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Your new MAGS Editor, Matthew Lybanon, will take the reigns in February.

A FEW TOP EARTH SCIENCE STORIES FROM 2010



An artistic rendering shows what the 125 million-year-old flesh-eating dinosaur *Concavenator corcovatus* from central Spain might have looked like: a hunchback with featherlike skin appendages on its arms. Credit: Copyright: Raúl Martín Source: Science News, January 1, 2011

THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE [JANUARY 2010]: Approximately 230,000 Haitians died when a magnitude 7 earthquake rocked the country, centered near Port-au-Prince on January 12, 2010. Scientists originally thought that the quake developed along the Enriquillo-Plantain Garden fault, which divides the North American and Caribbean tectonic plates, but that fault was later found to be intact. This means that all the energy that has developed along that faultline has yet to be released and Haiti is still in danger of more seismic activity.

see A Few Top Earth Science Stories from 2010 on page five . . .

JANUARY MAGS EVENTS

- 06 6:30p Board Meeting @ St. Claire Room, St. Frances Hospital
- 14 7:30p General Meeting @ Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road
Adult Program: Pre-history of the Buffalo River, Tennessee with Guy Weaver
Youth Program: Making rubber stamps; plans for 2011 with Carol Lybanon
- 29 8:00a DMC Field Trip to Fort Drum Crystal Mine, Rucks Pit, Fort Drum, FL to collect calcified marine clam shells [see page 4 for details]
No MAGS Field Trip in January



2010 MAGS BOARD

President–Lou White •

3805 Melanie June Drive, Bartlett, TN 38135 •
901-937-8522

1st VP (Field Trips)–Marc Mueller •

1415 Shagbark Trail, Murfreesboro, TN 37130 •
615-491-5110 • mueller3@hotmail.com

2nd VP (Programs)–Paul Sides •

1062 CR 739, Wynne, AR 72396 • 870-208-9586

Secretary–Marc Mueller •

1415 Shagbark Trail, Murfreesboro, TN 37130 •
615-491-5110 • mueller3@hotmail.com

Treasurer–Cornelia McDaniel •

2038 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104 •
901-274-7706 • cfmcdaniel@att.net

Director (Asst Field Trips)–Charles Hill •

1070 Park Swain Road, Grand Junction TN 38039 •
731-764-2753 • hunter3006@aol.com

Director (Asst Programs)–Alan Schaeffer •

6854 Corsica Drive, Memphis, TN 38120 •
901-753-8496 • dayday91@aol.com

Director (Youth)–Carol Lybanon •

2019 Littlemore Drive, Cordova, TN 38016 •
901-757-2144 • lybanon@earthlink.net

Director (Asst Youth)–Kimberly Loveland •

3246 Tea Berry Lane, Bartlett, TN 38134 •
901-380-1886 • amazeyouu@yahoo.com

Director (Librarian)–Ron Brister •

3059 Old Brownsville Road, Bartlett, TN 38134 • 901-388-1765
• ronald.brister@memphistn.gov

Director (Membership)–Neville Mayfield •

3282 Glendale Drive, Memphis, TN 38128 •
901-386-3006 • emayfiel@localnet.com

Director (Historian)–Nannett McDougle

Dykes • 106 Maple Street, Stanton, TN 38069 •
901-412-9357 • redchesty@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor–Matthew Lybanon •

2019 Littlemore Drive, Cordova, TN 38016 •
901-757-2144 • lybanon@earthlink.net

Webmaster–Mike Baldwin •

367 North Main St, Collierville, TN 38017 •
901-853-3603 • mbaldwin05@gmail.com

Show Chairman–W.C. McDaniel •

2038 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104 •
901-274-7706 • w.c.mcd@worldnet.att.net

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GREETINGS FROM THE PREZ

If you had asked me a month ago if I was going to be the MAGS president for 2011 and 2012, I would have said, “no, I had my turn”, but guess what, here I am again. I guess I’m just a gluten for punishment. Anyway, you talked me into to it so let’s make this year a good one. I’d like to see us visit some new collecting sites this year, as well as the ones we all love, like Potosi, Frankstown and Livingston. Half the fun of being in this club is the field trips. Just look in the garages and backyards of all the old-timers and long-time members and you’ll see the results of years of collecting druzy quartz, petrified wood, fossil plates, barite, geodes and all those great agates and jaspers [and maybe even a piece or two of driftwood] from the gravel bars of the mighty Mississippi. If you’re in MAGS and you haven’t been on some of the great field trips, you don’t know what you’re missing. If you haven’t been, put that on your to-do list and come on some of these trips this year. But remember this. If you haven’t paid your dues yet, you can’t go on the trips. So put that right at the top of your to-do list. Pay your dues. If you have paid. Thank you. Dues are what makes it possible to meet and have great programs [for the adults and for the kids], rock swaps and other things like the library, the newsletter and website.

Speaking of the library, every MAGS member can check out books and videos from our library and you take them home with you for a month at a time. There are books in our library about just about every subject you can imagine from dinosaurs to diamonds. If you have suggestions for new books to go in the library, you can give those to our librarian, Ron Brister.

One last thing. Our show, the Memphis Mineral, Fossil and Jewellery Show [also known as The Earth Wide Open] is coming up soon – April 23 and 24 [the fourth weekend of April]. We’re going to need a lot of help from you to make this show a success. Please mark your calendars now and put this on your to-do list. We will need volunteers to do everything from set-up to break-down and all things in between. Ask yourself what you can do to help and if your is “I don’t know” then ask W.C. McDaniel [our Show Chair] and he’ll know exactly how you can help. That’s all I’ve got to say.

the Prez [Lou]

2011 DUES ARE PAST DUE

MIKE BALDWIN, MAGS EDITOR: 2011 dues are now past due. Please take a minute to renew your membership in MAGS for 2011. Make your check payable to MAGS. Family membership is \$25.00, single membership is \$20.00, and junior membership is \$10.00. You can pay your dues at the January meeting, or you can mail your check to Neville Mayfield, 3282 Glendale Drive, Memphis, TN 38128. Thank you for your membership in MAGS. Remember, you must pay your dues in order to go on MAGS field trips.

MESSAGE FROM INCOMING EDITOR MATTHEW LYBANON

MATTHEW LYBANON, NEW EDITOR: See your name in print—how does that sound, fellow MAGSters? If you have (or can write) an article about any topic of interest to MAGS members, please send it in. Pictures are especially good, with or without an article.

Yes, it makes my job easier if I don't have to write the whole newsletter myself. But the real reason for my request is that your newsletter will be a lot more interesting if it has contributions from several people.

Did you just come back from a trip to Mexico during which you visited Mayan ruins (and of course you took pictures, didn't you)? Have you been to the site of the next MAGS field trip? Other people would be really interested in what you can tell them about it. Do you have some good pictures of rhodochrosite from your visit to the Sweet Home Mine (you didn't go to Colorado just to ski)? E-mail them to me, please!

If you've come across some interesting information about anything in geology, paleontology, or archaeology, share the information with your friends. If you know of some good fee site within 3-4 hours of Memphis, tell others about it. And yes, people would like to see your arrowhead collection.

You get the idea. You can e-mail any material destined for the newsletter to lybanon@earthlink.net. If you don't have e-mail, call me at (901) 757-2144 and we'll work something out.

Remember, this is your newsletter.

BLUE SPRINGS FOSSILS REQUESTED

George Phillips will be our speaker at the February 11th MAGS membership meeting. He is the Paleontology Curator at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, Mississippi. George would like to extend an invitation to the MAGS readership/membership to bring your Blue Springs fossils to the February 11 meeting and if you have Blue Springs fossils that need to be identified, Mr. Phillips will be glad to identify them at the meeting. So mark your calendars for 7:30pm, Friday, February 11.



EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an albulid upper tooth plate that Mr. Phillips identified for me on one of our visits to Blue Springs in the fall of 2009. This 70-million-year-old freshwater fish tooth plate is now part of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science's permanent collection.

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION NEWS



DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee Official Field Trip of the Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society (Jacksonville, FL) (Host)

Saturday, January 29, 2011 • 8 am to 5 pm

Fort Drum Crystal Mine/Rucks Pit, Fort Drum, FL

Cost per person: \$20 for DMC members/\$30 for others (bring a copy of flier)

It is reported that this is the only location in the world where calcified marine clam shells can be found. There have also been reports of fossils at this location. The main pit has been closed to public collecting, but have been advised that Eddie will bring in freshly excavated material the day prior to our arrival.

What to bring: Pants, sturdy shoes/boots, gloves and protective eyewear are recommended. Bring tools, buckets/cloth bag, and newspaper to collect, carry and wrap fragile specimens. The collecting area can be extremely wet and muddy. Bring a change of clothing along with plenty of water and a towel.

Directions: South on 1-95 to Vero Beach and take exit 147 onto State Road 60. At Yeehaw Junction, turn left or South on Hwy 441. Ft. Drum is on Hwy 441 approximately 15 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 60 & 441 (Yeehaw Junction). Go south of Ft. Drum General Store about .05 miles and turn east on 304th Street. Go about 2.75 miles to the quarry entrance (north side of road) Look for the Fort Drum Crystal Mine at the entrance.

Local Lodging:

Turkey Creek Campground—overnight camping—\$25

Closest hotels are in Okeechobee, FL—20 miles away.

Contact: JGMS Field Trip Coordinator: Lucy Miller email LucyAnn323@aol.com or 904-838-5026
Fort Drum Crystal Mine/Rucks Pit—863-634-4579

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!

2011 DMC Field Trips include: January—Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society (Jacksonville, FL); February—Rome Georgia Mineral Society (Rome, GA); March—Gaston County Gem, Mineral & Faceting Club (Gastonia, NC); April—Cotton Indian Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (Stockbridge, GA); May—Charlotte Gem & Mineral Club (Charlotte, NC); June—Northeast Georgia Mineral Society (Cornelia, GA); July—Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC (Franklin, NC); August—OPEN; September—Georgia Mineral Society (Atlanta, GA); October—Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society (Memphis, TN); November—Aiken Gem and Mineral Society (Aiken, SC); December—Athens Rock and Gem Club (Athens, GA)

A FEW TOP EARTH SCIENCE STORIES FROM 2010

THE CHILEAN EARTHQUAKE [FEBRUARY 2010]: The magnitude 8.8 quake that slammed central Chile February 27 knocked the entire planet for a loop — literally. The sudden, large-scale movement of tectonic plates that triggered the quake shifted immense masses of rock a few meters closer to Earth's core, tilting the planet's axis a few centimeters and imperceptibly shortening the day.

THE FIRST T-REX FOSSILS OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE FOUND [MARCH 2010]: Paleontologists digging in Australia's Dinosaur Cove have unearthed the first known fossils of a tyrannosaur from the Southern Hemisphere. The fossils include the remains of just one 30-centimeter-long bone from the creature's pelvic girdle, but certain features of that bone are seen only in tyrannosaurs.

ONE OF EARTH'S NEWEST IMPACT CRATERS DISCOVERED [AUGUST 2010]: Researchers looking at Google Earth images have discovered one of Earth's freshest impact craters — a 45-meter-wide crater in southwestern Egypt that was probably created by an iron meteorite only a few thousand years ago. The rim of this Egyptian crater stands about 3 meters above the surrounding plain, which is partially covered with distinct swaths of light-colored material blasted from the crater by the impact.

HUMPBACKED BIRD-LIKE DINOSAUR DISCOVERED [OCTOBER 2010] Pictured on page one: A newly described carnivorous dinosaur species has a strikingly unusual hump on its back and hints of featherlike appendages on its arms. The 125 million-year-old fossil from central Spain suggests that feathers developed in more primitive dinosaurs than previously thought. *Concavenator* belongs to a family of dinosaurs known as *Carcharodontosauria*. These carnivores walked on hind legs, had three main fingers at the end of each stubby arm and ripped through flesh with razorlike teeth.

THE COLOR OF DINOSAURS [FEBRUARY 2010]: Microscopic features found in fossils of dinosaurs and ancient birds are the remains of structures that contained pigment, new work reveals. The structures provide new clues about what these creatures looked like, including the possibility of patches or stripes with a sporty yellow or russet color scheme. The fossils, some of them described for the first time, were found in northeastern China and contain well-preserved, sub-micrometer-sized structures called melanosomes [pigment-bearing structures].

FIRE AND ICE [SEPTEMBER 2010]: High atop an Icelandic mountain, with blankets of soft moss underfoot and a translucent lake shimmering in the valley below, lies a bed of molten lava. Tens of thousands of years ago molten rock bubbled up from a fissure in the Earth's crust. On top of that lay hundreds of meters of ice. Lava met ice, and the result was an inferno. Heat from the eruption instantly boiled ice to steam, which ramped up the eruptive power like a pressure cooker blowing its top. Magma hitting the steam exploded into tiny fragmented bits, sending pillars of fine-grained ash billowing overhead. It would have resembled the scene many people heard about on the news this spring — a volcano that erupted an hour's drive to the east, known as Eyjafjallajökull (pronounced "AY-ya-FYAT-la-yo-kult").

SOURCE: Science News Magazine; Special Section; Science News of the Year; January 1, 2011.
To subscribe to Science News, please visit sciencenews.org.

NOVEMBER 2010 BOARD MEETING NOTES

CAROL and MATTHEW LYBANON: The MAGS Board of Directors met November 4 at the St. Clare Room in St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:39 P. M. Present were: Mike Baldwin, Ron Brister, Doris Jones, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Neville Mayfield, W. C. McDaniel, Marc Mueller, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, and Alan Schaeffer. Excused: Robert Duncan and Paul Sides.

Secretary: The October minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer: The Oct Treasurer's report was approved, subject to audit.

Membership: Neville Mayfield reported that he received three new applications, and checks. The new Members are the Galbraith family, the Jones family, and Linda and Freddy Blair. W. C. McDaniel asked if we had received the 2011 application from the Federation. Matthew Lybanon replied that we haven't, but it isn't due until the end of January. The application will need to list the 2011 officers and Board.

Field Trips: Mike Baldwin reported on the trip to Nameless. There were very good geodes on the Ledbetter farm, but there was only a little time to collect at the Davis Watts farm. Dale Hollow Lake's water level was at about normal level and collecting was good; several people found calyxes. The weather was great. W. C. McDaniel said that 25-30 Memphis people attended the Memphis Stone & Gravel field trip. Nannett McDougal-Dykes said that people found some really great stuff. Marc Mueller reported on the upcoming DMC trip to Cumberland Furnace (only one couple has signed up). Ron Brister suggested that we should set up reference collections (3-4 specimens) for each of the sites we visit, so people can see what to expect. He will work on it. W. C. said the trip to Park Hills will be postponed, because the scheduled date is opening day of hunting season. The December 11 field trip to Richardson's Landing will depend on the water level in the river.

Adult Programs: The November program will be presented by Dr. Julie Morrow, on the Sloan-Dalton burial site in Arkansas. The December program is the holiday party.

Junior Programs: Alan Schaeffer reported the November program will be on Israel geology. The Juniors will join the adults for the holiday party in December.

Show: W. C. McDaniel told the Board he has received 7-8 contracts. Dealers have until January 1. The next Show meeting will be on November 15 at the Agricenter. Three checks from 2009, amounting to about \$1,300, were found and have since been deposited (and they cleared). W. C. has started a new system in which he will record all incoming checks, so this situation should not occur again. April Gibbs has been named Assistant Show Chair, which is a new position. W. C. will coordinate her duties.

Library: Ron Brister said nothing is new.

Newsletter: Mike Baldwin reported that 2 issues were sent out today. Due to an oversight, the Oct newsletter didn't go out previously. There was some discussion about not mailing out any printed newsletters; that issue will be revisited by the new Board in Jan.

Webmaster: Mike Baldwin said the website has already been updated. He said he will remove the Park Hills trip, and email Members a newsletter update as well.

Historian/Rock Swap: Nannett McDougal-Dykes said people had a good time at Lou White's rock swap. The November rock swap will be at the home of Alan and Alishia Parks on November 13. It will be the traditional fish fry. Attendees will be asked to bring side dishes and desserts.

Old Business:

- Alan Schaeffer listed nominees for the new Board. There is a nominee for each position except President. The nominating committee has contacted several people, but they all declined. After some discussion, there was no resolution of the problem.
- Matthew and Carol Lybanon circulated printouts of their designs for two-sided marketing cards to advertise the club and the Show, as well as new business cards. W. C. McDaniel also circulated price quotations from Tiger Graphics. The two-sided cards are to be printed on glossy card stock. A motion was made and carried to split the printing bill for the two-sided cards between the club account and the Show account. Carol and Matthew Lybanon will work on getting them printed. No action was taken on the new business card design.

New Business:

- Tennessee Earth Science Teachers (TEST) asked that MAGS continue its support with a \$500 donation. After some discussion a motion was made and carried to donate \$500 to TEST, with the money coming from the club savings account.
- W. C. McDaniel told the Board he will set up another exhibit at the Union County (Mississippi) museum. It will include some of his personal material, and some MAGS material. The museum would like to hold a 1-day rock and mineral show in June 2011. They would rent space in their parking lot to people who would like to set up and sell rocks and fossils. W. C. asked if MAGS should work with the museum on planning and helping with this event. He will have a more detailed plan in December.
- The Memphis Botanic Garden plans to repeat Memphis ROCKS! in 2011. MAGS will receive \$600-\$650 profit from this year's event. A motion was made and carried that MAGS will participate annually. Neville Mayfield suggested that we should set up a committee to coordinate special events, since we may participate in several. The Board thought this was a good idea but will leave its implementation to the new Board.
- The club will again provide ham and turkey for the holiday party, and Members will be asked to bring side dishes, desserts, and beverages. We will again have an adult gift exchange. Those wishing to participate should bring an appropriate gift with a value of about \$10. The Board decided that MAGS would provide the gifts for Juniors. W. C. McDaniel will donate little gem bags, which the club will fill with some of the items that were purchased for Show prizes.

The next Board Meeting will be a dinner meeting at Old Timers restaurant in Millington, Thursday, December 2, 6:30 P. M. Neville Mayfield will arrange for the room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P. M.

NOVEMBER 2010 MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES

CAROL AND MATTHEW LYBANON: The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on November 12. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P. M. 61 Members and 6 visitors were present. The visitors are Marilyn Hicks, Roger Medlin, Aaron Shelley, Aliesha and Abigail Sandstrom, and Colby Powell.

W. C. McDaniel recognized all MAGS members who are veterans, and asked people to pay their 2011 dues starting tonight. Neville Mayfield welcomed visitors. W. C. reminded all that tomorrow's rock swap (Parks fish fry) will be the last of the year. It will be 10:00 A. M.-2:00 P. M., rain or shine. The Potosi field trip has been canceled but will be rescheduled. Mike Baldwin reported on the Nameless/Dale Hollow Lake field trip. Collecting was good at the Watts farm. Not many geodes at the Pharris farm, but the Ledbetter farm was "spectacular." People found several calyxes at Dale Hollow Lake. Marc Mueller informed the meeting that the next field trip will be December 11, to Richardson's Landing--dependent on the river level. W. C. said MAGS is selling two saws, which are now at Robert Duncan's house. December 10 is the bid deadline.

Alan Schaeffer read the list of Board candidates recommended by the nominating committee: President, no recommendation; Secretary, Marc Mueller; Treasurer, Bill Gilbert; 1st Vice-President (Field Trips), Marc Mueller; 2nd Vice-President (Programs), Paul Sides; Director (Assistant Field Trips), Charles Hill; Director (Assistant Programs), Alan Schaeffer; Director (Juniors), Carol Lybanon; Director (Assistant Juniors), Kimberly Loveland; Director (Librarian), Ron Brister; Director (Membership), Neville Mayfield;

Director (Historian), Nannett McDougal-Dykes; Newsletter Editor, Matthew Lybanon; Webmaster, Mike Baldwin; Show Chair; W. C. McDaniel; Assistant Show Chair, April Gibbs. A motion to accept the nominating committee's recommendations passed. Lou White said he will consider running for President.

Display presenters described their displays. Presenters and their displays were:

- Adult: Carol Lybanon, "Coral" (Dickson, TN, Honeymoon Island, FL, Memphis, TN); Jeff Tweed, "Geodes & Pennsylvania Fossils" (Livingston, TN, & Eldridge, AL); Kim Hill, "Coral, Fossils, etc." (Shelby Farms, Nonconnah, Nesbit, MS); Ashley Medlin, "Geodes, Crinoids" (Livingston & Nameless, TN); David Von Boechman, "Crinoids/Fossils, Geodes" (Livingston, TN).
- Junior: Emma Conrad, "Polished Rocks" (no location listed); Michael Montgomery, no title given; John Hare & Colby Powell, "Blue Quartz" (rock swap); Juliet Buckholdt, "Crinoid Stems" (no location given).

The winners were Jeff Tweed (adult) and Michael Montgomery (Junior).

Paul Sides showed a few items he found (and one he bought), and announced that the January program will be presented by Guy Weaver (title not available yet). Then Paul introduced tonight's speaker, Dr. Julie Morrow (co-author Bob Scott), who presented "The Sloan Dalton Site (Oldest Known Cemetery in the Western Hemisphere)."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P. M.

**Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society presents
the 32nd annual Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show
[The Earth Wide Open]
April 23-24, 2011 • Memphis Agricenter International**

MAGS donated a portion of the show's proceeds each year to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Memphis.

The show has over 30 high-quality dealers, displays, demonstrations, lectures and a popular kids area. It is an exhibition and forum for educational experiences that involve the earth sciences, lapidary arts and archaeology.

GOODBYE AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH!

MIKE BALDWIN, PAST EDITOR: If you haven't seen the movie, *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, you probably don't know what 'Goodbye, and thanks for all the Fish' is talking about. In a nut shell it was what the dolphins said as they were leaving Earth. So, as I pass the pen to Matthew, I must say that editing Rockhound News has been a challenge, but it has also been much fun. I'm not

leaving, I'm just passing the newsletter on to Matthew. I'll still be doing the website and whatever else I can do with and for the club. You might even see an article or two from me in future issues of RHN. Good luck to you Matthew. I am looking forward to reading your editions of Rockhound News. Thanks for all the fish.

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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, 2nd—06, 4th—03, 3rd—07 • Special Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st—03, 07 • Adult Article 1st—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: \$25 (Family); \$20 (Single); \$10 (Junior)

MAGS Rockhound News
2019 Littlemore Drive
Cordova, TN 38016

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meeting
January 6

MAGS Meeting
January 14

DMC Field Trip
December 11

Dues Are Past Due
NOW

No MAGS Field
Trip in January

