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ETHICS, SAFETY AND INSURANCE FOR ROCKHOUNDS

WC McDANIEL: As we start the New Year with resolutions and plans, it's important and necessary that we take the time to do a check up on some key components and obligations of being a member and participant in the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society (MAGS).

When you pay your membership dues you become affiliated with the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). The SFMS includes approximately eighty clubs and societies, mostly in the region east of the Mississippi River and south of a line following the northern borders of Tennessee and North Carolina. The AFMS is composed of seven regional federations and covers the entire United States.

These organizations, along with MAGS, have developed and published standards and procedures covering ethics, safety and insurance. These standards provide the framework and direction for individuals and clubs as we pursue the field of rockhounding and lapidary. This article contains a summary and highlights some key parts of those standards. A complete listing of all information is contained in your membership packet and on the web sites of MAGS, SFMS and the AFMS.

ETHICS: Woody Guthrie was allegedly quoted as saying that when he saw a "POSTED" or "NO TRESPASSING" sign on private property that it referred only to the land facing the side where the words were printed and if the back side was blank then it was not posted and he could go onto the property. This reasoning has a potentially negative impact on rockhounding and goes directly against the very first of the eighteen ethical guidelines developed and published by the AFMS. *"I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on pri-*

see ethics, safety and insurance on page three

JANUARY 2004 MAGS EVENTS

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 06 | 6:30p | Board Meeting @ Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue |
| 09 | 7:30p | General Meeting @ Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road, Memphis
[bring refreshments and a display of your 2003 treasures and field trip finds]
Program: "Ethics, Safety and Insurance" presented by WC McDaniel
and "Labeling and Storing Your Specimens" presented by Roger Van Cleaf
No M3 Micromounters Meeting in January
No MAGS Field Trip in January |
| 17 | 9:00a | DMC Field Trip: Fort Drum, Florida [see page 6 for details] |



MAGS BOARD

President–W.C. McDaniel

2038 Central Ave., Memphis, TN 38104
901-274-7706 • cfmcddaniel@worldnet.att.net

1st VP (Field Trips)–David McIlwain

305 Catlin Dr., Oakland, TN 38060
901-465-7388 • djmcilwain@earthlink.net

2nd VP (Programs)–Paul Sides

1062 CR 739, Wynne, AR 72396
870-238-8078 • rockclub@earthlink.net

Secretary–Raynee Randolph

6578 Birch Walk Dr., Memphis, TN 38117
901-367-9329 • wrandol1@midssouth.rr.com

Treasurer/Co-Editor–Bill Scheffer

2959 Sky Way Dr., Memphis, TN 38127
901-358-1194 • schefwb@midssouth.rr.com

Director–Idajean Jordan

104 Plainview, Memphis, TN 38111
901-452-4286 • rockclub@earthlink.net

Director–Terry Noyes

3366 Rosita Circle W., Memphis, TN 38116
901-396-5835 • RNJ1958TLE@aol.com

Director–Kim Prudhomme

3870 Robin Hill Dr., Bartlett, TN 38135
901-266-5848 • dvdandkm@midssouth.rr.com

Director–Dennis Sanders

2261 Scenic View Dr., Nesbit, MS 38651
662-449-5199 • rockclub@earthlink.net

Director–Lou White

3805 Melanie June, Bartlett, TN 38135
901-937-8522 • Axelrod300@aol.com

Editor/Web Coordinator–Mike Baldwin

367 N. Main St., Collierville, TN 38017
901-853-3603 • mike.baldwin@memphisgeology.org

Librarian–Nancy Folden

379 McDermitt, Memphis, TN 38120
901-683-8497 • nancy.folden@kroger.com

Membership–Cornelia McDaniel

2038 Central Ave., Memphis 38104
901-274-7706 • cfmcddaniel@worldnet.att.net

Show Chairman–W.C. McDaniel

2038 Central Ave., Memphis 38104
901-274-7706 • cfmcddaniel@worldnet.att.net

Youth Program–Idajean Jordan

104 Plainview, Memphis, TN 38111
901-452-4286 • rockclub@earthlink.net

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

MAGS ended the year on a strong note and we look forward to another active, safe and beneficial rockhound year. I hope all of you have paid your 2004 dues. Dues are the club's primary source of income. Dues provide for building rental, newsletter publication and mailing, federation dues, special events and activities.

Special thanks, to the MAGS members and guest who made the Christmas party a success. We had about 70 people in attendance. Good food, good gifts and lots of smiles that really made the evening special.

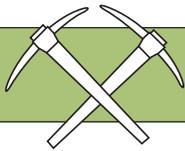
Paul, David and Idajean are busy planning programs and field trips for 2004. If you have an idea for a program, activity or field trip, now is the time to speak up. Our February 13th program will be on rock tumbling presented by David McAlister. In addition, our first field trip in February will be to a gravel operation near Harrisburg, Arkansas (about an hour from Memphis). I don't think the club has been there before. This is similar to the Memphis Stone and Gravel operation.

At the January meeting, members are encouraged to bring displays of your field trip finds of 2003. We have been to many places and I know of several members who have made some good finds. So bring them with you and lets show off our club's field trip program.

WC McDaniel



If you attended the MAGS Party in December, then you saw that "... the stockings were hung by the chimney with care ..." thanks to Nancy Folden. Photo by Cornelia McDaniel.



DECEMBER 2003 DMC FIELD TRIP REPORT

DIAMOND HILL MINE, ANTREVILLE, SC HOSTED BY ATHENS ROCK AND GEM CLUB FIELD TRIP LEADER: JIM MAUDSLEY

On Saturday December 13th, nineteen braved the winter weather to dig for quartz at the Diamond Hill Mine near Antreville, SC. Actually, the weather turned out to be perfect for digging. Overcast and high 40's. The nasty rain promised in the forecast did not show up until everyone had left for the day. Participants flocked from all parts of the southeast to participate in the digging frenzy. There were both familiar and unfamiliar faces from Georgia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Florida, and even a couple of guys from Pennsylvania who were members of a western North Carolina club. Everyone went home with many treasures and smile on there face. The "booty" was substantial. The skeletal quartz was top

quality. Some of the best the mine has ever given up. Recent activity with heavy equipment had made the prized material readily accessible. Also, several participants did well in the "smoky quartz pit." Blocky crystals of light smoky color up to 1.5" long were found. By far, the big trophies of the day were unearthed by the "demon diggers" from PA. To the delight of all that attended, they had more large plates of skeletal quartz than they could carry off. The largest plate probably weighed almost two hundred pounds (trimmed) and took three people to carry. It was like Christmas.

Please Note: There will not be a MAGS Field Trip in January. MAGS field trips are open only to MAGS members and their guests.

ETHICS, SAFETY AND INSURANCE . . . continued from page one

vately owned land without permission from the owner." All the remaining guidelines begin with "I will" and present with the overall theme that rockhounds must be good stewards of the land, respect, recognize and obey all private and public property rights, public policy, individual rights and practice good collecting habits and techniques. When reading the ethics (and how many of you have?), make a commitment to obey and promote them to current and new rockhounds. With collecting sites and opportunities declining, the adherence to the guidelines insures and protects our hobby and continued assess to public and private collecting sites. Another one of the guidelines refers to one of our club's favorite activities, field trips. It states: *"I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas."* One way to do that is through safety.

SAFETY: For the purposes of this article "safety" is referred to as field trip and convoy guidelines. Future editions of the MAGS newsletter will contain some shop safety tips. On a recent club-collecting trip to Vulcan Quarry I arrived at the entry to the

collecting quarry site from a different direction than the meeting place of the convoy. I looked up the highway and saw a long line of vehicles stretched along the highway. All vehicle headlights were on, spacing and pacing was good and the convoy pulled off the main road into the quarry entry as a unified and organized group. This scene told me several things. The individual members arrived at the departure place on time, prepared and ready to go. The trip leader explained the rules and destination/route. The participant's followed the guidelines and all arrived safely at the collecting site. Once members arrive at a collecting site, field safety becomes important and requires all participants to follow basic rules. Stay in the assigned area. Wear appropriate clothes. Wear safety glasses. Use your tools wisely and correctly. Be aware of where you are in relation to other people (in front, behind, above, below and even out of sight). Be cautious and aware of potential rock slides when moving material. Take your time. No throwing. Recognize your physical capabilities and limits and help out your fellow collector. In summary, safety can be characterized as being prepared, being mindful of where you

see ethics, safety and insurance on page five

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS (ADOPTED BY MAGS)

01. I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on private owned land without permission from the owner.	10. I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
02. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations and rules governing collecting on public land and will respect them.	11. I will cause no damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
03. I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.	12. I will support the Rockhound Project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter, Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
04. I will use no firearms or blasting materials in collecting areas.	13. I will cooperate with Field Trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
05. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind, such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.	14. I will report to my Club or Federation Officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other property authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations and for public education and scientific purposes.
06. I will leave all gates as found.	15. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of Natural Resources.
07. I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.	16. I will observe the “Golden Rule,” will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.
08. I will discard no burning materials--matches, cigarettes, etc.	
09. I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.	



SUNSHINE REPORT

CORNELIA McDANIEL

Congratulations to Irma Idell for a very nice article, which appeared in a recent edition of the *Commercial Appeal*, featuring her prominent photographic accomplishments.

We offer our **condolences to Carolyn Hays**, whose brother, Herman Cox, passed away on December 3, 2003. Mr. Cox was the mayor of Collierville, Tennessee for many years. He dedicated his life to the prosperity and growth of Collierville, while helping to ensure that the town retained it's small town atmosphere. Herman Cox will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with Melinda Warren and Carl Warren as they mourn the loss of Carl's mother (Melinda's grandmother). We are thinking of you during this time, Mel and Carl.

Best wishes to Breezy Levitch as she recovers from an inner ear infection **and to Bill Scheffer** as he continues to recover from knee surgery. Our thoughts are also with all MAGS members who are enduring the illness and discomfort of winter colds and flu during this season!

ETHICS, SAFETY AND INSURANCE

. . . continued from page three

and other rockhounds are, using good judgement, and following the directions and instructions of the field trip leaders.

INSURANCE: April brings warmer weather, showers and MAGS' annual rock show. However, before MAGS can obtain a key to the building, set up tables, serve our show dinner or open the doors to our first paying customer, we must provide the city (or any entity you are renting from) proof of insurance through a "certificate of insurance" issued directly by an insurance carrier. We are able to accomplish this because MAGS participates in a group insurance policy through the SFMS. This product provides show and field trip insurance. Insurance has been one of the most discussed, misunderstood and questioned areas and is best addressed by looking at three basic questions. It is noted the information presented is a summary from a secondary source and reference must be made to the actual policy to determine coverage and limits.

Who is covered? SFMS clubs and members who are registered with the insurance agent. MAGS pays a yearly premium based on the actual number of members. For example, for a family of four MAGS pays for each member. We do not list individual members, only an aggregate total. The show is assessed a flat fee. Our rates are based on the group purchasing provided by the SFMS and individual clubs save a substantial amount. The president of the SFMS appoints an insurance liaison to serve as a contact for individual clubs and the insurance company issuing the policy. There are additional specific limits and conditions and members are encouraged to read them at the SFMS web site.

What is insured? The plan provides basic liability insurance coverage for bodily injury and property damage including fire damage, and medical payments (guests only). There are additional specific limits and conditions and members are encouraged to read them at the SFMS web site.

What is not covered? Personnel injuries to club members (all members should have their own health and accident insurance); club members acting as dealers during the show; property of others (tables during the show) in your care; individual club members on private collecting trips, injury to a club member by another club member; and damage to club property by a club member is not covered by this policy. There are additional specific limits and conditions and members are encouraged to read them at the SFMS web site.

Ethics, safety and insurance provide a consistent direction and guidance for clubs, individual members and our hobby. By using good judgement, paying attention and following directions our field trips will continue, our show will grow and our club will be recognized and appreciated for its commitment and dedication.

MAGS ROADCUT



Welcome to a new roadcut. The MAGS ROADCUT is designed to provide general information and news for rockhounds. It may include regional and national federation news and events, fossil news, lapidary tips and techniques and geology and archaeological information and items of interest to rockhounds.

. . . **In the news.** The November edition of *Rock and Gem* magazine has a great article on the history and usage of turquoise. It includes this little tidbit. One of the first methods used to enhance the color of turquoise was to hold the piece under your armpit for a few minutes. Some MAGSters need to experiment and report back. An August hike should produce some fine specimens.

. . . **Canoeing in Memphis.** Several Boy Scouts and their leaders canoe where we rock hunt. When it rains they paddle Nonconnah Creek, especially the section under the Perkins Street Bridge where the mastodon was found. They also canoe the Mississippi River, stopping at Fulton and Richardson Landing. They are familiar with Lou's "Noah's Ark." Don't worry, they are not on collecting trips.

. . . **Cleaning tip.** One of the best colanders to use for washing rocks can be found at the various \$1 or \$.88 stores around town. Its flat and oval shaped about 12x18x4 inches. This design permits much easier cleaning than the traditional bowl shaped colanders. Reminder to use only plastic as metal may scratch your rocks.

Send your MAGS Roadcut News to WC McDaniel at cfmcdaniel@worldnet.att.net

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION NEWS



**Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip:
Hosted by Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society
9:00AM [EST], Saturday, January 17, 2004
Ruck's Pit, Fort Drum, FL**

MEET: Hwy 441, Ft. Drum General Store, Ft. Drum, FL 9:00 am (not Ft. Drum Diner)

COLLECTING HOURS: We will be able to collect from approximately 9:30am until 5:00pm.

ITEMS COLLECTED: There is an abundance of well-fossilized and calcified marine shells. The sand and shell matrix rock is in the Nashua Formation (Pleistocene) and is composed of well-calcified shells. Any cavities within these fossils may contain calcite crystals. Honey colored calcite crystals up to 1" in length can be found within large fossilized clamshells. Small calcite crystals within shells are very common. Fossilized bone and teeth can also be found at this location.

FEE: A \$10.00 fee (children 13 and under are free) will be collected. An adult must accompany children at all times.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: It is recommended that you wear sturdy shoes or boots and gloves. Daytime temperatures can vary as much as 40 degrees, so layered clothing is appropriate.

WHAT TO BRING: Bring buckets or backpacks along with paper to wrap nice specimens, scratching tools, hammers, picks, shovels, chisels, safety glasses, sunscreen, maps, lunch,

and plenty of fluids. Collecting conditions are considered easy; however, safety should be a primary concern.

Contact: Mickey Cecil at helpcecilhelp@juno.com; 904-725-6198

WHERE TO STAY: Okeechobee is the nearest town. I know that it is very difficult to negotiate rates of stay due to fishing tournaments that often occur. Below is a list of motels in Okeechobee; however, January is peak season for south Florida. Negotiation on room rates may be possible. There are also many motels in the Kissimmee area and on I-95 south of Melbourne down to Ft. Pierce.

Budget Inn (863-763-3185); Holiday Inn Exp (863-357-3529)
Travelers Inn (863-763-3146); Economy Inn (863-763-1148)
Scottish Inn (863-763-3293); Flamingo Motel (863-763-4894)

DIRECTIONS: Ft. Drum is on Hwy 441 approximately 15 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 60 and 441 (Yeehaw Junction).

Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!

SFMS CLUBS SHOWS AND EVENTS

February 28-29, 2004 (28th 9am-6pm; 29th 10am-5pm) • Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society • 45th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show • A & I Buildings, Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, MS (Exit 96B I-55) • Featuring 23 Retail Dealers—rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, and supplies for all aspects of the hobby • Working Exhibits by Society Members (beading, faceting, flint knapping, wirewrapping, chaining, lapidary) • Door Prizes Given Throughout Both Days! • Grand Door Prize • Very Special Activities for Juniors and Girl Scouts • Specimen Identification: Bring your rock, mineral, and fossil specimens to be identified by members of the MS Board of Registered Professional Geologists • Competitive and Noncompetitive Exhibits, Information Exhibits, Touch and See Exhibit, William Johnson Scholarship Raffle, and more • Contact: Brenda Hankins, POB 844, Jackson, MS 39205 or msgem.org

MAGS REVIEW

NOVEMBER 03 BOARD MEETING NOTES

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: The MAGS board of directors met November 6, 2003 at The Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The following were present: Mike Baldwin, Nancy Folden, Idajean Jordan, Cornelia and W.C. McDaniel, Park and Terri Noyes, Raynee Randolph, Dennis Sanders, Bill Scheffer, Paul Sides, Roger Van Cleef, and Lou White. The secretary's minutes from the October board and general meetings were accepted and approved as written. The following reports were given: (1) Treasurer: Financial report for October was presented and accepted. (2) 1st VP: Twelve attended the geode, and Dale Hollow Lake trips. November 22, to Vulcan Quarry, Dr. Cole's Property for selenite and a highway cut for trilobites. (3) Program: To be announced. (4) Editor/Web: The web site has received 46,000 hits during the months of Oct-Nov. That boils down to 12,000 people. Enhancements for 2004 will be a bulletin board for comments and suggestions, and a counter where we can see how active the web site is. To date we have 61 families receiving the newsletter via e-mail. (5) Library: Members with overdue books and videos will receive a reminder call. If needed the president will make an additional call. An announcement will be made at the general meeting, and overdue material may be posted on the website. The library will not be open the month of December, except for overdue items. (6) Juniors: We will have a sack giveaway full of goodies. Everyone will open their sack and talk about what is in it to the rest of the group, and then they can take the sack home with them. January 2004 we will have a TV program. (7) Membership: Applications for Pete and Patti Hearn, and the Underhill family were approved. Dues will carry through 2004. Condolences were sent to Sandy Ward and Dr. Young. A book for the library will be purchased in memory of Ruth Young. (8) Show: A report of resolution of the show expenses was presented. (9) Old Business: A motion was made that the Technical planning committee would purchase a new TV/VCR/DVD. The motion was seconded and the vote carried the motion. The old TV will be auctioned in 2004. (10) New Business: [1] Idajean has a sample of the size grab bag to be used this year for the show. Discussion of the size was acceptable to the board; the price will be determined later. [2] W.C. will meet with the director of Chucalissa to discuss projects and future donations. [3] Christmas party plans are as follows: New background for photos, Lou White to procure a tree-Idajean has the decorations, W.C. and Cornelia to pickup turkey, ham, and table decorations, One dozen poinsettias to be purchased, party set-up for everyone that can be available-come early, stay late for cleanup. GIFTS MUST HAVE A \$10.00 VALUE and must be club related, non-gender specific. [4] In 2004 planning, there will be an auction every other month. We host the 2004 DMC trip this year, planning is in the works. A motion was made that all the Christmas gifts are chosen from one table this year. Motion was seconded and the vote carried the motion. Meeting Adjourned @ 8:23pm.

NOVEMBER 03 GENERAL MEETING NOTES

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: MAGS November General Membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on November 14, presided by President W.C. McDaniel. There were 60 members and 13 visitors present. They were Susan, Sara, Charlie, and Randy Thomas; Christopher, and Anna Marsh, and Donna; Diana and Antonia Lopez; Tula and M.D. Starr; Mike McNellis, and Randy Spears. There will be a live auction tonight and a silent auction during refreshments. So bid high and bid often. Thanks Lou for being our auctioneer tonight. (1) Field trip: Vulcan Quarry will be our destination on the 22nd. You must sign a release waiver before entering the mine. Please sign the sign up list and get the directions to Sugar Tree Truck Stop. We will caravan to the quarry and collect until noon. There will be two additional sites for collecting in the afternoon. (2) Library: If you have books or videos that need to be returned in December, you may bring them back in January without any late fees. If you do have overdue material, PLEASE RETURN that ASAP, and resolve your overdue charges. (3) Secretary: The club received a thank you note from Lenette Mewborn. She has a new address, and if you care to read the note, it will be here on the table. Her new address will be published in the newsletter. (4) Christmas Party: Next meeting in December will be our annual Christmas party. Everyone is to bring a \$10.00, rock related gift. The club will provide the meat and the members provide everything else. So if you have a favorite desert or side dish please bring that with you. If you won any of the displays this year your name goes in the hat for an additional gift. (5) Program: Mark Norton from Pinson Mounds will be our lecturer tonight. He will educate us on Volcanic Glass or Obsidian. (6) Displays: Adults: Lou White - Memphis soda bottles; Dana Griffin - Gatlinburg Rock Shop collection; Jerry Seamans - Wire Sculpture; M.D. Starr - Estate sale find; Tula Starr - Petrified Wood. Juniors: Hunter Hill; Arizona, Mexico, and Brazil collection; Karen Schaeffer - Fossils; Tess Cannito - Oxford mine, New Jersey. Winners: Karen Schaeffer and Jerry Seamans. Three door prizes were awarded and the meeting adjourned at 9:00pm for refreshments. Respectfully submitted by Raynee Randolph.

MAGS NEWSLETTER HITS 50

MIKE BALDWIN: This issue of *MAGS Rockhound News* marks the beginning of MAGS Newsletter Volume 50. I have copies of MAGS newsletters dating back to 1955. Back to the days of mimeograph machines and typewriters. Back to the early days of MAGS involvement at Chucalissa (which means “house abandoned”). I thought it might be fun to take a look at an article from one of those early newsletters. So here goes.

This is called “Fuller Archaeological Project” by Charles H. Nash, Archaeologist in Charge. The Fuller Mounds, located on the southern end of the fourth Chickasaw Bluff were missed entirely by the early archaeologists who worked in this area. Neither Cyrus Thomas nor Clarence Moore reported this site, although it must have been known to local farmers.

These mounds were first called to the attention of the University of Tennessee in 1940, when a CCC project started clearing this area. During the summer of that year extensive testing operations were carried out to determine the nature of the site and its suitability for development into an exhibit. At this time the National Park Service came into the picture, and plans were completed for a Natural Museum. All these plans and efforts were cancelled by World War II.

After the war years, the Memphis Archaeological Society made repeated efforts to reactivate the program but with only moderate success until this year, when concerted action of the Society, the University of Tennessee, and the Shelby County

Commissioners worked out a feasible plan. This was presented to the State Department of Conservation, with the happy result that Governor Clement granted a small appropriation which enabled the entire project to be resumed on a small scale.

Labor for the project was provided by the Shelby County Commissioners. On May 15, 1955, workers from the Shelby County Penal Farm came en masse to the site and began building an approach road and clearing the timber and underbrush from the six acres which the village covers. Preliminary work of clearing the site took until well into June.

The Fuller Mounds group is a large ceremonial center of the Middle Mississippi culture. A central plaza, or court area, is delineated by a large pyramidal mound on the north, a smaller mound on the west and a mounded ridge raised 4 feet above the court on the south and east. Here the chief and more important members of the tribe lived in houses facing the court. To the north, back of the great mound, is a large village area where the bulk of the population lived. There are other smaller villages to the east and south of this ceremonial center, but separated from it by some distance. In addition to this occupation there are very definite indications of an earlier period, but it will take some intensive archaeological work to determine the nature of this.

REFERENCE: Charles Nash; “Fuller Archaeological Project”; The Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society Newsletter; Volume 2, Number 10; October 1955. (Fuller Mounds are now called Chucalissa.)

WEB REPORT

MIKE BALDWIN: Here’s a brief look at our website (www.memphisgeology.org) from 01.21.02 through 12.28.03:

Visits* 102,455

Hits** 443,774

Visits in the past 30 days 8,740

Hits in the past 30 days 34,071

Top pages in the past 30 days:

Home Page 511 hits

Explorer0203.pdf 504 hits

Explorer0903.pdf 367 hits

RockNews0203.pdf 334 hits

RockNews1202.pdf 275 hits

Average visits/day past month 281

* visit=every time someone comes to the site

** hit=every page viewed on the site

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NEWS, ARTICLES,
ANNOUNCEMENTS, OR PICTURES FOR THE
FEBRUARY ISSUE OF MAGS ROCKHOUND NEWS IS
JANUARY 24, 2004



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthstone = Garnet

1 - Patrick Long

4 - Veronica Swink

5 - Floyd Lenz

6 - Nancy Boucher

6 - Lauren Holliday

7 - Rosie Crawford

7 - Michael Long

12 - Sam Norris

12 - Zack Spencer

13 - Jon Beckum

17 - Jared Rodgers

21 - Richard Gunter

25 - Michael Cates

29 - Doris Currington

29 - Herbert Horowitz

30 - Bill Smith

31 - Johnny Holliday

31 - Teresa Noyes

MINI-MAGS NEWS [WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE KIDS]

CRATER IN NORTHEAST ARABIA



PHOTO CREDIT: 2003 NASA/JPL/Malin Space Science Systems

NASA: 12.03.03: The upper crust of Mars is layered, and interbedded with these layers of old, filled and buried meteor impact craters. In a few places on Mars, such as *Arabia Terra*, erosion has re-exposed some of the filled and buried craters. This October 2003 Mars Global Surveyor (MGS) Mars Orbiter Camera (MOC) image shows an example. The larger circular feature was once a meteor crater. It was filled with sediment, then buried beneath younger rocks. The smaller circular feature is a younger impact crater that formed in the surface above the rocks that buried the large crater. Later, erosion removed all of the material that covered the larger, buried crater, except in the location of the small crater. For more information visit the Malin Space Science Systems website at <http://www.msss.com/> .

Ref: Malin Space Science Systems; MGS MOC Release No. MOC2-563; 3 December 2003

Information gathered for educational purposes under the provisions of the "Fair Use Act of 1976".

BEST TRIPS OF 2003

KELLY BALDWIN: It's really hard to pick just one of my favorite trips this past year, so I picked four—one of them was a Venture Crew trip, one was a family vacation, and two were MAGS trips. First, the Venture trip. Our Venture Crew (that's a high adventure group for teenagers) went bouldering and hiking at Pinnacle Mountain, Arkansas. We climbed to the top of Pinnacle on one of the hottest days of the summer, but we had great views at the top, with lots of rocks, although they were all too big to carry home. I found a really good half bowl-shaped rock at the top that made a perfect seat. My mom got a little bit nervous I think, but don't worry, I was really careful near the edge. This one dude ran all the way up the mountain and back down several times while we were climbing it once. This is a great place. Lots of people took their dogs on the lower part of the trail, before it got to steep for them to climb.

Trip two was a family vacation to Venice Beach, Florida. I love the ocean! Could there be a better way to spend the day . . . than being by the ocean, boogieboarding and collecting sharks' teeth? I found a really great tooth (over an inch long) and tons of microfossils. Our hotel was the best, with an ocean view and just feet away from the beach. *Who wants to stay in Destin . . . give me Venice Beach!*

Trip three was a trip to the "blastoid place" near Muscle Shoals, Alabama. My sister, Jennifer, and I love climbing the hills and walking around in the forest there looking for blastoids and other fossils. I found tons, tons, tons of crinoids and Archimedes (corkscrew-like fossils). I also found several blastoids (not as many as usual this time) and a trilobite. Now Jennifer found tons of trilobites . . . she always does. She has an eye for trilobites. One of the fun parts of this trip was crawling under the fence to get to the site. Oh yeah!

Trip four was a return trip to Vulcan Quarry near Parsons, Tennessee. I always like going to Vulcan, but this time we went to a part of the quarry that I had not been to before, and it was great! I found a huge crinoid head (calyx) about three inches in diameter, with a really big stem. There were crinoid stems all over the place. We just stepped out of the car and started collecting. I found a bunch of trilobites, but they were so fragile that most of them became trilobite pieces before I could get them out. Jennifer and I found this big rock with a nice trilobite in it. We had to break it apart to get to the trilobite. We worked and worked on it until it finally broke apart for us. When we find a nice fossil we don't give up that easily!

2003 was great fun, and I am looking forward to more great trips in 2004.

The "Dinosaur Card" has moved to the MAGS Explorer Newsletter. Youth, you can get your copy of the MAGS Explorer at the January meeting or check it out on the MAGS website under "newsletters". The first MAGS Youth Member to find Mike Baldwin at the January MAGS meeting and tell him where Arabia Terra is located will receive a prize.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIKE BALDWIN: The results of the 2003 SFMS Bulletin Contest are in for newsletters, articles, and special publications printed in 2002. MAGS won six awards in the 2003 competition. Those awards are: 4th Place for Small Bulletin; 4th Place for New Editor (Mike Baldwin for *MAGS Explorer*); 2nd Place for

Special Publications (“Field Guide for DMC Vulcan Quarry Field Trip”); 5th Place for Adult Article (Mike Baldwin for “Birdsong Shale”); Honorable Mention for Adult Article (Roger Van Cleef for “History in a Pot”); and 1st Place for Junior Article (Kelly Baldwin for “A Visit with Sue”). Congratulations MAGS!

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AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:

New Editor 7th-95 • Junior Article 3rd-98; 8th-03 • Special Pub 4th-03

SFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:

New Editor 1st-86 • New Editor 2nd-88, 97 • New Editor (Explorer) 4th-03

Certificate of Excellence-89, 90, 91, 92, 93 • Large Bulletin 1st-87

Small Bulletin 4th-03 • Special Publication 2nd-03 • Art-77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st-03

Adult Article-(2th) 89, 90; (3rd) 92; (4th) 85; (5th) 91, 03; (6th) 87; (Hon. Men.) 03

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 mining, identification, cutting, polishing and mounting of gems, minerals and fossils to the utmost of our geological and lapidary capabilities.

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MAGS Rockhound News
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Collierville, TN 38017-2301

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meeting
January 6

General Meeting
January 9

M³ Meeting
None in January

MAGS Field Trip
None in January

DMC Field Trip
January 17

DUES ARE
PAST DUE!

