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Who's 55?

But not eligible for a senior citizen discount

WC McDANIEL: In chronological years, the Memphis Archeological and Geological Society will be 55 years old in 2006. In geological years that represents a minuscule blip of the Quaternary Period and about eight years in rock "hound" years. As this

anniversary arrives, it is beneficial for the

club and its members to pause, put down our rock collecting bag,

turn off the rock saw, and take

a look at ourselves. How are we doing? What are our accomplishments, challenges and plans for the coming years?

How are we doing?

That's a fairly broad question that can be reviewed by looking at a couple of objective measurements:

membership and financials, and by reviewing the club's programs and activities.

The club's membership numbers are stable. For 2006 we will report 272 (216 adult, 56 juniors) members to the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS). In addition MAGS continues to attract new members, adding thirteen in the last three months of 2005. Sadly, the past few years, including 2005, MAGS has experienced the death of many long time and valuable members. Our commitment to them and their legacy is to continue to carry out the goals and objectives of the club.

Financially, the club is in excellent and stable shape. The club's account, which contains our general fund, library fund, Junior's program fund and the Don Green education fund, provides for the club's activities and programs. The general fund pays for the basic needs and expenses of the club and is funded by membership dues, certificate of deposit interest income and a portion of club auction proceeds. The library fund provides for the purchases of books, supplies and videos and is funded by the general fund, overdue fines and a portion of club auction proceeds. The Juniors' fund provides for the activities and events of the junior program and is funded by the ROCKZONE proceeds from the show. The Don Green Education fund is named after Donovan Green who was a MAGS member from 1955 until his

see Who's 55? on page nine



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President's Corner WC McDANIEL

As MAGS starts the New Year I have taken the opportunity and liberty to write several New Year resolutions for each club member. I hope you will take the time to commit to following those resolutions that you have the time and willingness to do.

I will take my 2006 calendar and mark off the second Friday of each month so I can attend the membership meetings. I will volunteer to help with the hospitality by bringing refreshments, serving and with cleaning up. I will bring and participate in displays. I will take the time to check out and use the material in the library. I will bring or invite friends, neighbors and relatives to the meetings.

I will take my 2006 calendar and mark off the show dates of Friday April 21, Saturday April 22 and Sunday April 23. I will sign up and commit to help with the show's volunteer requirements and needs. I will donate material to the gem dig and grab bags. I will promote the show by telling all my friends, neighbors, relatives and coworkers.

I will participate in field trips. I will help the field trip leader by following all safety rules and ethical guidelines, follow convoy guidelines and arrive on time for trip departures.

I will volunteer to help with other club events and activities throughout the year such as rock swaps.

The last resolution (it's a big one) is that I will make a commitment to serve as an officer of the club in 2007/8. When the nominating committee calls me in the last quarter of the year, I will say "yes."

WC McDaniel

2006 Dates to Remember

	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Articles
January	5	13	-
February	3	10	January 27
March	3	10	February 24
April	6	14	March 24
May	4	12	April 28
June	1	9	May 26

This Just In!

MAGS HELPS OUT

MAGS has made a donation of \$250 to the Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society of Gulfport, MS. The club suffered major losses due to Hurricane Katrina. The donated money will help the club refurbish and restock the club's workshop.

MAGS JUNIORS DO IT AGAIN

Once again a MAGS junior member has won the Junior of the Year (JOY) contest in the Southeast Federation Mineralogical Society. Rhena South won for the second year in a row. Rhena received a plaque and very nice mineral specimen from India. Karen Schaeffer received a Certificate of Participation. Karen received a framed certificate and mineral specimen from India. Congratulations to both of our winning junior members, their parents and to our Junior program leaders Raynee Randolph and Sherida Helms.

JANUARY AUCTION

During the January membership meeting MAGS will auction the remaining specimens of minerals donated to the club by Glenn Cleveland. The majority of the specimens are from the Western United States, Mexico and North Carolina.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society presents the 27th annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show on Saturday April 22 and Sunday April 23, 2006 at the Pipkin Building, Midsouth Fairgrounds. Don't miss it and don't miss your opportunity to be a show volunteer.

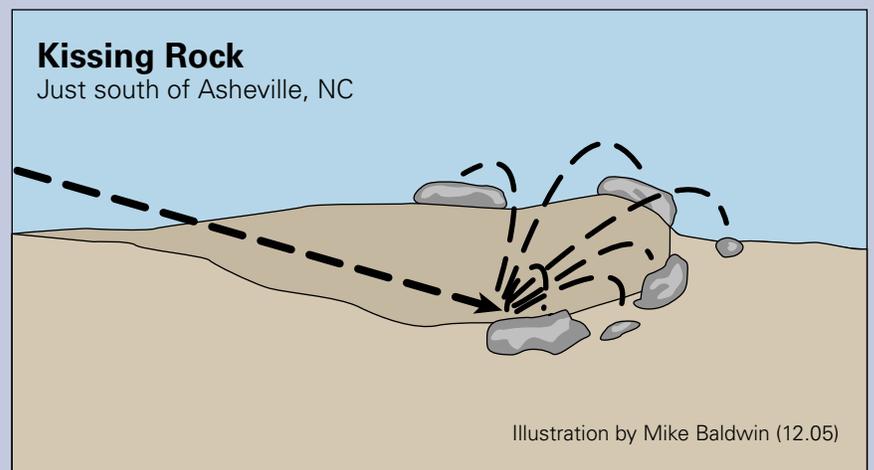
Kissing Rock

MIKE BALDWIN – 12.28.05: One of my favorite places to go when I was a kid growing up in the mountains of western North Carolina was a place we all called "Kissing Rock." From our house at the base of the mountain, we had to hike over a small ridge to get to Kissing Rock and all of us kids were fascinated by it. As I look back on it now, it's not a spectacular place, but it is unusual. On top of the ridge is a hole in the ground . . . a pretty big hole . . . maybe fifteen feet in diameter and six or seven feet deep. Boulders are strewn around three sides of the hole. The boulders aren't very big, perhaps three feet by two feet by two feet. From these boulders you can imagine where Kissing Rock got its name. Each one of them is about the size of a bench just big enough for two people to sit on.

Over the years I have told my family about Kissing Rock, but it wasn't until we were visiting relatives during Thanksgiving 2005 that they actually got to see this mysterious place for themselves. The day was very pleasant, overcast, not too cool—a perfect day for a hike, so we went on an adventure through the woods and on our way back someone mentioned Kissing Rock. Things have changed a little since the days of my youth, but we were persistent in our search and soon we found the hole.

Now, being the inquisitive bunch that we are, we began to analyze the site. Jennifer and Kelly examined the boulders, while Sherri climbed down into the hole and brushed away years of accumulated leaves and soil. She discovered a layer of rock fragments. She pulled a few out, we all examined them for a while and then she placed them back just as she had found them. I believe we have solved the mystery of Kissing Rock. Our conclusion is that this hole is a meteor impact crater. There are several reasons for our belief. There are boulders only on three sides of the hole. The hole is slightly elliptical. The eastern side of the hole is a bit higher than the western side. After close examination, you can almost see the angle of impact. The only thing missing is the meteor.

On one of our future visits to North Carolina, I am sure we will take a closer look at Kissing Rock. Perhaps we will find the rock that caused this hole.



MAGS Roadcut

WC McDANIEL: January's Roadcut focuses on some the origins of the names of common minerals.

- Almandine Garnet - Albanda, town in ancient Asia Minor
- Azurite - Azure-blue color
- Barite - Greek "barys" for heavy
- Bauxite - at Baux, France
- Chalcopyrite - Greek "chalcos" = copper + "pyrites" for fury
- Chrysocolla - Greek "chrysos" = gold + "kolla" for blue
- Dolomite - Deodat de Dolomieu (1750-1801), mineralogist
- Fluorite - Latin "fluere" = to flow
- Kyanite - Greek "kyanos" = dark blue
- Malachite - Greek "moloche" = mallow
- Opal - Sanskrit "upala" = precious stone
- Pyrite - Greek "pyr" = fire
- Topaz - Greek "topazos" = gemstone of lost identity
- Wulfenite - Franz Xaver von Wulfen (1728-1805), mineralogist

Source: http://dph1701.tripod.com/geology/mineralnames_name.html



Kyanite

Image courtesy of Millennium Minerals; <http://www.millenniumminerals.com/gemstones/kyanite.html>

Sunshine and Caring

MELBA COLE: Since last we meet, Nancy Folden, our true and faithful librarian, has been in and out of the hospital, bringing home with her a brand new pacemaker. Nancy, we wish you well and hope to see you back up to full energy very soon.

Idajeen Jordan, we missed you at the Christmas party in December, but we are glad that you were only under the weather for one day . . . we just wish it had been another day. By the way, thank you for all the wonderful programs that you organize for us, as MAGS' Program Vice President.

Congratulations to Jennifer Baldwin for making the Deans's List at the University of Memphis, after completing her first semester in Biomedical Engineering.

If you know of any MAGS members who are in the hospital, not feeling well, or recovering and/or members who have received awards, achieved honors, or accomplished great things, let me know so we can share the information with the rest of the family.

January Program

IDAJEAN JORDAN: Adults, join us on Friday night, January 13 for an interesting time with Tom Miller, as he introduces us to the Peabody Place Museum – home of a treasure trove of rare, priceless Asian and European art and artifacts, including hundreds of jade sculptures and ivory carvings of the ancient Manchu Dynasty, Scandinavian art glass, Italian mosaics, gemstones, minerals, fossils, scholar's rocks and a large and extensive exhibition of scrolls, Judaic objects, paintings and bronzes. Peabody Place Museum is located at 119 S. Main St., Concourse Level, Memphis, TN 38103 (901-523-ARTS).

January Birthdays

MELBA COLE: Birthstone for January is Garnet.

- 1 - Patrick Long
- 3 - Linda Waddell
- 4 - Randy Thomas
- 5 - Floyd Lenz
- 7 - Rosie Crawford
- 7 - Michael Long
- 10 - Noa Parks
- 12 - Zack Worrell
- 13 - Jon Beckum
- 21 - Richard Gunter
- 25 - Michael Cates
- 29 - Doris Currington
- 29 - Herbert Horowitz
- 30 - Bill Smith
- 31 - Teresa Noyes

Bold type indicates lifetime members.

Web Site Statistics for December 2005

MIKE BALDWIN: Here's a brief look at our web site [www.memphisgeology.org] 01.21.02 through 12.28.05:

Visits.....124,351
 Hits 526,673 Hits
 Average visits per day

in past 30 days..... 292

Top pages in the past 30 days:

- argon2003.pdf..... 902 hits
- Explorer0203.pdf..... 708 hits
- Home page657 hits
- Explorer0604.pdf.....370 hits
- rocknews1005.pdf 343 hits
- TriangulumCluster.pdf301 hits
- Explorer0403.pdf..... 296 hits
- rocknews1205.pdf 246 hits
- Explorer0703.pdf 236 hits

A visit is every time someone comes to our web site. A hit is every page viewed once a user enters our web

Saddest News

FRANK AND FRANCES WALKER – 11.07.05:

It is with the saddest heart that we must pass on the following news.

Please join us in remembering a great icon of the entertainment community.

The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 71. Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin. Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies and Cap'n Crunch.

The grave side was piled high with flours. Aunt Jemima delivered the eulogy and lovingly described Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded. Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not considered a very 'smart' cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes.

Despite being a little flaky in his youth and a crusty old man, he was considered a roll model for millions.

Dough Boy is survived by his wife, Play Dough; two children, John Dough and Jane Dough; plus the bun they had in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father, Pop Tart. The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.



A toast to the Pillsbury Doughboy

Explosion on the Moon

DR. TONY PHILLIPS: NASA: 12.23.05: NASA scientists have observed an explosion on the moon. The blast, equal in energy to about 70 kg of TNT, occurred near the edge of Mare Imbrium (the Sea of Rains) on Nov. 7, 2005, when a 12-centimeter-wide meteoroid slammed into the ground traveling 27 km/s.

"What a surprise," says Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) researcher Rob Suggs, who recorded the impact's flash. He and colleague Wes Swift were testing a new telescope and video camera they assembled to monitor the moon for meteor strikes. On their first night out, "we caught one," says Suggs.

The object that hit the moon was part of the same meteor shower that peppered Earth with fireballs in late October and early November 2005. The moon was peppered, too, but unlike Earth, the moon has no atmosphere to intercept meteoroids and turn them into harmless streaks of light. On the moon, meteoroids hit the ground and explode.

"The flash we saw," says Suggs, "was about as bright as a 7th magnitude star." That's two and a half times dimmer than the faintest star a person can see with their unaided eye, but it was an easy catch for the group's 10-inch telescope.

Cooke estimates that the impact gouged a crater in the moon's surface "about 3 meters wide and 0.4 meters deep." As moon craters go, that's small. "Even the Hubble Space Telescope couldn't see it," notes Cooke. The moon is 384,400 km away. At that distance, the smallest things Hubble can distinguish are about 60 meters wide.

This isn't the first time meteoroids have been seen hitting the moon. During the Leonid meteor storms of 1999 and 2001, amateur and professional astronomers witnessed at least half-a-dozen flashes ranging in brightness from 7th to 3rd magnitude. Many of the explosions were photographed simultaneously by widely separated observers.

Since the Leonids of 2001, astronomers have not spent much time hunting for lunar meteors. "It's gone out of fashion," says Suggs. But with NASA planning to return to the moon by 2018, he says, it's time to start watching again.

"The chance of an astronaut being directly hit by a big meteoroid is miniscule," says Cooke. Although, he allows, the odds are not well known "because we haven't done enough observing to gather the data we need to calculate the odds." Furthermore, while the danger of a direct hit is almost nil for an individual astronaut, it might add up to something appreciable for an entire lunar outpost.

Of greater concern, believes Suggs, is the spray—"the secondary meteoroids produced by the blast." No one knows how far the spray reaches and exactly what form it takes.

Also, ground-shaking impacts could kick up moon dust, possibly over a wide area. Moondust is electrostatically charged and notoriously clingy. Even a small amount of moondust can be a great nuisance: it gets into spacesuit joints and seals, clings to faceplates, and even makes the air smell when it is tramped indoors by moonwalkers. Could meteoroid impacts be a source of lunar "dust storms?"

SOURCE: Dr. Tony Phillips; [An Explosion on the Moon: So You Thought Nothing Ever Happens on the Moon?](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2005/22dec_lunartaurid.htm?list83863); science@NASA; http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2005/22dec_lunartaurid.htm?list83863; 12.23.2005.

January DMC Field Trip

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of The Rome Georgia Mineral Society, Rome GA (Host)

An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

9:30 AM EST • Saturday, January 28, 2006

Durham Mines, Walker Co., GA • Pennsylvanian Age Plant Fossils

The Durham Mines are Georgia's best locality for beautifully preserved Paleozoic plant fossils. Commonly referred to as 'Fern Fossils', but more accurately described as "Coal Fossils", the site offers a wide variety of species: Lycopods such as Lepidodendron; giant horsetails such as Calamites (and its leaves known as Annularia); and seed ferns such as Pecopteris and Alethopteris. You can occasionally find fossilized seeds. For identification purposes, we will provide a sheet to get you started, but any good fossil book will be useful as well when you get home.

The fossils are found by splitting the abundant shale at the site. Most will yield twigs and bark, but with persistence you will find good leaves.

MEET: At the site, on Durham Road in Walker Co., GA. This is in the NW corner of the state of Georgia. From Lafayette, GA follow GA136 West for 20 miles, to GA157. Turn right, going North on GA157 for 6.0 miles. Durham Road will be on the left. Turn left on Durham Road. The mines and the parking area are 1/2 mile on the right. Drive time from the intersection of US27 and GA136 West in Lafayette, is approximately 30 minutes. If you are getting to Lafayette from I-75 at Exit 320, Hwy 136, allow 1 hour and 10 minutes to the site from that exit. From Atlanta, at the intersection of I-285 and I-75 North, allow 2.50 hours total, using GA136 Exit 320.

TOOLS: Bring digging tools. A flat chisel and hammer are essential. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take home material.

OTHER: Also, bring lunch and fluids. This is a good site for children. Pets MUST be on a leash at all times. The field trip will be cancelled if there are any winter weather advisories (watches or warnings) issued for Walker Co., GA by the National Weather Service 12 hours in advance of the meeting time, or for the date of the trip. The make up date would be the following Saturday, February 4.

CONTACT: Jeff Deere Rome GA Mineral Society Field Chair - (770) 386-5447, jdeere@adelphia.net

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!

DMC Program/SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose: To collect field trip information from it's member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.

SFMS Shows

January 20-22, 2006

Largo, FL • Pinellas Geological Society and The Tumblers Youth Club • Largo Cultural Center, Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive • Hours: 20th and 21st, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 A.M.; 22nd, 12:00 Noon - 6:00 P.M.; 22nd, 12:00 Noon - 5:00 P.M. • Contact Hugh Scheffield, 727.894.2440.

February 4-5, 2006

Panama City, FL • Panama City Gem and Mineral Society • 15th Annual Show • 15th Street and Sherman Avenue, Bay County Fairgrounds, American Legion Building • Hours: 4th, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.; 5th, 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. • Contact Al Zar, 850.763.0109 or email Aquezpie@aol.com.

Southeast Federation Workshop Update

Wildacres: Mike Reynolds' class on Space and Local Geology has been moved to August and Jo Harrison's class in Fused Glass is now in April. There will only be one Ken Kipnis Close-up Photography class in April.

William Holland: In June, the Advanced Wirecraft class will be taught by Linda Chandler instead of Ruth Ann Moore.

Please check the SFMS web site for future changes to the Wildacres and William Holland schedules for 2006. The web address is <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>

YOUTH NOTE: What's On Your Mine?

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: The Women in Mining web site is dedicated to educating students, teachers and the general public about the importance of minerals. Parents, you can take a look at the Women in Mining web site by pointing your web browser to <http://www.womeninmining.org>. You will be amazed at all the information on mining and minerals available to you and your kids. This year, 2006, we will be using the resources available through this web site to teach your kids about mining processes and mineral identification. And the fun begins at the January MAGS Youth Meeting. One of the activities we will be doing on January 13 is called "Cupcake Core Drilling". Trying to "see" what is beneath the surface of the earth is one of the jobs of a geologist. Instead of digging up vast tracts of land, core samples can be taken and analyzed to determine the likely composition of the earth's interior. In the "Cupcake Core Drilling" activity, the kids will model core sampling techniques to learn what sort of layers are in the cupcake.

One of our very own MAGS' members takes core samples of the earth all the time. His name is Alan Parks (Noa and Harrison's dad). Ask him about his job sometime. He'll be glad to talk to you about it.



Rock, Sand, Soil

The rocks you see around you are all made of minerals. A rock is made up of 2 or more minerals. Think of a chocolate chip cookie as a rock. The cookie is made of flour, butter, sugar & chocolate. The cookie is like a rock and the flour, butter, sugar and chocolate are like minerals. You need minerals to make rocks, but you don't need rocks to make minerals. All rocks are made of minerals.

When rocks break down into small pieces, they turn into sand. If you look at sand under a microscope, you will see that it is made up of the same minerals as the rocks that the sand came from. Plants start to sprout in sand, turning it from being just small bits of rock to being soil.

Soil is made up of sand and decomposing plants and animals. Soil has many names including: clay, silt, mud, dirt, topsoil, dust, potting soil and humus.

2005 Junior of the Year Rhena A.V. South

LEONA AND HUGH SHEFFIELD, SFMS YOUTH RESOURCES CHAIRMEN: Rhena has won the "JOY" award for the second year. Rhena is a 10 year old member of the adult and youth Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. She is an active member of the Girl Scouts, having received a Bronze Award and 35 badges including the Geology Badge.

She has been on several field trips with her club and family and visited many museums. She has published in the *Lodestar* and was mentioned in the *AFMS*

Newsletter and the *Rock and Gem Magazine*. Rhena has participated in her club show as an exhibitor and helper. She is also a co-editor of the book, *Our Brooklyn Ancestors*.

Rhena loves science and historical things. The JOY award was given on the basis of completing the criteria and points. Rhena has a total of 716 points!!

The SFMS award was given at the SFMS Annual Banquet November 15, 2005. Rhena received a plaque and a crystal specimen. Congratulations Rhena!

2005 Junior of the Year Certificate of Participation Karen Schaeffer

LEONA AND HUGH SHEFFIELD, SFMS YOUTH RESOURCES CHAIRMEN: We also have a winner of a Certificate of Participation who completed the JOY criteria and has been an active member of MAGS.

Karen is a 10 year old who has enjoyed many field and family trips, visited museums and science centers. She enjoys fossils and shares her interest with others. Her Science Fair project was *Removing Iron Oxide from Quartz Crystals*. Karen had a total of 350 points and received a certificate and a mineral specimen. Congratulations Karen!

November 2005 Board Meeting Notes

SUSANTHOM: The MAGS board of directors met on November 3, 2005 at the Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue, presided by WC McDaniel, who opened the meeting at 6:30pm. In attendance were: Mike Baldwin, James Butchko, Melba Cole, Idajeane Jordan, WC and Cornelia McDaniel, Park Noyes, Raynee Randolph, Susan Thom and Lou White.

- (01) **Treasurer's Report** presented by Cornelia McDaniel
- (02) **Field Trip Report** presented by Lou White: November 13 trip will be to Memphis Stone & Gravel; bring friends; club needs to maintain a three-month field trip calendar.
- (03) **Adult Program Report** presented by Idajeane Jordan: Tennessee state geologist, Dr. Marvin Berwin, cannot come. Idajeane will present program on Devonian fossils of West TN. Discussion about whether auction proceeds from Glenn Cleveland mineral sales to the Don Green fund for educational materials, field trips and general displays. The December Christmas party/potluck will be December 9 at 7:30pm. Club furnishes ham and turkey, plates, plastic ware, napkins, etc. Board members bring drinks. Need Christmas party coordinator. Presents should be hobby-related gifts with a \$10 limit.
- (04) **Youth Program Report** presented by Raynee Randolph. November-youth Christmas party with a Native

American theme. December-youth will join adults at Christmas party.

- (05) **Web/Editor Report** presented by Mike Baldwin: Please submit articles early for the December issue, due to holiday schedules. In the near future, the newsletter will be formatted in Microsoft Word, a program used by more MAGS members.
- (06) **Sunshine Report** presented by Melba Cole: Roger Van Cleef is not doing well.
- (07) **Membership Report** presented by Cornelia McDaniel: Ed Underhill is returning from Iraq. One new membership application—Stan and Anne Laulederkind.
- (08) **Historian Report** presented by Mike Baldwin: Sherri will begin working on the history of our club.
- (09) **Show Report** presented by James Butchko: Rent money for 2006 show is due. Show committee will meet next in January.
- (10) **New Business** presented by WC McDaniel: Release, Waiver and Indemnity Agreement submitted for future field trips. It would be an ongoing agreement until member asks to have Agreement changed or cancels membership. Cornelia agreed to maintain current list of members who have agreements on file. At next board meeting, we will plan future 2006 events.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

November 2005 Membership Meeting Notes

SUSANTHOM: The MAGS membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on November 11, 2005, presided by president WC McDaniel. There were 62 members and 13 visitors—Lorraine, Nathan and Parker Bradford; Jessie and Ryan Bridges; David Carter; Virginia Graham; Katie Jo Henry; Kelly and Sara Rayne; and David, Murrell and Mary Ann Weaver.

- (01) Membership dues are due now
- (02) November 13 (Sunday afternoon) field trip to Memphis Stone and Gravel in Olive Branch, MS
- (03) December 9—Christmas Party! Pam and Cindy volunteered to help coordinate the party. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a gift valued at \$10 that is hobby-related. Members are requested to bring one or two potluck dishes and/or dessert item and/or appetizers. MAGS provides the ham and turkey, cutlery, plates, table decoration, etc. Board members bring drinks.
- (04) Program—Idajeane Jordan spoke on Devonian Fossils of West Tennessee.
- (05) Live and silent auction materials donated by Glenn Cleveland. Proceeds go to Don Green Fund.
- (06) Theme displays—Gravel Fossils.
- (07) Competitive Displays—Display prizes were awarded to: Lauren and Danielle Schaeffer (youth) and Carol Lybanon (adult).
- (08) Door Prize won by Robert Enzerink.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

The Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society would like to issue a challenge to all Southeast Federation clubs to donate funds and/or materials to help Katrina-impacted clubs rebuild!

Who's 55? from page one

death in 1990. The fund provides for the club's education activities and programs. It was originally funded through auction proceeds from the collection of Don Green and continues to be funded from the club's auction proceeds.

The club's annual show, the Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show, operates a separate account for the production and maintenance of the show. The show's account is in excellent and stable shape. In addition the show/club holds three certificates of deposits. The interest proceeds go to the club's general fund.

MAGS continues to provide its members and prospective members a full schedule of events. A review of 2005 club activities includes:

- (1) Twelve monthly membership meetings that included adult and junior programs, displays, demonstrations and auctions. The average attendance for our membership meetings was 66.
- (2) Ten field trips to a variety of fossil and mineral collecting sites. In addition, twelve Dixie Mineral Council (a program of the SFMS) trips were made available to MAGS members in 2005.
- (3) The MAGS *Rockhound News* and web site www.memphisgeology.org provided a consistent and reliable information resource to our club members and general public.
- (4) The club provided four outdoor and one indoor rock swaps in 2005.
- (5) The 26th edition of the Mid-America Mineral Fossil Jewelry Show was held in April. The attendance, financial numbers, quantity and quality of the dealers, displays, demonstrations

and Rockzone were by all accounts and feedback very good and successful.

What are some the accomplishments of the club? Certainly a having a stable and growing club with a full compliment of events and activities should be enough to pat ourselves of the back and say "well done, MAGS." But there is more. In the past five years MAGS has provided almost \$10,000 in direct grants and donations to various community organizations including: Ronald McDonald House of Memphis, Tennessee Earth Science Teachers (TEST), Delta State University, Friends of The Chucalissa Archeological Museum and the Memphis -Shelby County Science Fair Earth Science Awards. Recently, we donated money to help the Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society of Gulfport, MS rebuild from the losses that occurred due to Hurricane Katrina.

In addition, MAGS continues to provide direct educational and information services and programs to schools, scouts and general public. The majority of these presentations are presented to elementary age children and cub scouts seeking their geology badges. Additionally, the MAGS' web site receives inquiries from around the world seeking geological and paleontology information.

What are some of the challenges MAGS faces in the near future? Or to put it another way, what are the opportunities we must proactively pursue? MAGS faces three challenges: field trips/collecting sites, maintaining events and programs for our members and the show.

One of our biggest challenges is finding consistent and good places to collect fossils and minerals. "Closed" has become a to frequent six letter word heard by rockhounds and poses a big challenge for the future. To help, each member should be on the lookout for collecting sites, and most importantly, make sure you follow the eighteen ethical guidelines published by the American Federation of Mineral Societies (AFMS).

Members renew and people join because they have a keen interest in geology, lapidary and/or archeology. How the club responds to these varied interests will have a major impact on the direction of the club. For example, in the area of lapidary, the club ideally would like to have a workshop type of arrangement in order to teach and learn the various lapidary arts. Do you know a place or have an idea?

A pending challenge is the future location of our annual show. The current location, the Fairgrounds, has been the focus of much public discussion, opinions and proposals. What the near future holds for the club/show is an unknown factor at this time. However, the club must proactively monitor the situation and make sure it controls its own decision and destiny.

So in response to the original question, how are we doing? As John Prine says in one song, "Pretty good, not bad, I can't complain." To continue, the club needs and wants all members to be involved and proactive in maintaining the club programs and activities and responding to our challenges.

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

Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, other societies may use material published in MAGS Rockhound News provided that proper credit is given and the sense or meaning of the material is not changed.

Editor: Mike Baldwin, 367 North Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017.

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AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:

New Editor 7th-95 • Small Bulletin Honorable Mention-04 • Adult Article 10th-04 • Junior Article 3rd-98; 8th-03 • Special Pub 4th-03

SFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:

New Editor 1st-86; 2nd-88, 97 • New Editor (Explorer) 4th-03 • Certificate of Excellence-89, 90, 91, 92, 93 • Large Bulletin 1st-87 • Small Bulletin 1st-04, 4th-03 • Special Publication 2nd-03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st-03 • Adult Article 2nd- 89, 90, 04; 3rd-92; 4th-85, 04; 5th-91, 03; 6th-87; 8th-04; Honorable Mention-03, 04

DUES: \$20 (Family); \$16 (Single); \$8 (Junior)

JANUARY 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- Jan 01 **DUES ARE DUE TODAY!** If you haven't paid, please do.
- Jan 05 6:30P MAGS Board Meeting - Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
- Jan 13 7:30P MAGS Membership Meeting - Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road • Bring displays and refreshments •
Adult Program: Tom Miller (Peabody Place Museum) • see page 4
Youth Program: Mine Games and Activities • see page 7
- Jan 28 8:30A DMC Field Trip - Durham Mines, Walker County, Georgia •
Pennsylvanian Age Plant Fossils/Rockcastle Formation • see page 6



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