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CHARLES MCPHERSON

A TRIBUTE BY GEORGE LOUD

On Wednesday, January 21st, we lost our good friend and lifetime MAGS member, Charles McPherson. Charlie would have been 95 on April 7th. As his minister said at Charlie's funeral service, "Big Rock" Charlie the rock collector, was himself collected by his Lord and creator. His niece Luci Wallace said that as recently as several weeks earlier Charlie had been hauling rocks around in his garden. Charlie led a wonderful, interesting, and active life almost to the very end.

Most MAGS members probably knew Charlie as the host of numerous club picnics at his home in Brighton TN and as the artist who conceived "Rocky" the rockhound and all those wonderful cartoons that for so long appeared in the club newsletter. I have known Charlie since I was 14 years old, about 48 years. Perhaps I can share a few stories you may not have heard before.

When I first met Charlie he was an "old" bachelor who lived with a bachelor brother and his dad (died at age 99) in an old farmhouse in Germantown, now very valuable real estate. On one visit to Germantown I noted magazines stacked floor to ceiling on the porch and inquired about them. "Oh, those belong to Daddy. He intends to read them when he finds time." Given the fact that Charlie's dad was 98 or 99 at the time, I considered the plan to be optimism to the extreme. Neither Charlie nor his brother knew how to cook and depended on their aged, widower father to do the cooking and otherwise take care of them. Charlie never did learn how to cook. He had mineral specimens in his bedroom and to retrieve them for show he would crack the door ever so slightly, slip in, and reverse the process coming back out. Charlie freely admitted his room

see Charlie McPherson on page four . . .

FEBRUARY MAGS EVENTS

- 05 6:30p Board Meeting @ Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
13 7:30p General Meeting @ Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road, Memphis [bring refreshments and a displays]
Program: "Tumbling" presented by David McAlister
Mini-MAGS Youth will join the adults for the "Tumbling" program
19 7:00p M3 Micromounters Meeting at the home of Roger Van Cleef
21 8:30a MAGS Field Trip to Razor Rock Quarry, Harrisburg, AR [see page 3 for details]
28 9:00a DMC Field Trip to Epes, AL [see page 6 for details]



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I had to rewrite this lead paragraph twice for February and I don't like it one bit. MAGS lost three members recently. All will be greatly missed and they will continue to be greatly appreciated for their contributions to the club and their love for our hobby.

In late December, Mildred Laster died. Mildred was a good lapidary artist, especially in wire wrapping and making gem trees. She has conducted gem tree making classes for the juniors and adults and in the process hooked some club members on the activity. In addition, she was a regular on the local arts and crafts circuit and at the MAGS' show. Mildred, along with her travel and show buddy Idajean, traveled to more gem and mineral shows than most dealers.

In mid-January, Nancy Boucher died. Nancy took great pride in her rock collection and enjoyed sharing and talking about them with club members. She also had a keen interest in archaeology. Nancy was a consistent and dependable volunteer for club events such as the show.

In late January, life member Charlie McPherson died. Charlie was and still is the quintessential rockhound. George Loud has written a tribute article about Charlie in the newsletter. Please take time to read it.

The next few months will be very busy as we get back into the swing of things with our field trips and preparations for our 25th annual show. Mark you calendars for April 23-25. We will need lots of help to produce the best show in the south.

WC McDaniel

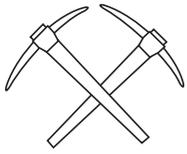
DIRECTORY ADDITIONS/CHANGES

CORNELIA MCDANIEL: MAGS welcomes three new members. Please add them to your directory. We also have new info for Mary and Ken.

- [1] Randa Spears: 157 Marne, Memphis, TN 38111; 901-324-2490; spearsrg@msn.com
- [2] Ashley Redden: 184 Mallard Drive, Brandon, MS 39047; 601-829-2789; asredden@netzero.com
- [3] Mike McNellis: 1676 Dorset Drive, Memphis, TN 38117; 901-767-6475; mcnellis@midssouth.rr.com
- [4] Mary Gibson/Ken Lovelett: 2841A Palo Verde Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112; 505-296-3679; klovelett@comcast.net

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NEWS, ARTICLES,
ANNOUNCEMENTS, OR PICTURES FOR THE
MARCH ISSUE OF MAGS ROCKHOUND NEWS IS
FEBRUARY 21, 2004

FEBRUARY 2004 MAGS FIELD TRIP



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2004 • 8:30am

RAZOR ROCK MATERIALS COMPANY

HOSTED BY THE CENTRAL ARKANSAS GEM, MINERAL AND GEOLOGY SOCIETY

COLLECTING SITE: The Razor Rock Materials Company, located in Poinsett County near Harrisburg, Arkansas. This trip is open to all MAGS members and collecting is free at these sites.

SPECIMENS: Marine invertebrate fossils, agates, jasper (great for tumbler stock) petrified wood and maybe a few geodes. These specimens may be found in the limestone rock matrix.

MEETING TIME/PLACE: 8:30 am, McDonald's Restaurant, located on AR-1 just south of Exit 241A of I-40. Come earlier if you plan to eat breakfast. We will convoy to the Razor Rock Materials facility promptly at 9:00 am. We will travel north on AR-1 towards Harrisburg (It's almost 1/2 hour driving time). Follow AFMS Field Trip Convoy Guidelines.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: From Memphis take I-40 West towards Little Rock, then AR-1 South exit number 241A, towards Forrest City. Allow approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours driving time.

TOOLS: Bring rock pick, hammer, chisel, pry bar, screwdriver, leather gloves, safety glasses, etc. Newspapers for wrapping specimens and collecting containers such as bucket or cloth bags.

SAFETY NOTES: While at these sites, all safety rules must be followed. All children and junior members must be supervised by an adult member at all times. Please be advised that there is always a possibility for injury. Sorry, no pets please. Follow AFMS safety rules, code of ethics and collect courtesy code.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: 5-7 on a scale of 1 (easy) to 10 (hard).

FIELD TRIP AGENDA:

9:00am Travel to the Razor Rock Materials facility.

12:00 noon We'll break for lunch. Please bring a sack or picnic lunch, that way we will be able to stay at the quarry and collect longer. Also, bring plenty of cold soft drinks and/or hot coffee or chocolate.

4:00 pm We'll call it a day and head for home.

If you want to go, please sign the list. If you sign up and decide not to go, please contact David McIlwain ASAP.

David McIlwain, MAGS Field trip Coordinator
305 Caitlin Drive, Oakland, Tennessee 38060-4259
Home (901) 465-7388; Cell (901) 266-1446
Office: (901) 867-4303; E-mail: davidmcilwain@netscape.net

Please Note: MAGS field trips are open only to MAGS members and their guests.

25TH ANNUAL SHOW NOTES

- Mark your calendars. Show dates are April 24 and 25 with the show dinner Friday night, April 23.
- We have a continuing need for gem dig and grab bag material.
- At the March meeting we will be stuffing the grab bags, so come prepared to do some fun work.
- At the April meeting we will be addressing and stamping about 2500 postcards to mail for the show.
- Beginning in April, if you driving west on Central at Parkway, check out the billboard on the northwest side above the Subway shop.
- We will have three new dealers at the show this year. Look for a complete listing in the very near future.

MAGS MEMORIALS

Mildred Laster, 83, of Memphis, was a retired school teacher, and a longtime member of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Mildred passed away at her home on December 31, 2003. She will be remembered by MAGS members, young and old. She enjoyed sharing her love for gem trees, by showing the MAGS kids how to make their own. Mildred, and her good friend Idajean Jordan, attended rock shows all over the Mid-South and manned their booth at craft shows all over Shelby County, as well as at our own Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show. Mildred was a member of Second Presbyterian Church and the widow of Robert Eugene Laster. Mildred leaves a daughter, Charlie Ann Gardner and a son, Dr. Robert E. Laster, Jr., both of Memphis; three brothers, Charles Akers, Richard Akers, and Dr. Howard Akers, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. We will miss Mildred's warm smile at our MAGS activities.

Nancy Boucher, of Memphis, long time member of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, passed away in January. Nancy had been unable to attend MAGS meetings for quite some time, but during her active years, she was always busy, lending a hand, helping to get

things done at the meetings and during the annual Rock Shows. Nancy, her enthusiasm, and her spirit of service will be greatly missed by her MAGS family. Nancy leaves three children: Ashley, Andrew and Aaron. We have missed seeing you at the club meetings, and we hope to see you again very soon. Our thoughts are with you as you grieve the loss of your mother.

Charles Edward McPherson, 94, of Brighton, retired from International Harvester and lifetime member of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, passed away on January 21, 2004 at Covington Care Nursing Home. George Loud, MAGS member, now living in Washington, DC, was a close personal friend of Charlie. George has written a very nice tribute to Charlie in this newsletter. If you have ever had the opportunity to visit Charlie's home, you know how fantastic his collection is. Charlie loved his hobby and shared his passion with everyone who knew him. He was a member of Clopton United Methodist Church. Charlie, widower of Emily McPherson, leaves a sister, Martha Ann McPherson of Memphis. Charlie McPherson will be remembered and greatly missed by MAGS members and friends.

M3 [MAGS MICROMOUNTERS]

Number _____ Photo _____
 Genus _____
 Species _____
 County _____
 State _____
 Formation _____
 Age _____
 Collector _____

Notes

ROGER VAN CLEEF: *Always label your specimens.* The card shown on the left is an example of the type of card you should use to identify full-size fossil specimens in your collection. The card on the right is the type of card you should use to identify rocks and minerals in your collection. Micro-specimens use a smaller label [not shown here]. Micromounters, I will have some micro labels for you at the next M3 meeting on February 19.

Number _____ Photo _____
 Chemical Name _____
 Common Name _____
 Chemical Comp _____
 Location _____
 Collector _____
 Date _____

Notes

CHARLIE McPHERSON . . . continued from page one

was a mess and that he was ashamed of it. He never learned how to keep house either. Several years ago when myself and Dr. Jim Cole visited him, Jim asked if he ever watched his TV. Charlie volunteered that he had watched a football game that very afternoon, whereupon Jim took a nearby brush and proceeded to brush about a 1/8 inch layer of dust off of the screen, creating a cloud that drove me from the room.

Charlie was an extremely talented individual. Aside from a WWII stint in the army air force, the only job he knew as an adult was that as a machinist, working for International Harvester in Memphis. A master machinist he was, as evidenced by the 30+ inch diamond saw he built himself. He built his home in Brighton, including a massive stone (specimen - petrified wood, etc.) largely by himself with the help of a few subcontractors. His ability as an artist/cartoonist has already been noted but was perhaps surpassed by his carving ability. I hope that his moonshiner's cabin (made of petrified wood) and carved figurines that went with it, which Charlie carved, end up with someone who will appreciate them. He was also very strong as a younger man. If my brother or I found a large petrified log in one of our countless outings in Crow Creek, Charlie would throw it in his duffle bag, throw the bag over his shoulder and walk the creek bed carrying that bag.

Charlie was an environmentalist before environmentalism became trendy. In addition to his membership in MAGS, he was a member of a bird watchers club and a member of a wildflower society. He always cautioned us not to litter. Charlie keenly appreciated the beauty of all of God's creation.

Charlie loved children and kept photos of the young ones, including that of my daughter Kelly, on his refrigerator. I recall a visit to his home by a lady and her daughter, both MAGS members at the time. Charlie had just finished making and polishing a hardwood display cabinet in which he intended to house some of his mineral specimens. When the little girl admired it he gave it away on the spot. Charlie's charity and kindness were shown many times and in a variety of ways. Indeed he took into his home an entire family of five who had been down on their luck. Women were another matter. We would tease Charlie, saying that he appeared to be sweet on so-and-so, which Charlie would vehemently deny and become somewhat agitated. Therefore, it came as something of a shock when I learned that Charlie had married Emily, a fellow MAGS member. Charlie was a

see Charlie McPherson on page eight . . .

MAGS ROADCUT

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

. . . **tumbling tip.** Need proof that it is a good idea to use separate barrels for your rough and polishing stages? Try this! After completing your rough grit stage(s) thoroughly wash your rocks and grit barrel. Return the rocks to that same barrel, fill with clean water and tumble for about 10-15 minutes. Open your barrel and check out the water. It most likely will be a dirty gray. Dirty gray is not a polishing medium. So buy that second barrel.

. . . **calcite and limelight.** The phrase "in the limelight" was coined to refer to actors performing on the stage prior to electricity and the lighting was generated by the heating of calcite, which, when heated turns to lime and calcium oxide and produces a bright glow.

. . . **fossil news.** German scientists have discovered a batch of petrified nuts in lignite coal, estimated to be about 17 million years old.

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

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION NEWS



DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the Mobile Rock and Gem Society (Host)
9:30AM [CST], Saturday, February 28, 2004
Epes, Alabama (Sumter County)

There is no fee for collecting at this site. Children are allowed under adult supervision. Pets are allowed on leash.

COLLECTING: The finds are marcasite, pyrite nodules and fossils from the cretaceous period.

BRING: Buckets or bags, small hand shovel and scraper, newspaper for wrapping fossils. There is no restaurant nearby, so bring food, water and drinks. Wear layered clothing for our unpredictable Alabama weather.

WHERE TO STAY: There are approximately 20 motels and four campgrounds in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, which is 52 miles northeast of Epes. Livingston, Alabama is approximately 8.7 miles west of Epes on U.S. Highway 11 and has two motels, Comfort Inn and Western Inn. Demopolis, Alabama is 30 miles south of Epes and has

seven motels and two campgrounds.

MEET: 9:30 am, Central time, Saturday, February 28.

DIRECTIONS: Epes is on U.S. Highway 11 which runs parallel with Interstate 20 and 59. We will meet at or near the R & E Quick Stop County Store and Service Station on Highway 11 at the intersection of Highway 21, which is approximately 1/4 mile west of the Tombigbee River bridge.

CONTACT: Larry Landry, Field Trip Chairman
(251) 653-8459 • e-mail maryloulandry@aol.com

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

SFMS & OTHER CLUB SHOWS AND EVENTS

Feb. 20-22, Kirkwood, MO—Cabin Fever Productions. 12th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, & Fossil Show and Sale. Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S. Geyer Rd. 20th, 4-9; 21st, 10-7; 22nd, 10-4. Becky Vick, 618-394-0443.

Feb. 28-29, Jackson, MS—Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show. 45th Annual. A & I Buildings, State Fairgrounds. 28th, 9-6; 29th, 10-5. Brenda Hankins, www.msgem.org.

Mar. 11-14, Deming, NM—39th annual show, "Rockhound Roundup"; Deming Gem & Mineral Society; Southwestern New Mexico Fairgrounds; Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; displays, demonstrations, jewelry, rocks, drawings, raffle, field trips, silent auction, live auction; contact Vicky Lindsley, P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031, (505) 544-0839.

March 20-21, Tampa, FL—Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club. Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. Highway 301 N. 20th, 10-6; 21st, 10-5. Doug Heym, 813-626-6997, rockclub@tampabay.rr.com.

MAGS REVIEW

DECEMBER 04, 2004 BOARD MEETING NOTES

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: The MAGS Board of Directors met December 4, 2003 at the Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The following were present: Mike Baldwin, Nancy Folden, Idajeon Jordan, Cornelia and W.C. McDaniel, Park and Terri Noyes, Raynee Randolph, and Roger Van Cleef. The secretary's minutes from the November Board and General Meetings were accepted and approved as written. The following reports were given: [1] President: The financial report for December will be given in January. There will be a tentative field trip for January to Richardson's Landing, depending on the height of the river. More info later. [2] Program: The program for January will be an overview of ethics and safety. In February we will have a tumbling demonstration by our own David McAlister. [3] Editor/Web: The web site has received over 100,000 visits. In January our newsletter will be 50 years old. Look for some changes, updates, and additions for 2004. There will also be a junior article featured every month. December 31st will be the deadline for Junior of the Year submission. See the web site under MAGS Youth for the criteria and the forms needed. [4] Library: The library will be closed at the December meeting due to the Christmas party, but will reopen in January. [5] Youth: January 2004 we will have a TV program. [6] Membership: A bereavement card was sent to Carolyn Hayes, congratulations to Irma Idell, and Breezy Levitch has been battling an inner ear infection. [7] Show: The next committee meeting will be Monday, January 12. [8] Old Business: Christmas party details need to be completed. The club will furnish the ham and turkey, members bring desserts and [or] side dishes. Kim will furnish a six-foot tree. The building will be open by 4:30 for helpers to decorate. W.C. will provide the tablecloths and the cutlery. Park will provide 3 "yule logs" for the fireplace. There will be one table for presents. Everyone needs to stay and help clean up. [9] New Business: The January board meeting will be moved to Tuesday, January 6, same place, same time. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.



SUNSHINE REPORT

CORNELIA MCDANIEL: January has been a sad month in the life of MAGS. We lost Mildred Laster and Nancy Boucher at the beginning of January and Charlie McPherson passed away in mid-January. All three of these members will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and sorrows are with their families. W.C.'s mother and Bill Scheffer's brother were both in the hospital at this writing. Our thoughts are with both families. John Jones is back home after a stay in the hospital. Welcome home! MAGSters, make sure you stand in the path of cupid's arrow on Valentine's Day.

DEC. 12 GENERAL MEETING NOTES

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: MAGS November General Membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on December 12, 2003. Normal activities were suspended for this meeting so the entire membership could enjoy the festivities of the annual Christmas party.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthstone: Amethyst

- 3 - Jim Holliday
- 9 - Alex Burke
- 10 - Dennis Sanders
- 11 - Teresa Anderson
- 12 - Don Richardson
- 12 - Louis White
- 14 - Lauren Rodgers
- 17 - Darryl Levitch
- 18 - Harold Idell
- 19 - David Vaughn
- 20 - Juanita Canada
- 21 - Allie Van Cleef
- 22 - Dean Griffin
- 22 - Jane Roane
- 23 - Julia Bailey
- 26 - Marge Hall
- 27 - Alexander Hurley
- 28 - Maxine Fulghum
- 28 - Cynthia Patton

CHARLIE McPHERSON . . . continued from page five

people person and I suspect that his happiest years were those he spent with Emily who shared his interests in rocks and gardens.

At about the age of 14 myself and my brother Jim (4 years younger) started to go on field trips with Charlie. In addition to the aforementioned trips to Crow Creek, we went on numerous trips with Charlie to Hot Springs, Mt. Ida and Magnet Cove, Arkansas. Charlie was on a first name basis with Ocus Stanley Senior, Lawton Kimzey and Joe Kimzey, after whom the mineral Kimzeyite was named. Another frequent destination was Marion, Kentucky and the Illinois fluorite district, where it seemed that every porch and half the yards for miles were covered thick with specimens. The first stop in the fluorite area was always Ben Clements' place. Ben was always very pleased to see Charlie, perhaps because Charlie always spent a lot of money. If ever in the area of Marion, Kentucky be sure to visit the Ben Clements' Museum. Unfortunately, most of the labelling in the Clements Museum is deficient because of lack of mine attribution. Another favorite stop was the home of Mr. Goolsby in Rosiclare, Illinois.

When I was 16 Charlie took Jim and myself on an extended collecting trip through the tri-state area, Oklahoma and Colorado. We collected selenite in Oklahoma and Almandine garnets at the old Salida copper mine and visited the Royal Gorge, Rocky Mountain National Park, and Cripple Creek. Prior to leaving on this extended trip my parents had Charlie over to dinner, I think for the purpose of checking him out. We loaded Charlie's old Buick with canned food I was supposed to cook at campsites in Colorado. As it turned out I only cooked when Charlie wanted to get rid of those cans to make room for more rocks. Upon pulling out of my parents drive, bound for Colorado, the tailpipe and muffler fell off Charlie's old Buick, which event was less than reassuring to my parents. We wired the assembly back up and were on our way. Returning home through the tri-state area, we made a second stop at Boodle Lane's place near Joplin, Missouri, where Charlie purchased a 2 foot long cluster of beautiful, huge yellow Calcite scalenohedral xls. Somewhere in Arkansas Charlie stopped roadside to get a cold drink from

the ice chest in the trunk and some twenty minutes later down the road Charlie remembered he had taken out the Calcite specimen to get to the ice chest. We quickly turned around but the specimen was gone and Charlie never did recover it. If only I had the foresight to be photographed with Ben Clements, Goolsby, Ocus Stanley, and the Kimzeys, all now legends in the hobby. Sad to say, in this day and age, parents would be unlikely to trust someone like Charlie, largely a stranger to them, to take their children on such an adventure.

As an adult I made several collecting trips with Charlie after Emily had passed away. The most recent was about five years ago as guests of Dr. Jim Cole at his cabin outside of Crystal Springs (near Mt. Ida). Charlie greatly admired Dr. Cole and thoroughly enjoyed the trip, even though the sad condition of his feet limited his collecting ability—he could only wear moccasins with strategically cut holes.

Charlie, there will never be another exactly like you and we miss you greatly. Please put in a good word for us.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Charlie McPherson created the MAGS logo in 1976, and we still use it today. His original artwork was scanned and digitized in 1998 for use on our website, in the newsletter, on club t-shirts and other printed materials.

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

RED ROVER, RED ROVER

MIKE BALDWIN: January has been a great month to take a closer look at Mars. The Mars rover twins, *Spirit* and *Opportunity* are both on the ground and we have seen some spectacular pictures from them.



Top image was taken by *Spirit* in the Gusev Crater on January 19, 2004. The bottom image was taken by *Opportunity* at the Meridiani site, halfway around the planet from *Spirit*, on January 28, 2004. Images courtesy of NASA/JPL/Cornell.

WEB STATISTICS

MIKE BALDWIN: Here's a look at our website (www.memphisgeology.org) from 01.21.02 through 02.28.04:

Visits* 105,321

Hits** 453,448

Top pages in the past 30 days:

Explorer0203.pdf 667 hits

Home Page 601 hits

Explorer0403.pdf 466 hits

Explorer0903.pdf 446 hits

RockNews0203.pdf 297 hits

Average visits/day this month ... 268

* visit=every time someone comes to the site

** hit=every page viewed on the site

MY BIRTHSTONE IS PEARL . . . AND MOONSTONE . . . AND ALEXANDRITE

AN INTERVIEW WITH JENNIFER BALDWIN

My birthstone is pearl . . . and moonstone . . . and alexandrite and I heard recently that the color for my month is silver. I really like alexandrite because of the way it changes colors in light. My high school ring is alexandrite. Right now it is a very pretty green, but in a different light it will be blue or pinkish. I like minerals that change color or show signs of fire, like fire opal and fire agate. Even labradorite shows streaks of golden fire. Of course I like labradorite because of its name too. My family had a sweet black labrador retriever for many years. Every time I see labradorite, I think of our dog, Sadé [Shar'day].

One of my favorite minerals is fire opal. I think it is so cool the way the different colors just shimmer through the rock. I have a few pieces of fire opal; some from Spencer Mine and one opal from Louisiana that I got last year at the rock show. Another one of my favorite rocks is grape agate. It's bubbly and purple! I guess I just like unusual rocks and minerals.

One of my favorite places to collect is Stuart, Virginia. During our family vacation year before last, we stopped at Fairy Stone State Park and collected staurolite crystals [Fairy Stones]. Many of these crystals are shaped like crosses and x's. I really like the cross-shaped ones. After we collected staurolite for a while we went inside the small ole timey gas station near the park for Cokes in real glass bottles, and we watched the owner as he filed the dirt and iron away from some of the crosses. We enjoyed Fairy Stone State Park so much that we stopped there again on our way home from vacation.

In April, MAGS and my Venture Crew are going to Crater of Diamond State Park in Arkansas, and I'm not leaving until I find a huge diamond! I may be there a really long time, but I'm staying!

I enjoy backpacking and scrambling as well as collecting rocks, so I guess you could say that I like to collect 'em and I climb 'em, but not at the same time. That could be dangerous. I enjoy climbing the rock faces of Pinnacle Mountain in Arkansas. You have such an awesome view when you get to the top. You can sit on the boulders at the top and see for miles and miles.

I have always had an interest in space geology too. I think it is fascinating to see the pictures from the Mars rovers and learn about the geology of other planets, moons and asteroids. I think it would be great to get a degree in Planetary Geology and actually get paid to do what I love to do . . . study rocks, minerals and space.

INTERVIEW BY MIKE BALDWIN

JENNIFER IS A JUNIOR AT COLLIERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR SALE: one 8" slab saw with several new blades [\$200.00], and a Genie capping machine with some new wheels [\$200.00]. Both are used and will be sold "as is". If you are interested in these items, please contact George or Rena Everett at (662) 234-8561.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for: [1] MAGS Field Trip to Brilliant, Alabama on March 20; [2] MAGS Field Trip to Crater of Diamonds, Arkansas on April 17; and [3] the MAGS 25th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show on April 24-25, with the Show Dinner of April 23.

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AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:

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

SFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:

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

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

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

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

DUES:

Family-\$20.00

Single-\$16.00

Junior-\$8.00

Associate: \$13.00

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

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MAGS Rockhound News
367 North Main Street
Collierville, TN 38017-2301

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meeting
February 5

General Meeting
February 13

M³ Meeting
February 19

MAGS Field Trip
February 21

DMC Field Trip
February 28

Rock Show
April 24-25

