

M A G S

NEWSLETTER

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Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

December, 2001

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MAGS Newsletter is published monthly by and for the members of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments to Bill Scheffer, 2959 Sky Way Drive, Memphis, TN 38127

What's Happening In December



MEETING: December 14, 2001

Shady Grove Presbyterian Church

5530 Shady Grove Road, Memphis, TN

Doors open at 7:00pm. Party starts at 7:30pm

PROGRAM: CHRISTMAS PARTY

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

This is the first year for us to have our Christmas Party at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church and it will be held on Friday, December 14 at 7:30pm. Idajeane Jordan has graciously volunteered to be our party coordinator. She has made plans to setup and decorate earlier in the evening the day of the party, so if you can help come early. We will not have a business meeting so we can eat and open presents. You are to bring a dish or two and enough 2-liter drinks for your family. Dinner will be potluck and the club will furnish the meat. In order to receive a present, you must bring a present. Please wrap and label the present for adult man, woman, or child. Extra presents are always welcome so that we can share with our guests. The value of the gift should be around \$10.00. Since this will be the first Christmas in our new facility, let's all turn out and have a "ROCKIN" good time.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ!

In the year 2001 we have seen many changes--some of them good and some of them bad. As for our club we have a wonderful meeting place, we have gained several new members and we have had some real good field trips this year. Unfortunately we lost two of our longtime members, Betty Nolen and Clay Watkins.

Plans are in the making by Idajeane and her crew for a wonderful Christmas Party this year. Bring a friend and be sure to bring plenty of food and an extra gift if you do bring a friend. See you at the party.

Lou

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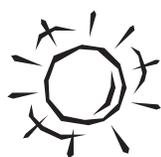
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Sunshine Report

FRANK & FRANCIS WALKER--

*In a letter received from Roger
Van Cleef--November 20, 2001*

Dear MAGS Members,

Well, after 21 months in the hospital and rehab, I have finally returned home. I am learning to walk again; dress; and do light cooking which equals stuff in a can or a microwave. But each day is a little better than the day before so it should not be long before I can return to the "real world".

And to all the MAGS members I want to say THANK YOU for all the cards, letters, visits and prayers. You will never know how important these were to me. As our lives become more complicated we sometimes forget about the important things--FRIENDS. By the grace of God, a loving family and friends, I have been able to return home. And let us not forget--FRIENDS are like fossils, they last forever.

Thanks and love to all.

If one of you, our members, becomes ill or knows of one of our members that is ill, please call Frances and Frank Walker at 372-6206 and let them know.



December Birthdays

DEC BIRTHSTONE IS BLUE ZIRCON

2--Mildred Laster
6--Horace Roane
6--Lynn Worrell
7--Craig Wolfe
8--Diane McIlwain
8--Martha Rannels
9--Marilyn Free
15--Jerry Seamans
17--Viola Gunter
17--Natalie Horowitz
19--Paula Gunter
21--Joel Huber
23--Jimmy McNeil
24--Allen Grewe
25--Leland Vaughan

Dues Are Due

BILL SCHEFFER--Beginning October 1, dues for 2002 were due and should be paid by January 1, 2002. Please help by paying your dues as soon as possible by check. Your check should be made out to MAGS and mailed to me at: Bill Scheffer, 2959 Sky Way Drive, Memphis, TN 38127.

Single Membership: \$16.00
Family Membership: \$20.00
Junior Membership: \$8.00
Assoc. Membership: \$13.00

No dues will be collected at the Christmas Party! If you still have ('01) behind your name on the mailing label for this newsletter, that means I have not received your dues for 2002.



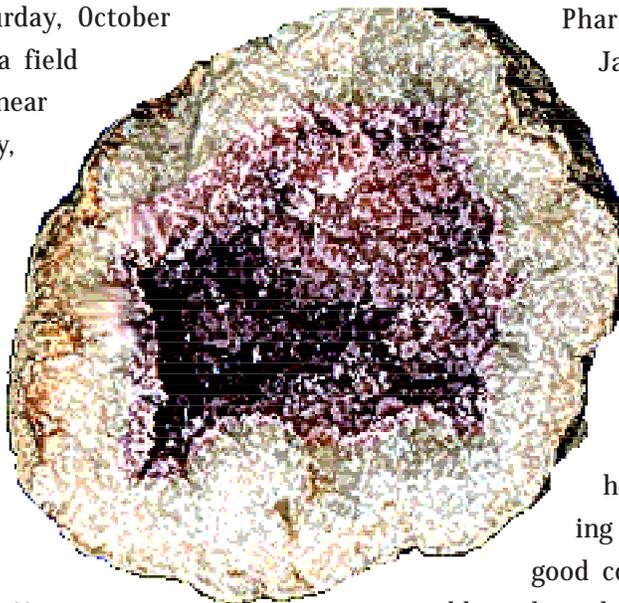
1st VP/Field Trip Coordinator: Field Trip Report for October

DAVID McILWAIN -- On Saturday, October 20, 2001 our club went on a field trip to the Ledbetter farm near Livingston in Overton County, Tennessee. There were 11 members, 3 junior members and 2 guests in attendance for this trip. One of our guests is from the Mineral Area Geological and Mineralogical Society (MAGMS) in Park Hills, Missouri. We all chipped in some money to purchase Mr. and Mrs. Ledbetter a gift certificate in appreciation for allowing our group to collect on their farm.

With two and four wheeled carts, buckets and pry bars in hand we then hiked about 50 yards up hill from the parking area. We found quartz geodes (some are called rattlers) in abundance, laying along the hillside. Some specimens were still in the limestone matrix, requiring some persuasion with sledgehammers and chisels. Some of our group collected buckets of black walnuts near the parking area. We collected all the geodes and/or walnuts we wanted or could possibly carry.

Next, we traveled to the Cove Creek landing on Dale Hollow Lake near Fariview in Pickett County, Tennessee. There we collected fossils (crinoids and brachiopods) until the sun got low in the sky and wind picked up. We all felt that we had had a good day and it was time to head back to the motel restaurant for some hot coffee.

On Sunday, October 21 we traveled to the



Pharris farm near Nameless in Jackson County, Tennessee.

There we collected more quartz geodes, some with colors ranging from clear to reddish to smoky. This is a site where we paid \$5.00 per (heaping) 5-gallon bucket-full. We collected until about noon, then we all left to head home. A good time of collecting was had by all, and enjoyed good conversation with fellow rouchounds and made some new friends.

A special thanks to our field trip leader, Dr. James Cole, for arranging our trip. Also, we appreciate the hospitality extended to us by Mr. and Mrs. Ledbetter and Mr. Pharris.

Please plan to be on our field trip for November. Dr. Gary Patterson will lead us on a tour of the University of Memphis Earthquake Center. Then Paul Sides will be leading us to Village Creek State park in Arkansas to view earthquake activity. From there we will go to Copperas Creek to collect shark's teeth and other fossil specimens. Driving time from Memphis to Village Creek State Park, Arkansas is approximately 1 hour.

The date for this trip is Saturday, November 10, so mark your calendar. More information and details are provided in the field trip section of the newsletter. please plan to be there. I encourage all of our members and guests to attend.

David McIlwain
1st Vice President



DMC Field Trip: Graves Mountain, GA

AN OFFICIAL FIELD TRIP OF THE ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB (HOST)
GRAVES MOUNTAIN, LINCOLNTON, GA -- 9:00am, Saturday, December 15, 2001

FREE: There is no collection fee, but a request is made to all participants to donate some amount to the caretaker.

SAFETY: All Combustion Engineering safety requirements apply. It is not recommended to bring small children (<12 yrs.). Older children should be under adult supervision at all time. Pets are allowed, but please keep them leashed. Please be careful of standing water. Due to the chemical nature of Graves Mountain, standing water usually contains sulfuric acid. Although the concentration is low, it is advisable to stay away from pools of water. It is recommended that people visiting Graves Mountain wear a hardhat and safety glasses. Be careful around steep slopes. There is a possibility of slides on the steep slopes. Do not work below someone working on a slope.

WHERE TO MEET: We will meet at 9:00am at the first paved road to the left off US Rt. 378 after you enter Lincoln County from Wilkes County. Waivers must be signed before entering Graves Mountain. Waivers will be available or you may bring your own.

DIRECTIONS: From I-20 eastbound take the Washington exit 59 and turn left onto SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17). Travel north to Washington and then right onto SR 378 east to Graves Mountain. From I-20 westbound take the Lincolnton exit. Turn left on US 378 west at the Hardees in downtown Lincolnton. Go 5 to 6 miles and Graves Mountain will be on the left. It is not very well marked so if you get to the Washington County line, turn around and take the first road on the right.

COLLECTING: Among the minerals that can be found at Graves Mountain are alunite, andalusite, barite, gibbsite, goethite, hematite, gold, limenite, jarosite,

kaolinite, kyanite, lazulite, magnetite, paragonite, phosphorsiderite, pyrite, pyrophyllite, quartz, rutile, sulfur, svanbergite and topaz.

BRING: Plenty of water. Dehydration can be a problem when working in the pit even in cool weather. Bring your own lunch or other snacks. The nearest fast food restaurant is about 6 miles. There are also no restroom facilities at Graves Mountain, so be prepared.

QUESTIONS: Any questions please contact Jim Maudsley at (706) 353-1792 email: argc2000@yahoo.com



This is a specimen of rutile collected from Graves Mountain, Georgia

November Board Meeting Minutes

RAYNEE RANDOLPH--The November board meeting of MAGS was held 11.01.01 at Audubon Café on Park Avenue and was called to order at 7:00 by President Lou White. The following were present: Mike Baldwin, Don Blalock, Nancy Folden, Idajean Jordan, WC McDaniel, David McIlwain, Dick McKitrick, Park and Terry Noyes, Alan parks, Raynee Randolph, Bill Scheffer, and Lou White. The minutes from the October Board and General meetings were accepted and approved as written.

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

PRESIDENT'S RPT: December 6 at 6:00pm board meeting will be at my house. Bring finger foods or one of your favorite dishes to share.

1ST VP RPT: Ledbetter farm--geodes and walnuts; Dale Hollow--geodes with smoky quartz and a hint of amethyst. November trip will be the earthquake center, Village Creek, and Copperas Creek. No field trips in December. Any suggestions for 2002 field trip locations are welcome.

2ND VP RPT: Our program for November will be Crowley's Ridge minerals.

SUNSHINE RPT: A card was sent to Roger Van Cleef.

TREASURER RPT: Bill Scheffer presented his report. Motion made, seconded and carried to approve report, subject to audit. It's time for the annual dues. He will not be accepting dues payments at the Christmas party.

LIBRARIAN RPT: Sixty forms have been filled out.

Please continue filling out the info sheets that are in each of the books and give them to Mike Baldwin. The library is officially open. Thirteen Lipidary Journals have been added to our library.

EDITORS RPT: Articles need to be in two weeks before general meeting.

WEB RPT: Check out the new articles. DMC trip November 10 to Livingston TN. December 15 to Graves Mt. GA. Bring pictures from field trips. Mike will put them on the web.

SHOW RPT: January 2002 will resume committee meetings. We have four dealers to date. Rock sale has made \$646.00 with more material to sell. Magazines are going from storage on November 17.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE RPT: Strategic planning committee gave first report of the nine issue. Next meeting will have goals for these issues. December board meeting will have breakout groups to prioritize concerns and attain goals.

OLD BUSINESS: Motion made to transfer \$21.92 from Junior fund to general fund for gem tree expenses. Motion was defeated.

NEW BUSINESS: Budget draft for 2002 in the works. Alan to purchase Christmas gifts for display winners. Secretary is to compile a list of display winners for 2001. Motion made to accept Parker family membership, seconded, and vote carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

To: DMC Members

NOVEMBER 6, 2001--THANK YOU--On August 24, 2001, we reported the theft of some personal property from the owner of the location of our July 21, 2001 DMC field trip hosted by the Northeast Georgia Mineral Society. On that trip someone removed parts from an old antique Desoto car parked in the woods at the field trip site. It seems that our efforts to publish the details of this theft to the DMC membership has paid off! The DMC wishes to thank all those member societies, which published the details in their club newsletters. *DMC.*

TO DMC MEMBERS AND MEMBERS OF NE GEORGIA MINERAL SOCIETY--Thank you for the help in recovery of my property, whcih was taken on 7-21-01 during a DMC field trip. I received it back about the first of October along with something else that was taken from the car as well whcih I wasn't aware had been removed. *Sincerely and with apprciation, Taylor Cantrell.*

November General Membership Meeting Minutes

RAYNEE RANDOLPH--President Lou White called the November Membership meeting at 7:38pm on Friday, November 9, 2001 at the Shady Grove Presbyterian Church. There were 46 members present and 6 visitors. Our visitors were Joseph McConnell, HJ McConnell, Martha Lamb, John Montague, Steve and Laura Ethridge.

1ST VP RPT: On November 10 plan on meeting at 10:00am at the University of Memphis Earthquake Center for a presentation by Gary Patterson, and then we will depart for Village Creek for earthquake movement sites. We will then go to Copperas Creek for selenite, fossil shells, shark teeth and rarely you can find fossil fish. Please be advised that it is hunting season and for your safety please wear some form of safety orange.

2ND VP RPT: Tonight's program will be given by a couple of our own very talented members Jim and Hisami McNeil. They have made many trips to Japan and back collecting some great material on the way. Hisami then sells the material at several shows in Japan.

SUNSHINE RPT: A card was sent to Roger Van Cleef, Joe Devine, Barry Walther, Connie McDaniel, Vivian Sharpe, and Windsong Levitch.

TREASURERS RPT: Dues are due by the January meeting. Mail your check to Bill Scheffer. His address is on the front of the newsletter. Do not try to give Bill your check at the December meeting. We will be having the Christmas party in place of our regular meeting. So please MAIL your checks.

MEMBERSHIP RPT: We would like to welcome our new

members. They are Lynn Worrell, and James and Debbie Parker and family.

LIBRARY RPT: Our library is open for business. Please help fill out the information sheets and give them to Mike Baldwin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jerry Seamans will be selling some equipment tonight, so be sure to look it over before the bidding starts.

DISPLAYS: David McIlwain--treasures from the last field trip; Jerry Seamans--Wm Holland Lapidary Arts; Nancy Boucher--my favorite rocks; and Mary Gibson--vacation pieces and pictures.

DISPLAY WINNER: Nancy Boucher.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS: Paul Sides and Steve Ethridge
The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

MINI BOARD MEETING

A mini board meeting was held at the general meeting to present and approve the budget for the year 2002. Board members present were: Lou White, Mike Baldwin, Bill Scheffer, Idajean Jordan, Park Noyes, Darryl Letitch, David McIlwain, Raynee Randolph, Paul Sides, and Dick McKitrick.

The proposed budget was presented. A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget followed with discussion. An amendment in the form of a motion was made to supplement the proposed budget in the event of a deficit with funds from the show account. It was seconded and the vote for the amendment carried. The original motion for the 2002 budget was amended, was then voted on and carried. The meeting adjourned following the vote.



EARTH'S MYSTERIES

DECEMBER 6, 2001--www.geology.about.com--Early one Sunday not long ago, a dozen or so strangers visited a hot spring on the California coast that is only exposed during especially low tides in the predawn hours. They soaked in a deep, rocky bowl of water that fumed with sulfurous vapors and subterranean heat, while the full Moon set over the cold Pacific before us. The sea crept in and covered the spot by sunup, then we clambered off in our different directions to join the civilized day. The experience was powerful and elemental, to say the least. They knew the spring lies directly upon a major earthquake fault, but geology was secondary that morning.

Before geologists explained the landscape in geologic terms, and before we measured so much of our life in dollars, humans had more elemental ideas about the lands they inhabited. Volcanoes and earthquakes are clear evidence that the Earth is animated, like us and like the animals. The sea rises and falls like slow breathing. The soil seems to be a sort of living thing, too, giving life to plants and receiving the bodies of the dead.

Dramatic rock formations, picturesque hills, deep canyons, and dark ponds arouse emotions and sensations—and to persons of heightened awareness, they pulse with significance, even personality. Stories arise and turn to myths, and as groups of people live in an

area for generations, their beloved homeland fills with spirit and meaning. So when we learn that prehistoric people around the world moved large stones into regular arrangements, held ceremonies in underground

caves or in artificial chambers, and had elaborate stories about the landforms around them, it feels familiar. We are a species of stories.

The affectionate bonds we develop with the land arise from our deepest nature as a species that depends on affectionate bonds

among people. So we have beloved, sacred places everywhere around the world. Europe has thousands of them, as is well documented. Many old European churches are built upon sites that were holy to far earlier societies. And the countryside is dotted with structures built of large stones, many of them arranged in long-distance lines and oriented toward significant astronomical occurrences like the path of the Moon and particular stars.

Stonehenge, for instance, is just too old to be built and used by the Celtic Druids. When Celts first arrived in Britain, Stonehenge was already over a thousand years old. So any records and stories told about it and other stone structures must be suspect. Even the earliest historians of ancient Rome and Greece knew that their sources were not very reliable, but their only choice was to preserve what knowledge they could.

--submitted by Mike Baldwin



BEFORE YOU BUY A ROCK COLLECTION

DECEMBER 1, 2001--www.geology.about.com--Boxed sets of rock specimens can be a good start for a child interested in geology. They're handy, small, and inexpensive. Books, maps, a good rock hammer, some simple field tools, and the guidance of local experts will take your child much further. But a rock set, especially one that includes a pamphlet and a few basic tools, is all you need to begin—that plus visiting lots of places where rocks are found.

What About a Box?

Skip the fancy wooden box and stick to cardboard. You can always buy a better box, and more of them to fit a growing collection. Don't buy collections that are glued to a card—a true geoscientist will pull them off for hands-on learning.

Start Small

You can get huge collections, but a box with about 20 specimens covers the most common rock types, with maybe a few extras for color or exotic interest. Remember, the fun part is building your own collection of rocks from your own region. And a few basic identification tools—a magnifier and streak plate are the most important—are a plus.

Get Rocks, Not Chips

A useful rock specimen is at least 1.5 inches or 4 centimeters in all dimensions. A proper hand specimen is twice that size. Such rocks are big enough to scratch, chip and otherwise investigate without spoiling their appearance. Remember, these are for learning, not admiring.

Sedimentary, Igneous or Metamorphic?

There's merit in getting a set of rocks that reflect your own region—but a set of exotic rock types might fascinate someone who travels or dreams of traveling. Look at your area on one of this site's online geologic maps. That should give you an idea of whether your area is mostly sedimentary, igneous, or metamorphic rocks.

Reading Matters

A rockhound of any stripe, whether it's a collector, a prospector or a full-fledged geoscientist, must be able to read texts and maps as well as rocks. If you're buying for a child, for best results be sure he or she is comfortable with print and has a basic grasp of maps. Without reading skills, a child will always be limited to gazing and dreaming. Scientists must be able to gaze and dream, but they also must read, observe, think, and write. A rock kit is only a start.



DUES: Family-\$20.00
Single-\$16.00
Junior-\$8.00
Associate: \$13.00

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

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