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### Membership meeting changes

by WC McDaniel

Beginning in February, MAGS will be adding some new features to our membership meetings. I hope you will view these changes as an opportunity to come to meetings, participate and volunteer. The additions include:

1. **Activity area:** a designated area will be available for demonstrations, workshops, videos and other special events. We will usually schedule activities three months in advance.
  - February: Demonstration, Alan Helt—Bola ties and other jewelry forms
  - March: Workshop, Alan Helt—Bola ties and other jewelry forms
  - April: Demonstration, George Everett—Wire wrapping
  - Future events include carving with Jim McNeil and metalsmithing with Beverly Crockett
2. **Theme Display:** We will continue with our current competitive displays, so make plans to bring your displays to share with us. You could be rewarded with prizes at the end of the year. In addition to the regular competitive displays, each month a specific display theme will be featured. Theme displays will not be competitive and you do not have to talk about your displays. Bring one or more items to place in the theme display. They can be items that you have collected, purchased or made, as long as they fit the theme for the month. If you have a theme idea, let me know. The themes for the next three

>>> see *Membership meeting changes on page eight* >>>

### February MAGS events

- 03 6:30p MAGS Board Meeting • Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
- 11 7:30p MAGS Membrship Meeting • Shady Grove Presbyterian Church  
5535 Shady Grove Road • Bring refreshments and displays
- 12 9:30a DMC Field Trip to Jackson Crossroads, Georgia [see page 6]
- 17 7:00p MAGS Fossil Section Meeting at the home of Roger Van Cleef
- 19 TBD MAGS Field Trip to Cleveland, Mississippi [see page 3]

Our February program will be presented by Mississippi geologist, David Dockery. Mr. Dockery will be speaking to us about and showing us specimens of Mississippi opal.

# 2005-2006

## Officers and board of directors

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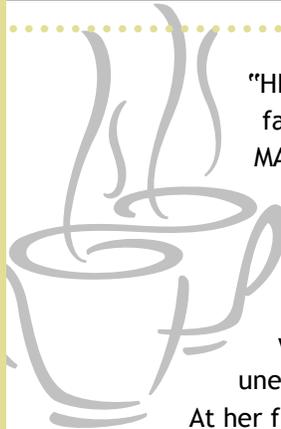
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## President's corner: WC McDANIEL



"HEY DAVE" was an enjoyable and familiar sound heard during many of MAGS' field trips. It came from Diane McIlwain as she called for her husband, Dave. The call was usually associated with an exciting find, question or observation. Dave was always there. Diane died unexpectedly on Wednesday, December 22.

At her funeral, her son James eulogized "when it came to rocks, she was like a kid in a candy store." Rockhounds and MAGS' members appreciated Diane for that enthusiasm, her contributions to the club and her family. Diane will be missed.

Congratulations to Jim and Hisami McNeil, Wayne and Ann Williams and Vivian Sharpe. They have been members of MAGS for twenty-five consecutive years and have obtained life member status. Congratulations on your accomplishments and contributions to MAGS.

The **MAGS Rockhound News** has won several regional and national awards for 2003/2004. Congratulations to our editor, Mike Baldwin, for his continued commitment to the club and publishing the best rock club newsletter in America. A complete listing of the awards is on page three of this issue.

As we start the new year, MAGS is making some changes. First, we have added some new features to our membership meeting including theme displays, an activity area, a swapping and identification area and a chance to win a door prize by answering a question. Be sure to attend the February meeting to check things out. Second, we have modified the information we publish for upcoming field trips. In the future we will list date and general information about upcoming field trips. Complete trip information will be provided at meetings, through emails and by phone to current MAGS members. We do this for several reasons: the continued shrinkage of field trip locations and opportunities, the ease in which information is distributed over the internet and for insurance requirements. We have also modified our membership requirements for those who wish to join the club and participate in our field trip and activities.

Be sure to check out the information for the upcoming show and please make a commitment to volunteer. We need you.

WC

## A broad perspective



MIKE BALDWIN, MAGS EDITOR: Performing the duties of newsletter editor and web coordinator for MAGS gives me an opportunity to look at our club from a broad perspective. Our members take their jobs seriously. Committees meet on a regular basis to look at the way we operate and suggest ways to make things better. We have members working on the details of the Rock Show (coming up in April), members working on amendments to the constitution and by-laws, members planning programs (for the adults and the youth), members planning field trips, coordinating rock swaps, buying books and maintaining the library, setting up tables and chairs for our meetings, pouring soft drinks, bringing snacks, sharing displays. Have you ever stopped to think about how much effort and coordination it takes to keep MAGS running smooth? And I think it runs very smooth.

Almost 300 people a day visit our website. They don't just visit it by accident. They are looking for information or searching for someone to talk to about a school program or counseling a merit badge. MAGS always has members willing to spend their time volunteering to teach classrooms full of elementary children or small groups of Cub Scouts about rocks, minerals and fossils. If you haven't volunteered, you are truly missing the best part!

## 2005 dates to remember

	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Articles
Feb	3	11	--
Mar	3	11	February 20
Apr	Mar 31	8	March 20
May	5	13	April 24
Jun	2	10	May 22
Jul	Jun 30	10	June 19
Aug	4	12	July 24
Sep	1	9	August 21
Oct	6	14	September 25
Nov	3	11	October 23
Dec	1	9	November 20

## February MAGS Field Trip



WC McDANIEL, MAGS PRESIDENT: The MAGS field trip for February will be on Saturday, February 19. We will be viewing the Looper Ice Age Fossil Collection at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. Cleveland is about 120 miles south of Memphis. Complete details will be available at the Membership Meeting on Friday night, February 11. You may call or email me for details as well.

## MAGS newsletter wins regional and national awards

MIKE BALDWIN, MAGS EDITOR: Thank you to all MAGS members who have contributed to **MAGS Rockhound News** in the past and a hearty invitation for you to continue contributing in the future. We have been honored recently as the recipients of several newsletter awards.

For 2004, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies [AFMS] presented us with two awards: 10th Place—Adult Article for Roger Van Cleef's article entitled "Napoleon's Army: Gravesite Uncovered in Lithuania" and Honorable Mention for Editor—Small Newsletters.

For 2004, the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies [SFMS] honored us with five awards: 1st Place for Editor—Small Newsletters; 2nd Place—Adult Article for Roger Van Cleef's article entitled "Napoleon's Army: Gravesite Uncovered in Lithuania"; 4th Place—Adult Article for WC McDaniel's "Agate Days and Agate Ways in Moose Lake, MN"; 8th Place—Adult Article for Mike Baldwin's "Coon Creek Fossils: 90 Miles East of Memphis"; and Honorable Mention—Adult Article for David McIlwain's "W.M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park: Franks town, MS". Congratulations to MAGS and it's authors. Keep those articles coming!

## Accolades

In December, WC McDaniel and Mike Baldwin answered an email request from Cub Scout Pack 99, Germantown Baptist Church to help them get started on their Geology Activity Badge. We recently received a card signed by several members of the Pack.

*Thank you for bringing your collection to share with our Cub Scouts. They all seemed to really enjoy the hands-on night.* Page Slaughter  
Den 7 Leader  
Pack 99

Congratulations to Rhena South and Kris Helms, MAGS youth members for becoming the first juniors in the United States to earn badges in the Future Rockhounds of America [FRA] Merit Badge program.

## Website statistics

MIKE BALDWIN, MAGS WEB COORDINATOR:

Here's a brief look at our website [www.memphisgeology.org] from 01.21.02 through 01.31.05:

Visits .....	110,745
Hits .....	489,948
Avg visits/day past month .....	277
Top pages in the past 30 days:	
Explorer0203.pdf .....	703 hits
Home page.....	696 hits
argon2003.pdf.....	567 hits
rocknews0105.pdf .....	412 hits
Explorer0903.pdf .....	331 hits
Explorer0403.pdf .....	305 hits

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

## Sunshine

MELBA COLE, MAGS MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR:

Our condolences go out to the family of long-time MAGS member, Leslie Garth, who passed away in December. Leslie became a member of our club in 1984. Older members will remember Leslie as a warm and gentle man.

Books will be placed in the MAGS library as a memorial to Leslie Garth and Diane McIlwain.

Three cheers for the good reports from John Jones. We wish you continued strength and recovery. We also wish a speedy recovery to Roger Van Cleef, who is on the mend from recent illness.

If you have news about MAGS members, please send them to me at JMelCole@aol.com or give me a call at 382-0344.

## Rock Starz Shine

CORNELIA McDANIEL, MAGS TREASURER:

In this column each month we recognize the volunteer efforts of MAGS members who continue to make contributions to the overall success of our club.

As we begin this new year, there are many ways that members can lend a hand to make a difference at club meetings and other activities. There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet at the membership meeting listing areas that need your help. Your commitment is a valued asset.

If you would like to nominate a member for volunteer recognition, please contact me at 901.274.7706 or send your nomination to cfmcdaniel@worldnet.att.net.

## February Birthdays

MELBA COLE, MAGS MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR:

- Birthstone for February is Amethyst.
- 3 - Jim Holliday
  - 10 - Dennis Sanders
  - 11 - Teresa Anderson
  - 12 - Don Richardson
  - 12 - Louis White
  - 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
  - 28 - Maxine Fulghum

## From the Treasurer

CORNELIA McDANIEL, MAGS TREASURER:

At the beginning of each calendar year it is necessary to collect dues from each member. The announcement begins in December. I'd like to say thank-you to the 46% of our membership that have already submitted payment. Dues are very important to the club and are the primary source of income used to fund expenses and the services that the club provides. Please pay today!

There will be a member information sheet available at the February 11 club meeting. This information is used to create the annual Membership Directory. I'd like to ask those in attendance to take a moment and verify accuracy by reviewing the content of your membership information. Keeping your contact information updated ensures that you will always be within reach.



WC McDANIEL, MAGS PRESIDENT: **MAGS Roadcut** brings you little tidbits and useful information each month. The **MAGS Fossil Section Group** will start in February, so the next few Roadcuts will focus on fossils:

- The word "fossil" is derived from the Latin word "fossilis" which means "to be dug up."
- Originally fossils referred to any item dug up: fossils, rocks, minerals or man-made artifacts. Later it was revised to refer to naturally buried and preserved remains of organisms that lived on a earth long time ago.
- Many believe the origins of fossils either was from the great biblical flood or grew inside rocks. Greek philosophers believed fossils formed similar to crystals or stalagmites. Leonard De Vinci believed fossils were the petrified remains of once-living organisms. However, due the heretical beliefs of that time his writings were not published until the 19th century.
- The discovery and study of fossils contributed greatly to the production of the first geological maps as it was observed that different types of rocks contained different kinds of fossils.

Roadcut information was obtained from "Fossils" by Cyril Walker and David Ward

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society  
26th annual Mid-America  
**Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show**  
Saturday, April 23, 9-6 and Sunday, April 24, 10-5  
Pipkin Building—Midsouth Fairgrounds, Memphis

Portion of admission benefits the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis

- 30 dealers (250 tables)—Rocks, Fossils, Minerals, Gems, Jewelry, Beads, Supplies
- Geology, Lapidary and Archaeology Exhibits and Demonstrations
- Kids area with Gem Dig, "Rocks Around the Clock" and Exhibits
- Workshops/Classes—wire wrapping, bola tie and other jewelry

**GRAND DOOR PRIZE—GIANT AMETHYST CATHEDRAL**  
(84 pounds, 37 inches tall)

MAGS MEMBERS, THE SHOW BELONGS TO AND IS YOU, SO HELP BY :

- Distributing show announcements everywhere that is permissible
- Distributing club tickets
- Sending emails announcing the show to all your friends, family, coworkers
- Placing large posters in community areas
- Placing announcements /news article in your work/club newsletter, scout troops
- Volunteering to help work during the show
- Donating material for the gem dig and grab bags

**Annual Show Dinner • Friday night, April 22 at 6:30**

1. YOU can help by committing to bring a dish or two
2. Arrive early to help set up and stay late to cleanup and convert the dinner area to the ROCKZONE

**The show needs YOUR help!**

- Thursday, April 21 - Building setup
- Friday, April 22 - Building setup for dealers and dinner
- Saturday, April 23 and/or Sunday, April 24 - Volunteer to help with the ROCKZONE, front ticket desk/information, hospitality
- Sunday, April 24 - show breakdown and clean up

**SIGN UP TODAY!**



### DMC program of the SFMS field trip committee An official field trip of the Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society Saturday, February 12, 2005 • 9:30a-3:30p • Wilkes Co., Georgia

**Where:** Jackson's Crossroads Amethyst Site, Jackson's Crossroads, Wilkes County, Georgia [a fee site]

**Children:** Children allowed only under close adult supervision. Please be careful of holes.

**Pets:** Pets [on a leash] allowed at this site.

**Fee:** This is a fee dig. There will be a \$15.00 charge per adult. This allows you one 5-gallon bucket full of goodies to take home with you. Children under 18 are free.

**Contact information:** Jay Batcha: 478-784-1965 • Cell [day of dig only] 478-319-2859 • rocky1s@cox.net

**Trip:** The new Wilkes Co. pay-to-dig amethyst site is located in Northwest Wilkes County, Georgia, between the communities of Rayle and Tignall in an area known as Jackson's Crossroads (abbreviated JXR). Boulders at this site contain vugs that are drusy lined and some have deep purple amethyst. The quality of these are sometimes of incredible water clear clarity and have a deep purple color that is quite unique. Bring tools to dig they crystals out, but there are also plenty of free crystals in the soil. Visit [www.dixieuhedrals.net](http://www.dixieuhedrals.net) for information about this site.

**Collecting:** Amethyst crystals, facet grade amethyst, and clear quartz crystals. You will find some of the finest amethyst in Georgia and the southeast.

**Bring:** Sledgehammer, safety glasses, rock hammers, chisels, shovel, pick, scratching tools, and bucket with something to protect your finds such as newspaper, bubble wrap, or, etc. There will be food and drinks to buy. Dress for the weather. It can be cold this time of year. If you would like to bring stuff to trade, that would be great addition to this field trip.

**Where we will meet:** Dollar General Store in Tignall, GA [between Washington and Elberton on Hwy 17]. Coming from the South on I-20 take exit 172 [Highway 78] and head north to Washington. In Washington, take Highway 17 north to Tignall. The Dollar General Store is on the left in Tignall. This location is near Graves Mt.

**More information:** For a brief history of this site, as well as listing of nearby accommodations, please email [editor@memphisgeology.org](mailto:editor@memphisgeology.org).

*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!*

## February SFMS shows and other events

**FEBRUARY 11-13, 2005** • Merritt Island, FL • Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club. Annual Symphony of Gemstones Show, Kiwanis Island Park, 950 Kiwanis Park Road. Hours: 11, 1:00pm-5:00pm; 12-13, 10:00am-5:00pm. Contact: George E. Tolson, 321.783.4795.

**FEBRUARY 18-20, 2005** • Vero Beach, FL • The Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Society • Gem and Jewelry Show, Vero Beach Community Center, 14th Avenue and 23rd Street. Hours: 18, noon-5pm; 19, 10am-5pm; 20, 10am-4pm. Contact Pedro Araoz, 608 Arcacia Road, Vero Beach, FL 32963 or 772-231-0005.

**FEBRUARY 26-27, 2005** • Jackson MS—Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society • 46th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show. A&I Buildings, State Fairgrounds at High Street. Hours: 26, 9am-6pm; 27, 10am-5pm. Contact Ashley Redden, 601-925-8272 or [asredden@netzero.com](mailto:asredden@netzero.com).

### December 2004 board meeting notes

Raynee Randolph

The MAGS board of directors met December 02, 2004 at The Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The following were present: Mike Baldwin, Sherri Baldwin, Nancy Folden, Sherida Helms, Idajean Jordan, Cornelia McDaniel, WC McDaniel, Park Noyes, Terri Noyes, Raynee Randolph, Bill Scheffer, Susan Thom and Roger Van Cleef.

The following reports were given: **[01] Treasurer's Report;** **[02] 1st VP Report**—There will not be a field trip in December. There were eight club members on the Black Rock trip. Some great pink dolomite and calcite specimens were collected; **[03] Program Report**—Due to the Christmas party, there will be no program in December; **[04] Web Report**—Lodestar has application information for Junior of the Year for 2005. The website is being updated with more search features and more student resources; **[05] Library Report**—The library will not be open in December due to the Christmas party. Items taken out can be returned in January without an overdue fee; **[06] Youth Report**—Seven youth members earned their Earth Science badges. Certificates will be awarded at the December meeting; **[07] Membership Report**—Sympathy to Lucy Wallace. Cheers to Frances Walker and Janice Sanford. An information packet has been sent to Eileen Price for the SFMS meeting in April. Board members are reminded to bring soft drinks to the membership meetings; **[08] Show Report**—The show committee will not meet again until January; **[09] Old Business**—The Fellowship Hall will be open at 5:30pm for early setup for the Christmas party. Board members are reminded to bring 2-liter drinks. Raynee will bring ice and Idajean will make punch; **[10] New Business**—[a] Bank signature cards need to be revised; [b] We are considering Dixie Cafe on Poplar as new board meeting place; [c] Susan, Mike, Cornelia and Melba will meet to discuss membership directory, forms, packets and renewals. Adjourned at 7:35pm.

### December 2004 membership meeting notes

Raynee Randolph

The MAGS December membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on December 10, 2004, presided by President WC McDaniel. There were 51 members and six visitors present. The visitors were Anne Warren, Mary Enders, Cecil Perkins, Lisa Edwards, Mary Klug and Al Klug. Due to the Christmas party, we did not follow our standard meeting procedures. Melba Cole graciously gave the benediction and our membership enjoyed a sumptuous meal followed by delectable desserts. Seven youth members were awarded certificates for earning Earth Science badges during Earth Science Week. The youth members were Rhena South, Karen Schaeffer, Lauren Schaeffer, Kristopher Helms, Allie Van Cleef and Rachel Griffin. Congratulations to you all! All the adult and youth monthly display winners for 2004 were presented with gifts from the club. The next event, which had been eagerly anticipated by all, was the annual gift exchange. Names were called one by one as members pondered, weighed and measured the gifts stacked high on the huge gift table. As paper ripped you could hear the ooh's and ahh's, as beautiful gifts from the earth were revealed. There were also many hobby-related gifts as well. Family pictures were taken by our "fireplace" and the petrified firewood was won in an auction by David Helms. Clean up began as the MAGS year came to a close. Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

### Welcome two new members to the club

Lisa Edwards and Cecil Perkins were both visitors at our December party. They are now both members of MAGS. Please welcome them and add the following information to your membership directory.

**[01] Cecil Perkins** • 4384 Kimball Avenue • Memphis, TN 38117 • 901-685-7294 • swmmngbr@aol.com

**[02] Lisa Edwards** • 3608 Carnes • Memphis, TN 38111 • 901-452-5822 • lisa.edwards@stjude.org

months are:

- February—Petrified wood
- March—Shapes and carvings
- April—Invertebrate fossils

3. **Swap and identification area:** An area will be designated for swapping or identification of your fossils/minerals. No selling at this table—just bring material, items or lapidary for swapping. Need help with identifying that fossil, rock, mineral or gemstone? Bring it to the meeting and someone will help you. If you let Mike know ahead of time we can announce in the newsletter what material you will have available for swapping or material you would like to find for your collection. Maybe someone will see your request and bring just what you need to the meeting.
4. **Club Table:** This area will have information about upcoming events, announcements, field trip information sheets, handouts and other information.
5. **Door Prizes:** We will continue to give away two (2) door prizes by drawing numbers/names. One

(1) prize will be given away to an attendee who correctly answers a question that will be located on the meeting agenda. When possible (and available) the door prizes will be associated with the theme display.

## Volunteers needed

Beginning in February we are requesting members to volunteer to help out at membership meetings. There are several functions that must be completed at each membership meeting in order to have a successful meeting and maintain our meeting place. They are:

1. Pre-meeting: arrive about 7:00 pm and help set up the meeting room
2. Door greeters: arrive about 7:00 pm. Stay at the entrance, sign in members and visitors and pass out information
3. Hospitality: assist with set up, monitor and clean up of the refreshment area.
4. Post meeting: remain after meeting, clean meeting room, and return all equipment to proper location. We always leave our area in better shape than when we arrived.

## Biotite: a flexible rock

RHENA SOUTH, MAGS YOUTH MEMBER: Dr. Terry Panhorst, assistant professor, University of Mississippi, gave me a biotite specimen. I did not have this in my collection. It was black and it would bend. I thought that it was really neat to have a rock that would bend. Biotite received its name from French physicist, Jean Baptiste Biot while he was studying the optical properties of mica.

Biotite is a blend. A recipe for biotite would contain potassium, magnesium, aluminum, iron, silicon, hydrogen, oxygen and fluorine. The darker biotite is, the more iron it contains. It is very soft with a hardness of 2.5 on the Mohs hardness scale.

Biotite forms in sheets and is flexible. Flexible means it can bend slightly when you hold it. The color may be black to golden yellow. If it is golden yellow it has been weathered. Sometimes people think they have found gold because biotite will sparkle when is a golden yellow. This is another type of "Fools Gold". If you make a streak with biotite, it will be white. I have a black rock but it makes a white streak. It is used as a heat insulator.

References:

[01] <http://webmineral.com/data/Biotite.shtml>

[02] <http://mineral.galleries.com/minerals/silicate/biotite/biotite.htm>



## What's going on in our area

by Sherida Helms

### IMAX FILM FESTIVAL Amazing Caves

Experience the visually stunning subterranean world as you travel to the Grand Canyon, Greenland and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula to explore astonishing caves.

### The Greatest Places

Journey to some of the most exotic places on the planet, including the mountains of Tibet, Madagascar, Africa's Namibia Desert, the Amazon River, Iguazu Falls, Greenland.

### The Highsmith Collection of Native

American pottery and artifacts is on display at the Pink Palace.

### Guest Speakers at Reelfoot Lake State Park

Call 1-800-250-8617

- 2/05 Nocturnal Wildlife
- 2/15 Wings over America
- 2/19 Nature Photography
- 2/26 Birds of Prey
- 3/05 Archaeology:  
pre-history of the  
Reelfoot Region

# Dolomite a carbonate mineral

by Kris Helms, MAGS Youth Member

Dolomite is a very important carbonate mineral. It's crystal structure is similar to calcite, but with alternate layers of calcium ions which are replaced by magnesium. The hardness of dolomite is 4.5-5 on the Mohs hardness scale and it's specific gravity is 2.85. Dolomite's luster is vitreous to pearly. It may vary in color from colorless to white, green, brown, pink, or sometimes a bluish white. The magnesium in dolomite may be exchanged for iron or manganese.

Dolomite can form in almost any

setting but it is mostly found in sedimentary rocks. Rocks that mainly have dolomite in them are called dolostone. Dolomite is one of the ingredients used in cement. When you walk on cement, you are also walking on tiny ground up pieces of dolomite. Dolomite is one of the minerals that MAGS members recently collected at Black Rock, Arkansas. The Dolomite collected at Black Rock was pink in color. I hope MAGS returns to Black Rock this year so I can collect some dolomite for myself.



## While the cat's away . . .

RAYNEE RANDOLPH, MAGS YOUTH DIRECTOR: While the cat's away, the mice are playing! That's right, while the adults are off in the big hall, the MAGS youth are busy in the back earning badges and making stuff. The following youth members received their Earth Science Badges recently: Kristopher Helms; Rhena South; Madison Horowitz; Allie Van Cleef; Rachel Griffin; Karen Schaeffer; and Lauren Schaeffer.

At the January meeting, Rhena South received her Future Rockhounds of America [FRA] membership badge, as well as Rocks and Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Collecting, Communication, Field Trips and Rockhound merit badges. Kristopher Helms received his FRA membership badge, along with Rocks and Minerals, Earth Resources, Collecting and Field Trip merit badges. Congratulations to all the youth who received badges.

During the January meeting, youth members made toothpaste from calcium carbonate (Rolaids®) and sodium bicarbonate (baking soda). Kids, when you come to the meeting in February and tell Ms. Helms the two scientific names used to make toothpaste, your name will be put in a drawing for a mineral specimen. The program for February will be "Minerals in the Home". All youth who attend the February meeting will earn the FRA Earth Resources Merit Badge. Don't miss it!

# American Federation news

## Lewis and Clark Update

The long-awaited AFMS booklet on the Lewis and Clark Expedition is now available on the AFMS website. Edited by Brenda Hankins with lots of research provided by individuals from each of the Regional Federations, the booklet is a great guide for kids traveling the trail.

You can download a copy for yourself or our club by visiting [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org) and following the links.

## Swapping materials

If you are interested in trading specimens through the mail, Michael Kessler, EFMLS Region II Vice president can help. Pack a box with self-collected, quality mineral specimens from our area, cushioned, labeled and ready to mail. The total weight of the package should be as close to ten pounds as possible. When your package is ready, contact Michael at [quartz7228@aol.com](mailto:quartz7228@aol.com) and he will give you the address to be placed on your package.

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MAGS Rockhound News  
367 North Main Street  
Collierville, TN 38017

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR**

Board Meeting  
**February 03**

Membership Meeting  
**February 11**

DMC Field Trip  
**February 12**

Fossil Group Meeting  
**February 17**

MAGS Field Trip  
**February 19**

