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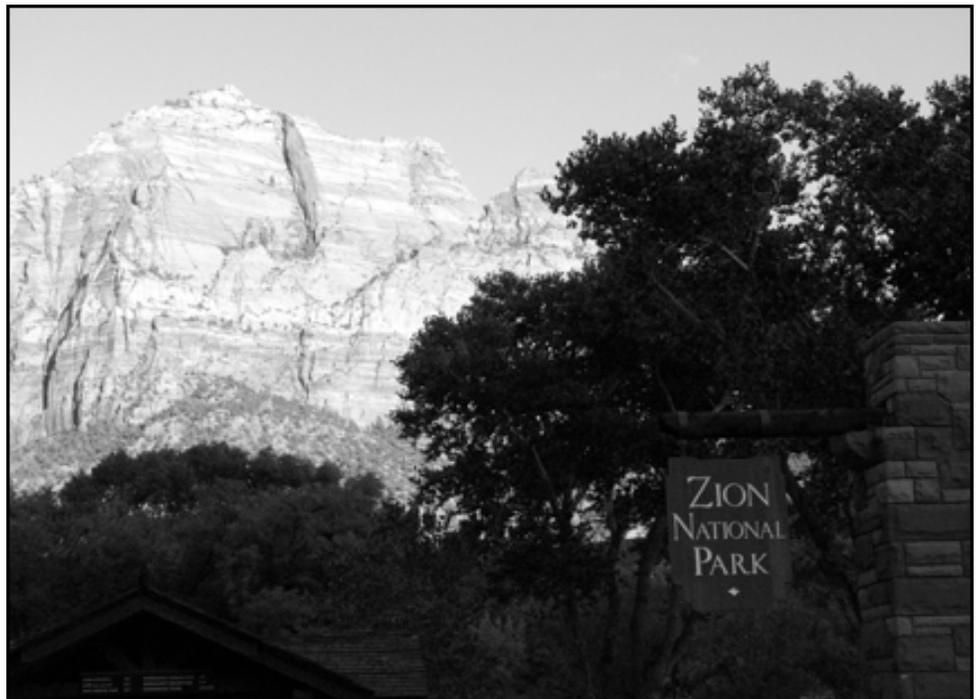
Newsletter Awards

# Zion National Park

By Shelby Hartman

In October I was required to spend a much dreaded ten days in Las Vegas, Nevada, for work. Having never been out west I spent quite a bit of time leading up to my trip researching the area around Las Vegas in attempt to find some place for a road-trip during my one weekend of personal time. I thought the Grand Canyon would be too ambitious for only two days so I looked to Bryce Canyon or Zion National Park. With the price of fuel and taking into consideration I would be traveling solo, I decided Zion National Park (the shortest drive of the two from Las Vegas), near Springdale, Utah.

As I struck out from Vegas Saturday morning, I was not impressed with the view. After about an hour the topography changed — the flatness changed to hills and then I found myself winding around curve after curve flanked by steep cliff walls. It was absolutely beautiful. I had never been in surroundings like this and I have to admit I spent more time with my eyes looking up to cliff walls instead of the road in front of me.



As I got into Utah, I found myself falling in love with the State. It was absolutely beautiful and I couldn't wait to get to Zion National Park knowing it was going to be

*(continued on page 4)*

## 2009 – 2010 Officers and Board of Directors

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Rockhound News is published monthly by and for the members of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments and articles to the attention of Shelby Hartman, 5116 Whiteway Drive, Memphis, TN 38117 or via email at magsnewsletter@comcast.net

## President's Corner



Welcome to a New Year, a new set of officers and a year of opportunities and challenges. Start the New Year by paying your 2009 dues before January 31. Dues are crucial and necessary for the club to provide you the opportunity to learn about and collect rocks and fossils. By paying your dues now, the club and officers can focus on two important events that occur in the first part of 2009:

In March, MAGS will host a Dixie Mineral Council field trip. The DMC is part of the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies. MAGS was a charter member of the council and has hosted trips to Coon Creek, Vulcan Quarry (Parsons) twice, and to Crow Creek in Arkansas. We most likely will collect at several Memphis Stone and Gravel Company sites and we anticipate the date to be in late March. It is our standard operating procedure to put on a really good field trip and we would look forward to you helping.

In April, MAGS will present its 30th Annual Memphis Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show on April 25-26. **Stop reading this and go mark your calendar.** Also, include April 23 and April 24 as we need help in preparing the physical layout of the show for the arrival of dealers on Friday afternoon and the public on Saturday morning. The show will be in our new location, the Agricenter, and the move brings about considerable more expenses and opportunities. While the move, economic climate, and conditions worries a lot of folks, our focus should be directed toward promoting and emphasizing the all inclusive value of our show and the once a year opportunity to see **The Earth Wide Open.** See you on January 9 at the Membership Meeting!

*W.C. McDaniel*



## RARE DIAMOND SELLS FOR MILLIONS

(W.C. is contemplating this as 2009 Show Door Prize)

LONDON – A rare blue diamond handed down through generations of German royalty sold for a record-breaking 16.4 million pounds (\$24.3 million) at auction Wednesday in London, Christie's said. The Wittelsbach Diamond, a 35.56 carat cushion-shaped gem, has often had its color and clarity compared to the famed Hope Diamond, now on display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. The rare gem was snapped up by billionaire diamond-dealer Laurence Graff for about 16.4 million pounds

(\$24.3 million), including buyer's premium, Christie's spokeswoman Alexandra Kindermann said. Kindermann said the price — nearly double its pre-sale estimate — was the most ever paid for a diamond at auction, beating the \$16.5 million commanded by a 100-carat diamond at a Swiss auction in 1995. Christie's said the diamond was purchased by King Philip IV of Spain in 1664 and included in the dowry for his teenage daughter, the Infanta Margarita Teresa. Although she died relatively young, the diamond remained with her husband, Leopold I of Austria, and passed through a succession of heirs. The gem got the Wittelsbach name after 1722, when Leopold's granddaughter married Charles of Bavaria, a member of the Wittelsbach family. "Der Blaue Wittelsbacher," as it was then known, made its way through a succession of Bavarian rulers — Maximilian IV Joseph von Wittelsbach, Bavaria's first king, included the diamond in his royal crown. The diamond made its last state appearance in 1918 in the aftermath of World War I. It was offered for auction in 1931, but failed to sell and vanished from the public eye. "What happened to it after 1931 is a little mysterious — there's been lots of speculation," Christie's spokeswoman Hannah Schmidt said. "But what exactly happened is unknown." The diamond only resurfaced in 1962, when a jeweler recognized its significance and refused a request to re-cut it. Auctioneer Francois Curiel said Christie's was thrilled to reach "an historic price for an historic diamond." Colored diamonds often fetch high prices at auction. Christie's sold a much smaller 13.39-carat blue diamond for \$8.9 million in May. **(Source: Yahoo! News)**



### Announcements & Tidbits

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Quite a few members have yet to pay their dues for 2009. Please make sure to take care of that before the January 9th Membership Meeting. Dues remain unchanged from last year are are \$20 for a family, \$16 for an individual and \$8 for a single youth membership. You may bring your payment to the meeting or mail it to the new MAGS Treasurer, Doris Johnston at 409 Bradford Trail Cove, Collierville, TN 38017

#### GEODE CRACKING

One of our Show dealers, The Geode Gallery has an interesting website on the cracking of geodes that includes a "how to" on cracking geodes with a hammer and chisel. Go to <http://www.geodegallery.com/keokuk/uncracked.html>.

## “Zion National Park” *(cont’d from front page)*

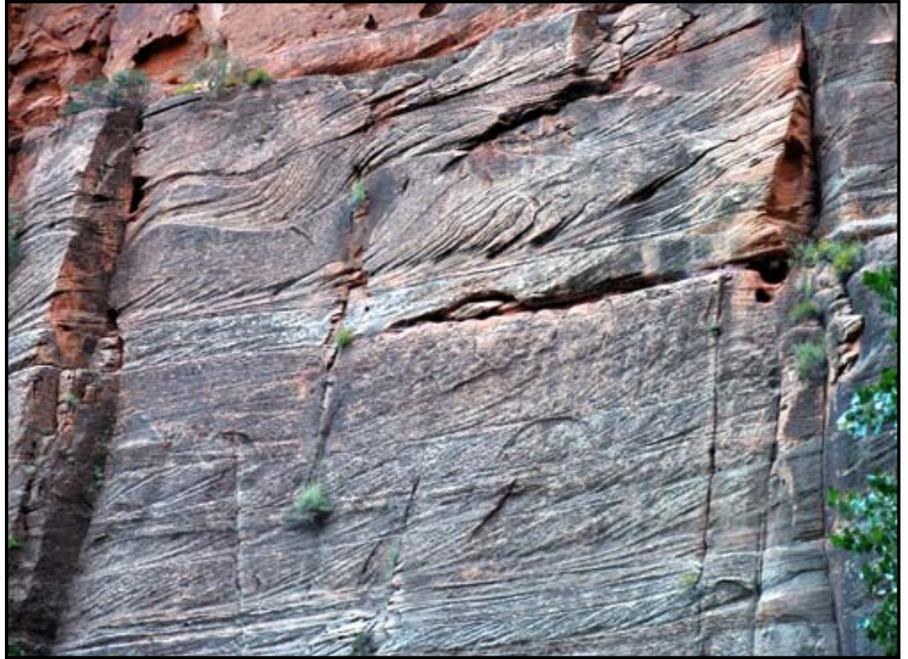
even more spectacular than the scenic drive. I had no idea... I parked my car in the little town of Springdale and took the Zion tram to the park entrance. It was breathtaking from the minute I set foot in the park.

Zion Park is located on the western edge of the Colorado Plateau. The Colorado Plateau consists of Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, the Grand Canyon and Cedar Breaks. All of these components make up the five steps and risers of what is known as the Grand Staircase.

Zion is the youngest of the canyon areas of the Colorado Plateau. It’s formation began 200 million years ago when the Grand Canyon’s formation was wrapping up. Zion is famous for its 2,000 foot high walls of Navajo sandstone. The entire area of Zion comprises approximately 146,500 acres and

began when mud, silt and sand settled into existing swamps and streams. As time went by, massive dunes formed from windblown sand and covered the muddy underlayers. The resulting land mass, thousands of feet thick, began to sink. The sinking of the mass and the build up of layers occurred at much the same pace so the elevation did not change. Eventually, the land mass sank completely below sea level and was flooded by shallow sea waters. Seeping sea water found it’s way down among the particles of sand, carrying mineral particles with it. Combined with tremendous compression, the layers of sediment turned to stone.

Much later, forces in the earth began pushing the land mass in an upward direction — a process known as uplift. This uplift created the Colorado Plateau with some masses rising 10,000 feet. As the uplift continued, all of the slowly meandering streams and rivers picked up speed, cutting their way through the land mass as it moved in an upward direction creating the canyons we see today.



While a portion of the geological changes occurred during the Jurassic period, there are few fossils of plants or animals found in the area. This is due to the fact that the original sparse desert climate supported very few plants or animals.

I spent the entire day walking a variety of trails leading me by emerald pools, waterfalls springing from the rock face and wishing the day would never come to an end. I plan on going back when I can spend much more time exploring and highly recommend a tour of Zion to anyone no matter their level of interest in geology. ♦♦♦

# MAGS 2008 Holiday Party



# January Birthdays



**SHELBY HART-MAN** Garnet is the birthstone for January. Early Egyptians, Greeks and Romans often used the stones in

their jewelry. Garnet has a very high refractive index and is found in virtually every color except blue (with red being the color most widely known). Garnet is a 7-7.5 on the Mohs Hardness Scale. Garnet is actually not one single mineral but a member of several similar minerals referred to as The Garnet Group.

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Patrick Long    | 17 Mary Norman         |
| 3 Linda Waddell   | 21 Richard Gunter      |
| 4 David Gembala   | 22 Haley Wheeler       |
| 4 Randy Thomas    | 23 Claudia Sims        |
| 5 Floyd Lenz      | 24 Dr. Jon C. Stanford |
| 7 Rosie Crawford  | 25 Michael Cates       |
| 7 Michael Long    | 25 Randa Spears        |
| 8 Karen Cooper    | 27 Max Whitley         |
| 10 Noa Parks      | 29 Doris Currington    |
| 12 Thomas Worrell | 30 Bill Smith          |
| 14 Jessie Bridges | 30 T.J. Cox            |
| 14 Kalki Winter   | 31 Teressa Noyes       |
| 14 Aimee Whitley  |                        |

## 2009 Meeting Dates

Month	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Submissions
January	Jan 1	Jan 9	<b>Dec 22</b>
February	Feb 5	Feb 13	<b>Jan 26</b>
March	Mar 5	Mar 13	<b>Feb 23</b>
April	Apr 2	Apr 10	<b>Mar 23</b>
May	Apr 30	May 08	<b>Apr 23</b>
June	June 04	June 12	<b>May 28</b>
July	July 02	July 10	<b>Jun 25</b>
August	Aug 06	Aug 14	<b>Jul 30</b>
September	Sep 03	Sep 11	<b>Aug 27</b>
October	Oct 01	Oct 09	<b>Sep 24</b>
November	Nov 05	Nov 13	<b>Oct 29</b>
December	Dec 03	Dec 11	<b>Nov 23</b>

## Web Site Statistics for December 2008

a brief look at our website ([www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org)) since 1/21/02

### Total Visits & Hits

Total visits to web site since 1/21/02	355,191
Total hits to web site since 1/21/02	1,454,300
Visits in past 30 days	4,897
Hits in past 30 days	33,313
Top page views past 30 days	
homepage	1,166 hits
Spacegeology-eris	869 hits
rocknews1005	302hits
Argon 2003	227 hits

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.

**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 Athens Rock and Gem Club - Athens, GA (HOST)  
An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society  
**9:00 AM EST**  
**Saturday, January 31, 2009**  
**Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, Abbeville County, South Carolina**

The Athens Rock and Gem club would like to extend an invitation to rockhound one of the premier quartz collecting localities in the southeast. This year saw a lot of digging with a power shovel which finally uncovered the Amethyst deposits that had eluded rockhounds for years. Most recently continued digging has unearthed dark, shiny museum quality smokey quartz as well as several new veins of the famous Diamond Hill skeletal quartz. Come join us!

**Assembly Point:** Diamond Hill Mine

**Directions:** The Diamond Hill Mine is located near the small town of Antreville in northeastern South Carolina.

**From the north:** Exit I-85 at US 178 at Anderson, SC (exit # 21). Drive south on US 178 for approx. 1 mile and then bear right onto SR 28. Follow SR 28 south approx. 20 miles to Antreville. Upon entering Antreville you will see Crawford's Store on the left. Drive past the store and then watch on the right for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn right at the church onto SR 284. Drive east on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road ( on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

**From the south:** Exit I-20 at US 221 (exit # 183) just east of Augusta, Georgia. Drive north on US 221 to McCormick, SC. In McCormick turn north onto SR 28. Continue north on SR 28 to Antreville (approx. 50 miles). About 2 miles south of Antreville, SR 184 enters SR 28 from the right (east). When you pass SR 184 start watching carefully on the left for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn left at the church onto SR 284. Drive east on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road ( on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

**Fees:** Adults = \$15/day Children under 16 year of age = \$6/day (All must sign waiver)

**Other Essentials:** Pick and shovel, rock hammer, chisels, and scratching tools. There is ample water on site for screening and washing specimens. Bring a lunch, plenty of fluids, hat, gloves, and sturdy shoes. Bring rubber boots and a change of cloths if it is going to be a rainy or wet day.

**Trip Chairman:** Jim Maudsley

Phone: (706) 353-1792

e-mail: [jamesm24@charter.net](mailto:jamesm24@charter.net)

## November 2008 Board of Directors Meeting Notes : CAROL & MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Board of Directors met November 6 at the Blue Plate Cafe, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. Those present were: Sandy Ward, Mike Baldwin, Ron Brister, Barry Burns, Mike Cannito, David Day, Pam Gurley, Shelby Hartman, Cathie Jacobs, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, and Alan Parks. The October Board & Membership Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted. Treasurers Report: Mike Cannito has transferred receipts from the August Membership Meeting auction of MAGS Collection items to the savings fund. He presented the revised planning budget. A motion was made and carried to change the standing rule concerning the maximum to be spent on memorials, by raising the maximum to \$50. The Treasurer's Reports for last month and this month were approved, subject to audit. The proposed budget was accepted. Field Trips: Barry Burns reported on the trip to the fluorite mine in Marion, KY. Barry recommended that we should repeat this trip. He will bring pictures and specimens to the Membership Meeting. David Day will be the leader of the November 22-23 field trip to Livingston, TN. Adult Programs: November's program will be a silent auction, along with some hands-on agate polishing using common household items. Youth Programs: Karen Schaeffer is scheduled to give a program on her science project. Idajeane Jordan will follow, with a presentation on mineral and fossil identification. Library: Ron Brister reported we are \$50 away from being able to pay Memphis Stone and Gravel the \$250 for the books on Mississippi gravel deposits. Mike Cannito wrote a check to pay for them. Webmaster: Mike Baldwin reported we are getting a large number of "hits" on the website, with a few pages getting most of the traffic. He proposed a survey to collect suggestions for new pages. Mike would like to make it possible for people to apply for membership online, and pay via Paypal. A motion was made and carried to authorize Mike to look into online strategies to use Paypal for this and for selling items such as posters. Alan Parks thought that we could also use Paypal in the future for online registration of show participants. Mike said he would appeal to the membership to get the newsletter only electronically, to save on paper and postage costs. He also reported that AFMS will have a new award category, for websites, and that they asked him to be a judge. Membership: Pam Gurley said there were no applications this month. Rock Swaps: This month's swap will be at the home of Alan and Alishia Parks on November 15. Alan asked that people bring a shoebox of specimens to be used at the 2009 show for the rock dig and grab bags. Show: The new show website (theearthwideopen.com) is in operation. The chairman's welcome and sponsorship information sections are operational, and they hope to have the rest finished by the end of November. Mike Baldwin is creating a web album so people can see pictures of past shows. He asked Board Members to add a link to the website to signatures in their personal e-mails, and said it would be good if Board Members made comments on the blog, to keep it interesting. He hopes to mail out the sponsorship plan to prospective sponsors soon.

And he asked for volunteers to help market the plan. Old Business: Sandy Ward asked the Board to consider an increase in our yearly dues, since our rent at the church has increased. Alan Parks questioned whether we need an increase. In further discussion, the Board felt that we should have a plan for the specific use of the increased income before we increase dues. A motion to raise the dues was defeated. Ron Brister and Sandy Ward volunteered to seek grants for specific projects rather than raising the dues. We still need to fill several Board positions for next year. After much discussion Barry Burns volunteered to keep his position as First VP, assisted by David Day. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M. (no time for New Business because Blue Plate closed).

## November 2008 Membership Meeting Notes : CAROL AND MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on November 14. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. There were 42 members and 5 visitors. The visitors were Jeff Tweed, Graydon Swisher, Kirsten Erickson, John Matthew Erickson, and Theresa Maddox-Allen. Mike Baldwin reported the website is getting around 45,000 hits/month. There is a new show blog and a show website (theearthwideopen.com). Mike asked members to put a link to the new site as part of their personal e-mail signatures, and also asked them to look at the show site and comment on it. David Day announced that the field trip to Livingston, TN, to collect geodes will be November 22 and 23. He asked those interested to sign up or call him. Alan Parks told members that this month's rock swap will be at his house tomorrow. It will start at 10:30, and lunch is at noon. Alan Parks said planning for the show is at the halfway point, moving into execution. The marketing strategy will rely heavily on the website. He is putting together a lecture series to be presented during the show. He asked members to contact him about leads for show sponsors; several are already targeted. Nine signed contracts have come in; we are ahead of last year. Sandy Ward presented the Nominating Committee's recommendations for the 2009-2010 Board: President, W.C. McDaniel; First Vice-President (Field Trips), Barry Burns; Second Vice-President (Programs), Paul Sides; Secretary, Carol Lybanon/Matthew Lybanon; Treasurer, Doris Jones; Director, Assistant Field Trips, Dan Reed; Director, Assistant Programs, Sandy Ward; Director, Youth, Ron Brister; Director, Assistant Youth, Alan Schaeffer; Director, Librarian, David Day; Director, Membership, Neville Mayfield; Director, Historian, Nannett McDougal-Dykes; Web Coordinator, Mike Baldwin; Newsletter Editor, Shelby Hartman/Doris Jones; Show Chair, Alan Parks. These recommendations were seconded and approved by the membership. There were three geode displays. David Day was the winner. Nannett McDougal-Dykes presented some fluorite samples she collected on the last field trip. Graydon Swisher presented some Utah trace fossils and river ripples. Dan Reed showed a display of arrowheads. The program was a silent auction and raffle of items from the MAGS Collection and a hands-on project on agate polishing using common household items. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.



## The Memphis Mineral Fossil and Jewelry Show

### A New Home and a Fresh Start to Celebrate 30 Years!

First I must thank our following members: W.C. McDaniel, Dick McKitrick, Jim Butchko, Neville Mayfield, Beth Day, Cecil Perkins, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Sandy Ward, and Mike Baldwin. These folks have made a HUGE commitment to our club to produce a Show in *Transition*. This brings new adversity to planning our show. But rest assured we are poised to make our mark on Show History in 2009! We are at the half-way point and I will start contributing each month to the *Rockhound News* to make updates on our progress and show you how you can help.

Everyone should know that we have set clear objectives for the Show, which seek to produce the following results:

- ◆ A successfully promoted event, for which high quality dealers will be contracted to market quality minerals, fossils, and jewelry to the public.
- ◆ An exhibition and forum to provide its participants with well planned and executed educational experiences involving the earth sciences, lapidary arts, and archaeology.
- ◆ A recruiting opportunity for membership in the Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society
- ◆ A benefit for the Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society and the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis.

The Agricenter will give us the facilities and location to grow our show. Over the last ten years our Show at the Pipkin Building has had annual attendance hitting about 2000 participants. Our research shows the bulk of these show goers are repeat customers. We will have a plan to make sure they find us at our new location. But an important aspect about the Agricenter location is it will put our Show in a new area with demographics that support growing the Show. BUT everyone in this club must rise to the occasion and help out! That means in part getting the word out- so start talking about it! Over the next few months I will give some pointers how you can make a contribution to the success of the Show, generally. And there may come a time that you are asked to do something specifically. Please refer to the last bullet listed above when asked to help and before you respond...

Alan

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.

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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, 3rd—07 • Special Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st—03, 07 • Adult Article 1<sup>st</sup>—06, 2nd—89, 90, 04, 06; 3rd—92; 4th—85, 04, 07; 5th—91, 03, 07; 6th—87; 8th—04, 07; Honorable Mention—03, 04, 07 • Adult Poetry—07

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

## JANUARY 2009

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

- January 6**                      **6:00 p.m.**                      **Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue**
- January 9**                      **7:30 p.m.**                      **Membership Meeting at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church**
- January 31**                      **9:00 a.m.**                      **DMC Sponsored Field Trip to Diamond Hill Mine in Abbeville County, South Carolina**



MAGS Rockhound News  
 5116 Whiteway Drive  
 Memphis, TN 38117