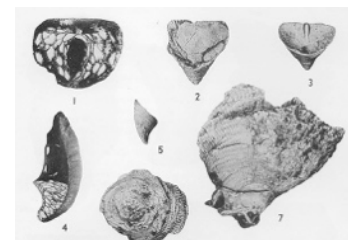


Figure 3. Portion of a photographic plate from Amsden's monograph on the Brownsport showing several *Calceola tennesseensis* specimens. 1. Microscope slice showing internal structure. 2. Top-view. 3. Top-view of a different specimen. 4. Side-view microscope slice showing internal structure (bottom) and dark mud infill under the operculum. 5. Side-view of another specimen. The other two specimens belong to a different coral (Image scanned by Michael A. Gibson from his personal copy of Amsden's bulletin).

At Least 92 Plus A Cat And Three Dogs

Mike Ferri

I had the opportunity to participate in my first field trip with the group at the Memphis Stone & Gravel locations on October 15, 2016. I've never been one to want to lug around a 5 gallon bucket, but this experience might have me rethink that. Within just a few hours I accumulated about as much as my dollar store backpack could handle. Lots of agates, miscellaneous fossils (I cannot ID) quartz rough/quartzite, small geodes, pretty jaspers, and even one piece of petrified wood.

Had a great day. The event was well worth the drive and the effort. Thanks to those that facilitated and hosted this event.

.....

Kim Hill

As you know we had a field trip Saturday the 15th at a new site with Memphis Stone & Gravel. This was a DMC trip, also.

Many thanks to Alan Parks and his family and Memphis Stone & Gravel for a fantastic trip. They went all out, cooking up hot dogs and hamburgers to add to our condiments, chips, cookies and drinks. Everyone was impressed with the awesome hospitality.

We had members from sister clubs join us for this DMC trip, some who also came to our Membership Meeting Friday night.

I believe I was told we had over 90 people, three dogs, and the company cat on site. Not only were we going to be able to hunt at this site, we would be going to another site after lunch.

After everyone had arrived and signed in, we were given our safety talk, and since this was a working mine we were asked to stay within a certain area. Then we were turned loose on a beautiful mountain of rocks! The weather was perfect—it had rained the day before so the rocks were still wet, making it easier to see the treasures.

Next to me was the cutest little blonde girl with the most amazing eye for agate, happily exclaiming when she found one. We hunted 'til lunch time, where we indulged in good food and companionship with fellow rockhounds.

After filling up on good food and friendship, we got in our lined up cars to move to the other spot, a short distance away. Now remember, I said we had around 90 people come for the trip, so imagine that convoy. Then guess who was the only one to get lost? That's right—yours truly. Now guess who doesn't have a cell phone—right again, li'l ole me.

So I found a store, borrowed a phone and called Charles. Just as I hung up W. C. came in and says "Found you." They weren't just looking for me; I had the water and ice (now I know how to make sure I never get lost on a trip...just carry the water).

They brought me back to the driveway I missed, with the sign that said "Memphis Stone & Gravel. This spot was .the area they had just finished using and had no equipment on it, so we could move around at will and

there were still plenty of piles to hunt. We hunted here 'til 3-ish, spent a little time chatting, sharing, questioning, then packed up and left, each heading to their homes.

I don't know if you are like me, but I have as much fun going through all my found treasures again that night or the next morning, depending on how many buckets I had to carry. I would like to know who put all those "whydidipickupyourrocks" in my buckets. Just kidding!

A few years ago I made a dry creek bed in my front yard, and I let the neighborhood kids pick out rocks if they want, so I am always looking for sparkly, shiny, and nice colors. May have to start a new creek though, if I don't stop picking up those "whydidi...".

Again I want to thank Charles for finding us a brand new place to hunt and Alan Parks and Memphis Stone & Gravel for a memorable trip. I don't want to forget the wonderful young men that came around with the 4-wheeler and offered to carry our loaded buckets back to the cars for us!!!! Having already "drug" one such bucket back I was very grateful not to have to carry another!

Bring those finds in for display next month. I am dying to see all of them and am sure everyone else is, too. In fact I challenge you and everyone else that went to bring in what they found! Not fair that I am the only one doing displays; if you enjoy seeing mine think how much I and others would like to see yours!

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MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

At Least 92 ...

Continued from P. 8

Diana Poppelreuter

Hello, everybody! We had a wonderful time. I found agates, fossils, Jaspers, carnelian so red, petrified wood...oh, my! Our group drove up from Atlanta on Friday. So much fun. Thank you all so much.

Charles Hill

Good morning, everyone, I trust you all slept well. I slept well but still woke up exhausted. Let me tell you about yesterday—the joint Memphis Archeological and Geological Society and Dixie Mineral Council field trip. All I can say is WOW! The day after the announcement for this trip went out, we started receiving sign-up e-mails and phone calls. By Friday, October 14th, the day before the trip, we had 100 plus people signed up. We were amazed, but ready. At the Membership Meeting the evening before the trip, we almost ran out of good chairs. It was great!

Saturday, October 15th: I got up, got breakfast, and left home. The meeting place was the site of the first dig, a new Memphis Stone & Gravel quarry. We were the first group to hunt there. This trip was sponsored by Memphis Stone & Gravel, and they were very gracious hosts. Upon arrival, Alan Parks, our Memphis Stone & Gravel representative, told me what he wanted in the way of parking and traffic control, so I started showing people where to park. I had started a second row of cars and had that row about halfway full when I got relieved. I

made my way to the sign-in station, where Bob and Bonnie Cooper were busy getting people signed in. Now here is something to think about: when I signed in I was number 76 on the sheet. I never got a good count, but I know there were over 76 people there. W. C. told me that this was the most people we have ever had on a DMC/MAGS field trip.

This would be a good place to say thanks to a small but dedicated group of people who helped in big ways. Alan Parks and Memphis Stone & Gravel provided two great sites to hunt rocks and minerals, as well as supplying hamburgers and hot dogs. Thanks to W. C. McDaniel, without whose knowledge and guidance this trip might not have taken place. He and Cornelia provided all the bottled water for the trip, along with additional snacks. Let me also say that Bob and Bonnie Cooper were tireless in everything they did, including the procurement of food items and the setup and transportation of equipment and supplies. Their management of participant sign-in impacted how long they had to spend on rock collecting, but they gave their time cheerfully. Kim Hill put a lot of time and effort into helping where she could and also brought ice to chill the drinks. Carol and Matthew Lybanon kept us on course at the Board Meeting before the trip, and they were a source of great information at both dig sites. Everyone on the MAGS Board provided insight into making this trip work.

When I did get to do some looking around at the first site, I

discovered that there was a lot of agate. We looked in two large piles and one small one. As far as I know, no one had to dig; it was mostly surface collecting. I met people I haven't seen since the North Carolina trip. I ran into MAGS Members I have never met and some Members I hadn't seen in a long time. All in all, it was a great gathering of like-minded people.

The second site was larger, and rocks were bigger than at site one. This is an older site and one that is no longer in production. Rocks of various sizes were piled up and spread out over many acres. I started out looking for petrified wood because my agate coffers were full. Someone I didn't know called me over and asked me to look at some red crystals on a rock they had found. They were ruby red, about an inch or two long, and not as wide as a toothpick. I told them I was not sure without further research, but that they were well worth taking home.

I saw Carol Lybanon poking around in a small area between berms of rocks and stone. She told me that the last time she was there she had found a big piece of petrified wood at that spot. I went to talk to someone else for a while and then saw Carol gesturing toward me. Carol pointed at something and asked, "Is that what I think it is?" What I saw was a good piece of petrified wood, about 15 to 20 inches long and 5 inches around.

The best story of the day happened while I was carrying a large piece of rock to my van. I saw Leah Gloyd on *Continued, P. 10*

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

At Least 92 ... top of a mound
Continued from P. 9 of dirt and rock,
dancing up and
down, slapping and swiping at her
clothing. Having been bitten
earlier, I asked, "You have ants in
your pants?" She grinned while
still swiping and replied, "Well,
actually, I do!" She had been

digging on this mound and dis-
turbed a hill of black ants. When
she finished her ant dance, I
helped her gather her finds. As it
turned out, one of the things the
ants had been guarding was
another large, long piece of petri-
fied wood. I know of three pieces
of wood that were found: Carol's,

Leah's, and a big piece found by
Bob Cooper. It was a great day
with beautiful weather, good food,
and friendly people. All in all,
everything went well, and we had
fun. Thanks to all. Fantastic!!

Editor's Note: The above articles
were edited for space, to leave
room for the pictures below.

Photo Credits: Mike Ferri, Charles Hill, Kim Hill, Matthew Lybanon, Diana Poppelreuter



MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

September Board Minutes November
Continued from P. 5 but she will

see if he can do October. If not, Carol may ask Nancy Roberts to do a hands-on project. MAGS would pay for supplies. Carol got the broken microphone replaced and found a temporary solution to prevent a repetition: a square piece of foam around it.

Junior Programs: Juniors will look at fossils in September and talk about Halloween costumes in October. November program: gems for the holidays.

Historian: August indoor rock swap went well. W. C. has created another game based on field trips and what you find at them. Leah is still scanning historical documents and is almost all the way through the '50s. The Board approved Leah's getting a removable hard drive to store all these articles and documents. Probably no more rock swaps this year.

Library: Jane will open the library in September; Marc is on vacation.

Web: Mike reported that the website has been updated to reflect September calendar and program news. September newsletter USPS copies have been printed and will be mailed on Friday. Re posting the articles provided to us by Dr. Van Arsdale on our website, Mike contacted Scientific American about copyright rules governing "The Mississippi's Curious Origins", was advised that we can post the text of the articles so long as some kind of security measure is applied. Mike will explore password protection with ATT. Concerning the second article, GSA has given us permission for the preface, the abstract, and one chapter, since this book is still been sold through GSA. They also sent us a \$5 coupon for our readers toward the purchase of the ebook and a link to download the book.

Newsletter: Matthew always asks about image copyright issues for any

images submitted. Newsletter contest results soon. Matthew has submitted at least one article from each person who submitted during the year.

Show: Matthew circulated Show financial statement. He's prepared to write a check to MAGS. W. C. suggested the check be presented to the club during the Membership Meeting.

Old Business:

- Discussion about the new fire codes at the Agricenter as it pertains to inside tent usage.
- Logo contest update: Initial design committee has digital copies of the entries and will meet to discuss these entries and narrow the field to three. Those will be distributed to Members with a note that you must be present at the Membership Meeting in order to vote.
- Discussion of MAGS Facebook. Leah asked if any Board Members want to be an additional administrator.
- RMH event went well.

New Business: Once new logo is chosen, we need new business cards and handouts with the new look.

Adjourned at 7:32.

October 1 Field Trip

Charles Hill

I just wanted to let you know we had a good trip on Saturday, October 1. This was the last short trip I had scheduled for this year. It was planned to show some of our newer members a few different local sites for hunting rocks and minerals. About 11 people met me in Millington. We said hello, had a short meeting, and then proceeded to Sugar Creek, which is on private property. I pointed out the home of the land owner and went through what we need to do when we want to hunt there. We hunted for a while and

loaded up to go to the next site, Richardson Landing on the Mississippi River. When leaving Sugar Creek, we stopped and talked to the land owner.

The water level at Sugar Creek was very low, but the water level at Richardson Landing was very high. Most of the areas I like to hunt were under water, but we had access to lots of acreage with an abundance of rocks. At our first two sites I think everybody found something worth keeping. The weather was fantastic, and I really enjoyed hunting there because being around so much water always relaxes me.

Afterwards, we took a break for lunch and then went to site three: Nonconnah Creek off of Brooks Road. Again, we found some nice rocks and minerals. This is one of my favorite sites because it's located a just few minutes from where I work. When I have an evening meeting I go there and look around.

The next stop was to be Halle Stadium, but instead we went to Canal Creek in Olive Branch, Mississippi. By this time some of the people with our group had split off. Some went home, and some stayed at one of the other sites. Three members live in or close to Olive Branch, so we looked around some in the creek. The water there was stagnant, with zero water flow. I like Canal Creek, but I hate stagnant water.

The weather was great; and the people, as always, were MAGS's finest. We had a great time and earned a few smiles. I wish all of you could have been there.

MAGS At A Glance

November 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3 Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, St. Francis Hospital	4	5
6	7	8 	9	10	11 Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm, "Alabama: Paleozoic Paradise", election	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 MAGS Field Trip, Richardson Landing/ DMC Field Trip, Diamond Hill Mine
20	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

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