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## Collecting at Ron Coleman Crystal Mine

**DAVID DAY :** It would be hard to imagine November 2007's field trip to the Ron Coleman Crystal Mine in Jessieville, AR possibly having more perfect conditions than we were lucky enough to enjoy. Rain had recently washed everything and the chilly morning quickly gave way to *just-cool-enough* which made it easy to collect crystals that, in some cases being freshly washed, sat openly catching the morning light and just waiting to be picked up, or if you preferred, to seriously get down and dig into the loose and not too wet mounds. If you were an early bird, there were no footprints or freshly turned dirt ahead of you. However, deer season (so we heard from rumor and the frequent but distant bangs) had called the dozer man away, so there were no fresh deposits dumped while we collected, although we were really busy enough without them. About twenty people signed my record book, checked in at the gift shop around 8:00 a.m. and then headed into the collecting area. I had the good fortune to

[SEE "COLEMAN CRYSTAL MINE" CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]

## 2007 – 2008 Officers and Board of Directors

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**MAGS Rockhound News is published monthly by and for the members of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments and articles to Shelby Hartman 5116 Whiteway Drive, Memphis, TN 38117 (email: miashart@aol.com).**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



### SANDY WARD :

Greetings MAGS members! I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and I would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year. It's time to put away all the holiday decorations and drag out those New Year's resolutions once again! I don't know about you, but my resolution is to lose about 30 pounds. You can help me by reminding me of this when you see my pigging out at the snack table after our meetings each month.

I want to thank the nominating committee for their confidence in me and for the honor of serving as your club president for the next two years. I must admit that I'm a little intimidated at the thought of taking the wheel from someone who has steered this organization so successfully for the past four years. W.C. McDaniel has done a fabulous job as president of MAGS and I am thrilled that he has agreed to help and advise me whenever I need him, as well as assist with programs each month. Thanks also to our outgoing board for their service, as well as to Mike Baldwin, Randa Spears, James Butchko and Shelby Hartman for their willingness to stay another term. I want to thank the incoming board as well for their volunteer spirit. I look forward to working with all of you and getting to know our new members better.

Again, best wishes for a healthy and happy 2007!

*-Sandy Ward*

## 2007 Dates to Remember

	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date For Newsletter Submissions
January	04	12	Dec 23
February	01	09	Jan 24
March	01	09	Feb 21
April	05	13	Mar 28
May	03	11	Apr 25
June	5/31	08	May 23
July	05	13	Jun 27
August	02	10	Jul 25
September	06	14	Aug 29
October	04	12	Sep 26
November	01	09	Oct 24
December	06	14	Nov 28



## Announcements

### ROCK SHOW

Let's all keep our eye on the calendar in preparation for the 2007 Show. April isn't that far away so let's all do our parts to make sure everything gets done. Jim Butchko, once again, is our very capable Show Chairman. If you know you will have time to volunteer to assist with any aspect of the Show, be sure to check in with James at one of the upcoming meetings or drop him an email. Also, be sure to check each month's collection schedule for the grab bag materials found elsewhere in this newsletter under "The Show 500." Everyone who has volunteered to sew grab bags can give them to Jim upon completion.

### MAGS MEMBER PASSES AWAY

On Saturday, December 16, one of our MAGS members, Anne Warren, passed away. Anne was a resident of Clarksville, TN. She was the wife of Carl Warren and mother of Melinda Warrant. The Warrens are active and valuable members of MAGS and we extend to them our deepest sympathy and support.

## January Roadcut

**SHELBY HARTMAN:** W.C. McDaniel has graciously agreed to continue the very informative, interesting and entertaining Roadcut article each month, which he began during his term as club president. He is taking a break this month to "stew in his creative juices" and, in lieu of this month's Roadcut, (and in his new capacity as Director of Adult Programs) he is offering us a preview of the January membership meeting program:

Petrified wood will be the topic and the program will be delivered in two parts. First, an SFMS slide show entitled "Agate and Wood from the Texas Big Bend and Mexico." For the second part of the program, MAGS members Dan and Barb Reed will talk about collecting petrified wood in Eastern Washington. They will also bring a display of their finds. Members are requested and encouraged to bring a petrified wood display. Below are examples of petrified wood collected in Eastern Washington by Dan and Barb Reed. [PHOTOGRAPHS BELOW COURTESY OF DAN REED]



# Coleman Crystal Mine

[CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE]

meet and spend some time with Ron Coleman himself while waiting and I chatted with him and the gift shop keeper until I could no longer wait to dig in also. About ten more members arrived later which made for a great combination of both our MAGS group and the CAGMAGS (Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society), who thankfully joined us to help insure the half price group rate and to share a beautiful day digging, talking and reveling in one another's finds. Some of us stayed until the long slant of the ever-changing afternoon light made places previously covered sparkle again with overlooked discoveries which made having to leave all the more difficult when the loud speaker started warning the day's end.

We all had a great day collecting on Saturday, but several of us also made the trek over to Miller Mountain early Sunday morning to check out the possibilities there which required some adjustments in collecting because of the mine's normally somewhat more difficult conditions combined with the previous sunny, breezy day's drying winds. This made that infamous gummy red clay much more reluctant to yield its hidden treasures. However, it was well worth the trip which included a beautiful day, that fabulous view and the scenic drive. I cannot wait to see everyone's prize pieces cleaned and displayed at upcoming meetings along with the irresistible items some members purchased from the excellent mine and roadside rock shops which, as always, were worth a look. Thanks especially to CAGMAGS members who really helped to make our day. We hope to see you again soon!

[PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF SHELBY HARTMAN (1) (ON FRONT PAGE) SPECIMEN COLLECTED BY SHELBY HARTMAN (2)(3)(4)(ABOVE) VIEWS OF RON COLEMAN CRYSTAL MINE COLLECTION SITE]



# January Birthdays

The birthstone for January is garnet.



- 1 Patrick Long
- 2 R. Elaine Entrekin
- 3 Linda Waddell
- 4 David Gembala
- 4 Randy Thomas
- 5 Floyd Lenz
- 7 Rosie Crawford
- 7 Michael Long
- 10 Noa Parks
- 14 Jessie Bridges
- 14 Kalki Winter
- 14 Aimee Whitley
- 21 Richard Gunter
- 25 Michael Cates
- 25 Randa Spears
- 26 Tom Miller
- 27 Max Whitley
- 29 Doris Currington
- 29 Herbert Horowitz
- 30 Bill Smith
- 31 Teresa Noyes

**Garnet:** The garnet at its best is a deep, rich red or purple-red although they come in practically every color except blue. Early scientists named the stone from the Latin granatus, which means "seed like," because garnet crystals in a rock reminded them of the shape and color of pomegranate seeds. It was believed also to possess many curative powers. Asians used garnets as bullets in the belief that their strong red color would inflict a deadly wound. The most expensive garnet is the brilliant green variety called demantoid (diamond like), which approaches emerald shade and exceeds the diamond in fire or dispersion. The finest of these garnets, which are quite rare, are found in the Ural Mountains.

## "The Show 500" in 2007

**W.C. MCDANIEL** This is a year long program to collect rocks and fossils for the gem dig and grab bags for the **28<sup>th</sup> annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil Jewelry Show** which will take place **April 28 and 29, 2007**. In addition to rocks and minerals, cloth material will be collected to make the grab bags and volunteers will be needed to sew the 500 bags. Each month a targeted donation has been identified. Bring your donations and contributions to the membership meeting according to the schedule shown below:

- August** : **Cloth material will be collected, as well as commitments to sew bags**
- September** : **Druse quartz, lace agate and Barite from Missouri**
- October** : **Tumbled stones and petrified Wood**
- November** : **Fossils and geodes**
- December** : **Your choice**
- January** : **Quartz from any locality**
- February** : **Miscellaneous minerals**
- March** : **Fossils and tumbled stones**
- April** : **To be determined based on necessity**

### Web Site Statistics for December 2006

Here's a brief look at our website ([www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org)) from 1/21/02-12/21/06

Total Vists & Hits		Top page views past 30 days	
Total visits to web site	177,618	rocknews1206	531
Total hits to web site	652,002	homepage	527
Visits in past 30 days	6,333	argon2003	379
Hits in past 30 days	18,988	explorer0604	309
		rocknews1106	149

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

## February DMC Field Trip

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.  
The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the Mid-GA Gem & Mineral Society,  
Macon GA (HOST) and An Official Field Trip of MAGS

**Date/Time: Saturday, February 24, 2007 10am-4pm EST**  
**Location: The Famous Hogg Mine, Troup County, GA**

**COLLECTING:** Rose quartz, tourmaline, beryl, mica books and quartz crystal. The Rose Quartz will star if cut correctly and some of the beryl can be gemmy Aquamarine.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Atlanta, take I-85 south to LaGrange. Exit onto Hwy 219 also Whitesville Rd (exit 13) and go south (left) about 2.2 miles from I-85. We will be meeting at Smith's Corner Store (the Citgo on the left) at the intersection at Whitesville Rd. and Bartley Rd. From Carrollton, take Hwy 2 South past Wal-Mart. Go through Franklin and LaGrange. Just stay straight and Hwy 27 dumps into Hwy 219. Take Hwy 219 south and cross I-85. Allow 1 hour and 15 minutes from Atlanta at I285 and I-85 connection on the south side.

**FEE:** Adults \$15 and children under 17 are free. Upon arrival you will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Pick, shovel, rock hammer, chisels, scratching tools, screen, buckets and, of course, plenty of water. Big'Un's Barbecue will smoke a pig on-site and barbecue plates and drinks will be available for a nominal charge. There is a port-o-john on site. JXR T-shirts, field trip guide books and specimens will also be available for sale. We have been lucky and had beautiful clear and even warm weather in February but extra clothes/boots might be useful if it's muddy or the weather turns cold.

**CONTACT:** Trip Chairman: Jay Batcha (478) 784-1965. Or email rocky1s@cox. Mr. Batcha's cell phone is (770) 757-6510

**WHERE TO STAY:** Days Inn (706)882-8881. There is a variety of restaurants in the area, as well as other hotels.

The Hogg Mine was slated for residential building. Fortunately Rodney Moore was able to show the owner the importance of the land as a mineral collection site and permission was acquired to manage the site for that purpose. Please follow the standard code of ethics to preserve our use of this site.

*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 its 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 the "official" scheduled field trips.*

## 2007 SFMS Shows

**January 12-14 Largo, Florida**  
**Pinellas Geological Society**

Location: Largo Cultural Center, Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive.

Contact Huge Sheffield at 727.894.2440.  
or 2440 Southshore Drive SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Hours: 12th & 13th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 14th, 12:00 Noon - 5:00 P.M.



**February 24-25, 2007 Jackson, MS**  
**Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society.**

Location: Trade Mart Building, State Fairgrounds, I-55 and High Street.

Contact Betty James at 601.914.6747 or mineralid@jam.rr.com, aa.gmfs@earthlink.net; or

www.homestead.com/aikengems.

Hours: 24<sup>th</sup> 9am-6pm and 25<sup>th</sup> 10am – 5pm.

### A Big Welcome To Our Newest MAGS Members!

Patricia Podzorski

David & Petrice Gembala  
& Family

Mike & Sara Easley

Dr. Chandra (Shawn) & Amelia  
Tummalapalli & Family

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# HELP PRESERVE ACCESS TO OUR COLLECTING SITES!

A message forwarded by  
**THE SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.**  
The Friendly Federation – Founded in 1976 to serve.

Hi All!

As most of you know, BLM and the Forest Service have been closing roads all over the place and we are losing collecting areas. There are two efforts ongoing that are vital to our future collecting. First, most of the environmental groups wish to close roads and trails in the public lands so they can be made into wilderness areas. That means NO VEHICLES. Thus, closing of roads are a favorite target to start the process.

However, some of those roads are used by county governments and others for a number of uses. So there has been a full scale effort to assert the claims of existing roads and trails from closing. A number of law suits have been started and pressure has been applied to Congress to correct the situation.

Representative Steve Pearce of New Mexico has introduced a bill (HR6298) to protect the public rights of access granted by Congress under the old law R.S. 2477 and further protected by the new law, The Federal Land Management and Policy Act.

I request that everyone send Representative Pearce a BIG THANK YOU note for his effort. We are quick to ask for assistance but often fail to say thank you when our representatives respond. In this case, this bill will be reintroduced into the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress and we will need the help of a number of representatives and senators to get it passed. By sending a thank you note to Representative Pearce, we give him the means to ask other members to support this bill. PLEASE send a message. His address is:

The Honorable Steve Pearce  
1607 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-3102  
Fax: (202) 225-9599  
Email: <http://www.house.gov/formpearch/email.htm>

Second, there is an ongoing survey by the Forest Service to identify which roads will remain open and which will be closed. This survey is called the Travel Management Planning Process. The Forest Service is asking those that use the forest roads to identify those roads and trails that we use so they can study which should remain open. All others will be closed to vehicle traffic. To my knowledge the process is ongoing in New Mexico, Arizona and, of all places, Connecticut. I suggest you check out the Forest Service in your area and make sure the roads to our collecting sites are covered.

Thanks for your attention!

Howell Whiting  
American Lands Access Associate Director  
[htwdhw@dfn.com](mailto:htwdhw@dfn.com)



## November 2006 Board Meeting Notes

**SUSAN THOM** The MAGS board of directors met on November 2, 2006 at the Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue, presided by W.C. McDaniel who opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Mike Baldwin, James Butchko, Melba Cole, Shelby Hartman, Sherida Helms, Idajean Jordan, Cornelia & W.C. McDaniel, Susan Thom, and Lou White. The minutes from the Board and Membership meeting minutes were presented, seconded and approved with correction in Membership Meeting minutes: in 8) Melinda Warren set up the club booth. The following reports were given: (1) Treasurer Report presented by Cornelia McDaniel: The financial report was given, motion made, seconded, and the vote carried the motion to approve report with corrections noted and subject to audit. (2) Field Trip Report presented by Lou White – Barry Burns is leading our trip to Ron Coleman's quart mine located in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas on November 18<sup>th</sup>. (3) Adult Program presented by Idajean Jordan: Dr. Patricia Podzorski of the Egyptian Institute of the University of Memphis will speak on rocks and minerals of ancient Egypt. We'll have a silent auction on Dr. Joe Young's donations to the club. (4) Juniors Program was presented by Sherida Helms: The youth will have their Christmas party in November. In December they will join in with the adults for their Christmas party. (5) Library Report presented by W.C. McDaniel: In memory of Dr. Richardson, the club has bought a hard bound copy of The Beauty of Banded Agates by Michael R. Carlson. (6) Editor/Web report presented by Shelby Hartman and Mike Baldwin: The DMC field trip is to Graves Mountain, Georgia in Lincoln County, not in

Tennessee as the newsletter incorrectly indicated. The website continues to be viewed, to date it has received over 160,000 visits and over 600,000 hits. (7) Membership Report by Cornelia McDaniel: One new application was presented and approved – Alan Robert and Mary Jo Peterson. (8) Sunshine Report presented by Melba Cole: Our sympathies go out to Terri Noyes whose father died Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. (9) Historian Report presented by Mike Baldwin: Sherri will have MAGS historical notebooks ready for new librarian. (10) ShowReport by Jim Butchko: Show audit has been completed. There is a \$16 discrepancy. The show committee will meet November 9 at Jim's house. Four more contract payments to be deposited soon. (11) Old business presented by W.C. McDaniel: On Nov 18<sup>th</sup> Mike Baldwin will attend a conference sponsored by the Tennessee Earth Science Teachers in Nashville, TN. He will accept the 2006 Ptero Award for MAGS. (12) New business presented by W.C. McDaniel: (a) Sherida Helms said she and family are going to the Southeast Federation convention in Montgomery, AL (b) Nominating committee will announce to club membership the slate of officers. Ask for nominations from the floor,, and take a vote to approve nominations. (c) Current officers can help newly elected officers in the MAGS board transition. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

\* \* \*

## November 2006 Membership Meeting Notes

**SUSAN THOM** : The MAGS membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on November 10, 2006 presided by W.C. McDaniel. There were 63 members and 6 visitors – David, Cody & Maggie Gembala, Ben McDaniel, Sara Rayne, and Susan Stewart. (1) Welcome to visitors. Please pay dues for 2007. (2) Due to election of officers, we had the program Before our business meeting. Dr. Patricia Podzorski of

The University of Memphis Institute of Egyptian Archaeology gave an informative program with slide presentation on the Minerals and Stones of Egypt. (3) Field trip Nov. 18 to Ron Coleman's Crystal Mine in Hot Springs Village, AR. Barry Burns will be field trip leader. (4) Bring your choice of items for Show 500 Grab Bags. (5) Nominating Cmte announced a recommended slate for 2007/08 board of directors and those present came forward: President – Sandy Ward, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Field Trips – Barry Burns, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Adult Programs – W.C. McDaniel, Secretary – Carol Lybanon, Treasurer – Mike Cannito, Director Libraries – Ron Brister, Director Youth Programs, Melissa Johnston, Asst Youth Director – Idajeen Jordan, Director Membership Svcs – Pam Gurley, Director Historian – Cathie Jacobs. No nominations from the membership were made. A motion as made and seconded to accept the slate and the vote carried the motion. (6) You program was their Christmas party. (7) Tshirts are for sale. (8) Nancy Folden announced several donations to the library collection (9) Frank Walker is on our sunshine list. (10) Silent auction during refreshments. (11) Adult display participants were Beth Day and Paul Sides (winner). (12) No youth display. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

## HEY KIDS! HERE'S A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW YOUTH PROGRAM DIRECTOR!!

MELISSA JOHNSTON : Hello and Happy New Year! Are you ready to have fun and learn about rocks and other cool stuff? Well I am!! My name is Melissa Johnston and I will be the Youth Director for the next two years. I have been a member of MAGS since 2000. I found out about the group when attended my first Rock and Gem show at the Pipkin Center in April of 2000. Many of you know Ms. Idajeen Jordan - she will be the Assistant Youth Director and will lead the group if I am

absent. She has been a member since 1985! If you have a question about a rock, I know she can answer it!

I am excited about what we will be doing over the next many moons. Let me tell you a little about the upcoming group: The Youth Group is designed for ages 4 to 12. I know there are many former members who are "growing up" and may now be older than 12. You are welcome to the group, too, but must be willing to perform as role models for the younger members. You will be asked to assist with handing out supplies and clean up afterwards. Also expect to help the little ones with projects that may be challenging to them.

As a group, there will be no disrupting the class and no making fun nor bullying of any members. No one will ever be singled out or put on the spot. We will work together as a group. If any of you have any suggestions about a project you would like to work on, feel free to let me know. I want everybody to have fun at each meeting!

The starting time for our group will be different, as well. Please have your child come to the back as soon as the adults sit down at 7:30p.m. If you are an older youth, you may stay up front to hear the club news and find out about the rock digs. If you are not interested in hearing the lecture then come on back promptly before the speaker begins. I will ask Idajeen or another member to come alert us when the adult meeting has ended. This will give us more time to complete our projects and prevent disrupting any lectures during the adult meeting.

For the January meeting, we are going to have introductions and I will compile a list of each child's contact information. (Parents, please have this ready for me.) We will then design a name badge for each youth member. If someone can't attend, don't worry, I will make a badge for them after they attend the next meeting. Each child will receive the completed badge in February. If the adults like the ID badges, we can design them for you too! If we have time we will learn about the 3 main classifications of rocks: Sedimentary, Metamorphic and Igneous. This will be review for some and new for others.

Each member will be asked to return in February with a "secret" rock and some will be asked to bring newspapers and blow dryers. Hmmmmm.....

Happy New Year to Everybody!!!!

- *Melissa*

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

Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, other societies may use material published in MAGS Rockhound News provided that proper credit is given and the sense or meaning of the material is not changed. Editor: Shelby Hartman, 5116 Whiteway Drive, Memphis, TN 38117

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AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 7th—95 • Small Bulletin Honorable Mention—04, 05, 06 • Adult Article 10th—04; Honorable Mention – 05 (x2), 06 (x2) • Junior Article 3rd—98; 8th—03 • Special Pub 4th—03

SFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 1st—86; 2nd—88, 97 • New Editor (Explorer) 4th—03 • Certificate of Excellence—89, 90, 91, 92, 93 • Large Bulletin 1st—87 • Small Bulletin 1st—04, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 06, 4th—03 • Special Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st—03 • Adult Article 1<sup>st</sup> – 06, 2<sup>nd</sup>— 89, 90, 04, 06; 3<sup>rd</sup>—92; 4th—85, 04; 5th—91, 03; 6th—87; 8th—04; Honorable Mention—03, 04

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

# JANUARY 2007

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 04 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting - Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Ave.

JAN 12 7:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting - Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Rd.



MAGS Rockhound News  
367 North Main Street  
Collierville, TN 38017