



## NAPOLEON'S LOST ARMY GRAVESITE UNCOVERED IN LITHUANIA

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#### Remains found in a mass grave

outside Vilnius, in Lithuania, hold vital clues to the fate of Napoleon's Grand Army and their catastrophic retreat from Moscow in 1812. Map courtesy of the BBC, [http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/archaeology/napoleon\\_army\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/archaeology/napoleon_army_01.shtml).

ROGER VAN CLEEF—In 1811, Napoleon began raising a new army for the invasion of Russia. The year before Czar Alexander I of Russia had withdrawn from the Continental System. In Napoleon's opinion this withdrawal would threaten France, so he began plans to invade Russia. Although France was weakened by many wars, Napoleon was able to raise 600,000 men. Most of the men came from his allies and subject

nations. The Russian army had only about 200,000 men.

In June 1812, Napoleon crossed the Neman River into Russia. The Russian army was so out numbered, they did not immediately engage the Grand Army but repeatedly disengaged and retreated. The two armies engaged in September, 1812 at Borodino, near Moscow. The fighting was fierce and there were many casualties on both sides. Again the Russians withdrew. Napoleon pushed on into Moscow. Moscow was empty of people and much of the city was burned as the Russians retreated.

Napoleon waited in Moscow for Alexander to offer peace but no such offer was made. The Russian winter was approaching so Napoleon prepared to return to France. As the storms grew larger and colder, the soldiers and horses began dying of starvation and exposure. Russian Cossacks followed the retreating French Army and killed many of the stragglers. Of the

(see Napoleon's Lost Army on page five)

### MARCH EVENTS

- Mar 06 6:30p Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
- Mar 14 7:30p General Meeting: Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Rd., Memphis [bring displays & refreshments]  
Adult Program: "Roger takes us on a journey to South America" presented by Roger Van Cleef. MAGS Youth [Mini-MAGS] will join the adults for the journey.
- Mar 20 7:00p M<sup>3</sup> Micromounters Meeting @ Roger Van Cleef's home
- Mar 22 10:00a MAGS Field Trip: Gray Farm, Alabama [see page 3]
- Mar 29 9:00a DMC Field Trip: Ft. Payne, Alabama [see page 6]



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MAGS Rockhound News is published monthly by and for the members of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments and articles to Mike Baldwin, 367 N. Main St., Collierville, TN 38017 or email them to rockclub@earthlink.net .

## From the President

As we near the vernal equinox, MAGS is cranking up the calendar. Field trips are planned, the show is near, and rock swaps will soon arrive. Please check out the show article. It contains some very important information about the show. Please pay close attention to what each club member can do to help produce the best show in town. For our new members we welcome and want your participation and help during the show.

A special note about volunteers. The club depends a lot on people to step up and help make things go smoothly. We greatly appreciate Francis and Frank Walker for their efforts in serving as our sunshine committee for the last two years. We all appreciate getting a personalized card and recognition at a crucial time in our life. Thank you to Connie and Michael Devine for organizing the hospitality table for our membership meetings for the past several years.

The February rains have been difficult on our field trip to Nonconnah Creek. Hopefully by the time you read this, the skies have parted, the creek has gone down and a lot of good agates, fossils and petrified wood got washed up and out for a trip. The trip was mentioned in the Commercial Appeal and we received over twenty calls from people inquiring about the trip and the club.

Thanks to Roger Van Cleef for his display of dinosaur information and Nancy Folden for her display of material found on MAGS field trips. Roger won by a very close vote. Keep those exhibits coming and be sure to vote.

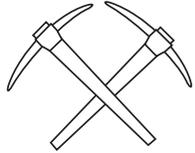
In March of 1982, Cornelia and I journeyed to the West Coast of Florida in search of fossilized sharks' teeth. One day [actually in the middle of the night] we took a break, drove across the peninsula toward the east, found a parking space along a highway and with about a million others looked across a very dark bay at an incredible, brightly lit and shining object. Several hours later that shining object blasted off; roaring and spiraling high into the sky and with a trail of smoke that stretched for miles and disappeared into the sky. That awesome sight and experience was NASA's orbiter, Columbia. As we remember the loss of seven astronauts and that magnificent machine, rockhounds recognize the importance of adventure, exploration and commitment to keep on going. We will.

W.C. McDaniel

## MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATE

It is time to publish the 2003 Membership Directory, and we need your help. As a member of MAGS, would you take a moment to look at last year's membership directory. Please check the information about you in the directory. If there are changes that need to be made [i.e., spelling of names, children's names, address, phone number, email address], please let Cornelia McDaniel, MAGS Membership Director, know by phone at 901-274-7706 or email at cfmcdaniel@worldnet.att.net . Also, if you are not already on the MAGS Email List and would like to receive program updates, field trip information, and/or the newsletter via email, let Cornelia know. Thank you for your help with this.

"One who values stones is surrounded by treasures  
wherever he goes." —Pär Lagerkvist, *Dvärgen*



## MAGS FIELD TRIP GRAY FARM, ALABAMA

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2003, 10:00am-5:00pm  
FIELD TRIP LEADER, DAVID McILWAIN, 901-465-7388

**Collecting site:** The Gray Farm, near Tuscumbia in Colbert County, Alabama. We will be collecting carboniferous (Mississippian) period fossils, such as blastoids, archimedes, brachiopods, sponges and trilobites. Collecting is free at this site.

**Meeting Time/Place:** 10:00 a.m., Hardee's Restaurant located at 415 Highway 43 S, Tuscumbia, AL. 256-383-9338. From Memphis take I-240 East toward Nashville. Take TN-385 East Nonconnah Parkway toward Collierville via exit number 16. Merge onto US-72 East toward Corinth/Tuscumbia. Turn left onto US-43 BR/South Woodmont Ave. Continue to follow US-43 BR. 1/2 mile, then turn left into Hardee's Restaurant parking lot. Total distance is approximately 150 miles, so allow 3 to 3.5 hours driving time.

**Lunch break:** 12:00 noon or 1:00 pm for approximately 1 hour. Please bring picnic or sack lunch, plenty of water, soft drinks or thermos of hot drink (coffee or hot chocolate) depending on the weather. As a courtesy, please bring and use a trash bag.

**Tools:** Materials will mostly be found on the clay surface, no digging is required. Bring collecting containers such as small bucket, clothe rock bag or nail apron etc. Small zip-lock sandwich bags can be used to protect delicate specimens. Bring small screwdriver or small knife for lifting specimens from clay surface. Leather gloves and boots are a good idea, above all please dress warmly.

**Difficulty Level:** 1 to 3 on a scale of 1 (easy) to 10 (hard). Please be advised that there is always a possibility for serious injury at this site, so any young members must be supervised at all times. No pets please.

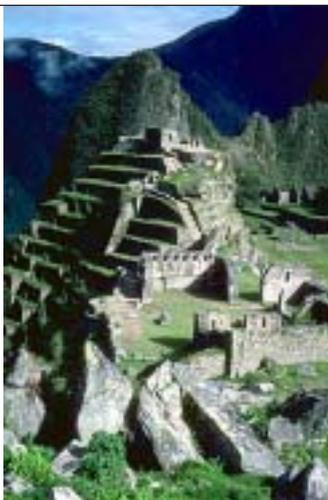
**Field Trip Chairman/Leader:** David McIlwain, 901-465-7388, djmcilwain@earthlink.net. If you plan to go on this trip, please sign up at the March meeting. If you sign up and decide not to go, please contact David McIlwain ASAP.

*Please Note: This trip is open only to MAGS members and their guests.*

## MACHU PICCHU

On March 14, Roger Van Cleef will be taking us on a journey to Machu Picchu and other South American destinations. If you have South American artifacts, minerals, gems, jewelry, regalia or photographs, please bring them with you and display them on meeting night, for all of us to enjoy. If you have a favorite South American food, you can liven up our refreshment table by sharing your favorite with us.

**Ruins of Machu Picchu**  
Photo courtesy of <http://www.sacredsites.com/2nd56/21422.html>



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March Birthstone is AQUAMARINE

- 1-Jacob Kriz
- 3-Jim Holliday
- 3-Dana Griffin
- 3-Ann Wolfe
- 6-Rick Rodgers
- 8-Scott Norris
- 10-Tess Cannito
- 10-Benny Corlew
- 10-Helen Norton
- 11-Nancy Folden
- 11-Casey Randolph
- 12-Ernest Babb
- 18-Ruth Neville
- 23-Dorothy Foster
- 23-Brian Lewis
- 23-Janice Sanford
- 26-Stephany Rainwater
- 27-Ann Huber
- 30-Hisami McNeil



## SUNSHINE REPORT

CORNELIA McDANIEL—On January 24, 2003 we lost another longtime MAGS member and good friend, Jena Stout. Jena will be greatly missed. On behalf of MAGS, cards were sent to Nancy Boucher [following a recent stay in hospital], and to Diane McIlwain, following recent loss of her brother. Remember the families of the seven Columbia astronauts who lost their lives on February 1, 2003 in the name of science and exploration.

*If you, or a MAGS member you know, becomes ill, please call Cornelia McDaniel at 274-7706 and let her know.*

## MidSouthCon 21 MARCH 28-30

MICHAEL KINGSLEY—Is an artifact found at a Neanderthal campsite really an early musical instrument, or simply a bone that has been punctured and gnawed by carnivores? Did mankind's transition from hunter-gatherers to an agricultural society lead to such social ills as overpopulation and modern diseases? These are just a few of the controversial questions in archaeology that MidSouthCon's Author Guest of Honor addresses in one of his latest novels.

MidSouthCon 21 is a science, science fiction, and gaming convention held every spring in the Memphis area. This year's Author Guest of Honor, Robert Sawyer, is a writer who may pique the interest of some MAGS members.

Robert Sawyer, is a member of the Paleoanthropology Society (<http://www.paleoanthro.org>). His latest project is a trilogy of science fiction novels with the series title, *Neanderthal Parallax*. The first novel, *Hominids*, was published last year in hardback by Tor Books and will appear in paperback early this year. *Hominids* made the preliminary ballot for the 2002 Nebula Award for Best Science Fiction Novel. His second novel in the series, *Humans*, is scheduled for a hardcover release early this year.

Friday night, March 28, 2003, Robert Sawyer will join C.J. Cherryh for a panel discussion of "Controversy in Archaeology." C.J. Cherryh, a teacher of Latin, Greek and Ancient History and experienced in the practice of Archaeological Photography, was Author Guest of Honor at last year's MidSouthCon.

MidSouthCon 21 will take place March 28-30, 2003, at the Holiday Inn Select at 2240 Democrat Rd., Memphis. Registration for the weekend is \$30 until March 1, 2003 [\$35 thereafter and at the door]. For information, contact Jerry Hager at (901) 274-7355, Memphis, or visit the MidSouthCon website at <http://www.midsouthcon.org>.

## NOTES FROM THE FIRST M<sup>3</sup> MEETING OF 2003 FEBRUARY M<sup>3</sup> MEETING

JENNIFER BALDWIN—Idajean Jordan, Nancy Folden, Cornelia McDaniel, WC McDaniel, Sherri Baldwin, Jennifer Baldwin, Kelly Baldwin, Mike Baldwin and Roger Van Cleef weathered the rainy night to attend the first MAGS Micromount meeting of 2003, held on Thursday, February 20 in Roger's Paleo Lab. Roger and his dremel were busy throughout the evening making display domes from inexpensive wine glasses. The McDaniels arrived with a couple of bags full of Krystals [not the ones from Jeffrey Quarry ... but rather the small, hot, square ones with fries] and Nancy provided dessert. WC broke several specimens of garnet with pegmatite into smaller pieces for each of us to take home after the meeting. During the evening we explored the micromount world of: [1] garnets; [2] Selenite from Copperus Creek, AR; [3] an unidentified pretty, green mineral from Magnet Cove, AR; [4] Azurite w/Malachite from Laurium, Greece; [5] Apophyllite from Poona, India; [6] Gold w/Quartz crystals from Davidson County, NC; [7] Galena w/Sphalerite crystals from Joplin, MO; [8] native Copper from Michigan; [9] Fluorite from Cave-in-rock, IL; [10] Herkimer Diamond from Herkimer, NY; [11] Smoky Quartz w/Brookite from Magnet Cove, AR; and [12] Sponge from Kelly Ranch, Dripping Springs, TX. Then we took a look at several trilobites [in matrix] from Oklahoma. 9:00 came way to soon and we had to end the meeting for the night, but we are all looking forward to the next one. If you have not been to an M<sup>3</sup> meeting, you don't know what you're missing.

## TEST [Tennessee Earth Science Teachers]

TINA KING [TEST]—The Tennessee Earth Science Teachers (TEST) is for "all" K-12 teachers who have an interest in the Earth. This association provides opportunities for teachers to network with other teachers across the state, especially through the integration of Earth Science with other sciences and disciplines. TEST members aim to build understanding by sharing activities and learning through workshops, presentations, and field trips. To learn more about TEST, visit the TEST web site: <http://www.Tearthscience.org>. A membership application may be found on-line. The dues, which are \$10 per year, offer networking, field trips, and opportunities for continued education. The combination of classroom teachers, university professors, and current research, both in the classroom and in the field, gives a clearer picture and understanding of science education in today's world.

Every year, TEST plays a key role in presenting workshops and providing free materials for the classroom teacher at the Tennessee Science Teachers Association (TSTA) Conference. In November 2002, the TEST "Rock Box" Workshops were among the best-attended workshops at the conference. Almost 200 boxes, along with a handbook of activities, were handed out to elementary, middle school, and high school teachers. The Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society provided the plastic boxes to hold 24 specimens of rocks found in Tennessee.

The Tennessee Earth Science Teachers (TEST) will be hosting a field trip for members to the Coon Creek Science Center and the Vulcan Materials Quarry in West Tennessee March 7-9, 2003. The cost for the field trip is \$45 (Friday-Saturday lodging-\$30; Coon Creek Quarry Fee- \$15). Contact Dr. Michael Gibson, Dept. of Geology, Geography, & Physics, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN 38238 (731) 587-7435; [mgibson@utm.edu](mailto:mgibson@utm.edu) no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2003.

FYI: The GSA Southeastern Sectional Meeting being held in Memphis, TN, March 12-14, 2003 will offer sessions on earthquakes, fossils, and field trips for K-12 teachers.

## NAPOLEON'S LOST ARMY

(continued from page one)



### The emperor was correct

in blaming the defeat of his army on the weather.  
Photo courtesy of the BBC, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/2230656.stm>

600,000 Grand Army soldiers that went into Russia, 500,000 were killed during battles or died during retreat.

40,000 Frenchmen stumbled into Vilnius, Lithuania during the winter of 1812. The temperatures had dropped to minus 22 degrees Fahrenheit. Soon the streets were littered with dead French soldiers. Returning Russians spent three months cleaning up. Graves could not be dug because of the frozen ground and they tried to burn the bodies but the smoke and stench were unbearable. They moved the bodies to a defensive trench dug earlier by the French. It was there that they placed the bodies of the French, where they remained for 190 years.

Early in 2002, while bulldozing at a housing development on the outskirts of Vilnius, municipal workers uncovered a mass

grave. At first the locals thought it was a mass grave of political dissidents executed by the Soviet secret police from the days of Soviet rule. From the tangle of bones sticking out through the sand, coins and buttons marked with images of Napoleon, were removed. They soon realized that this was the grave of Napoleon's Grand Army. The Deputy French Ambassador Oliver Poupard was advised and he remarked "We've been very moved by this discovery. Suddenly history was more vivid ... It's a history so much a part of the collective French memory."

Archaeologist Arunas Barkus of the Vinius university has taken charge of removal and care of the material. In addition to the coins and buttons, other found material is being preserved if possible. Barkus and a small group of researchers have spent months charting and tagging the skeletons, examining each individual. They are determining age, sex and possible cause of death. The bones of bones as young as 15 have been discovered. The boys were probably drummers used to signal commands to the troops. Many of the skeletons were curled up and undamaged. This suggests that they died of extreme cold rather than battle wounds. 2,000 skeletons have been recovered and processed—grim reminders of the folly of war and the power of nature.

#### Works Cited:

1. Paul Britten-Austin; *Napoleon's Lost Army*; BBCi, History; Archaeology; 23 February 2003.
2. Michael Tarm; *Grave Brings History Alive*; The Associated Press; 23 February 2003.
3. *Napoleon I: Fall From Power*; World Book Online.

## NASA DEEP SPACE 1 THE ARCHAEOLOGY MISSION

NASA SCIENCE NEWS—1,000 years from now NASA's Deep Space 1 probe could make some archaeologist very happy.

"We've got it in the tractor beam, doctor!" called the pilot. "It's a small spaceship—an old one by the looks of it."

"About a thousand years old, if I'm right," replied the archaeologist. "Will it fit in the cargo hold? Beam it aboard, I want to take a look." The air shimmered and the craft materialized, suspended in midair. It was a boxy cylinder, about the size of a person, with wings stretching 10 meters from tip-to-tip.

"Primitive solar arrays," he nodded. The walls of the craft were blackened from long exposure to space radiation. There was one big dent, as if the craft had strayed too close to an active comet, and lots of tiny pits—a thousand years' worth of micrometeoroid impacts. *A genuine ship from the Early Space Age!*

Then he noticed a puffed-out spot in the insulation, and a flap. Something was in there. He reached inside and pulled out a compact disk. Scrawled across it in marker pen were the words: *Deep Space 1.*

"That's how I imagine it will happen," says Marc Rayman, the project manager of NASA's Deep Space 1 (DS1) mission, who tucked the CD inside his spacecraft just before it was launched in 1998.

"The CD is a time capsule," he explains. "It contains information about the spacecraft and its mission, some personal messages from our team and more than 800 drawings made by school kids depicting what they think life might be like 1000 years from now."

In the next millennium, he says, elementary students may send probes to other stars as science fair projects. In such an advanced era, "archaeologists will be very interested in how we solved our engineering problems back in the late 20th century."

*Information gathered from "Deep Space 1: The Archaeology Mission"; NASA Science News; Dec. 20, 2002; used by permission.*

## LECTURE BY DR. SALIMA IKRAM ANIMAL MUMMIES FROM ANCIENT EGYPT

The University of Memphis is pleased to announce that Dr. Salima Ikram will give a talk at 7pm, Wednesday, March 26, 2003. The lecture topic will be "Mummified Menageries: Animal Mummies from Ancient Egypt." Dr. Ikram is a world-renowned Egyptologist who teaches Egyptology at the American University in Cairo. She is also the Director of the Animal Mummy Project at the Cairo Museum. The lecture will be in the Fogelman Executive Center, Room 123, University of Memphis. *This event is Free and Open to the public.*

## SFMS CLUBS SHOWS/EVENTS

MAR 21-22, 2003 • 9am-6pm  
MAR 23, 2003 • Noon-5pm  
Rome Georgia Valley and  
Ridge Gem and Mineral  
Show • Rome Georgia Mineral  
Society Inc. • Memorial Gym,  
West Third Street, Rome, GA •  
FREE ADMISSION! Gems,  
Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, Crystals,  
Demonstrations, and Exhibits. •  
Contact Jose Santamaria–  
770-386-0576 or email  
joses@weinmanmuseum.org

APR 4-5, 2003 • 10am-6pm  
APR 6, 2003 • 11am-5pm  
Gems, Minerals, Jewelry and  
Fossil Show • Westwego, LA  
Gem & Mineral Society of  
Louisiana • Alario Center, Bayou  
Sports Complex, 2000 Segnette  
Blvd, corner Westbank Exp.,  
Westwego, LA

APR 26, 2003 • 9am-6pm  
APR 27, 2003 • 10am-5pm  
24th Annual Mid-America  
Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry  
Show • Memphis Archaeological  
and Geological Society • Pipkin  
Building, Mid-South Fairgrounds,  
Memphis, TN • Contact WC  
McDaniel–901-274-7706 or email  
cfmcdaniel@worldnet.att.net

MAY 9-10 • 10am-7pm  
MAY 11 • Noon-5pm  
35th Annual Gem and  
Mineral Mother's Day Show  
Georgia Mineral Society • Cobb  
Civic Center, 548 S. Marietta  
Pkwy., Marietta, GA • Contact; Jay  
Gorday 770-986-0822 • Web link  
www.gaminer.org/may-show.htm

## FEDERATION NEWS



**Dixie Mineral Field Trip: Hosted by the  
Rome Georgia Mineral Society  
9:00am [CST], Saturday, March 29, 2003  
Fort Payne, Alabama**

“Crinoid stems, calyxes, horn coral, quartz and calcite geodes”–The Rome Georgia Mineral Society invites all DMC club members to a fossil collecting trip. Crinoid stems are varied and abundant, some are up to 1 1/4” in diameter and 5” in length. Less abundant are the calyxes (heads) of at least three species, horn corals up to 6” in length and some brachiopods. Also abundant are geodes 6” or less in diameter. Most are junky, but with persistence, you can find some with nice quartz crystals. Calcite geodes occur in the hard limestone. Also abundant are limestone slabs with crinoid stems all over.

The property owner requests the following for us to be allowed to collect on his property: [1] Everyone must sign a release before the trip. We will provide these at the meeting place. If you are bringing a child that is not your own, you must bring a signed release from his parent(s) or guardian(s). Please call or email and arrange to have one sent to you. [2] All material collected will be for educational, hobbyist and recreational purposes and not for resale. Anyone discovered selling material from the site will not be allowed on future trips sponsored by this club to this site.

This trip offers easy collecting and is terrific for families with children because the material is everywhere. It does require a short but steep climb to the productive collecting areas. Wear appropriate (and layered) clothing because the area is exposed to the elements.

**Basic Tools:** Bucket, Ziploc bags, screwdriver, small digging tools

**Serious tools:** Picks, hammers and chisels if you want to go for the limestone slabs  
Other supplies: Lunch, fluids, sunscreen.

**Directions to our meeting place:** We will meet in the parking lot of the movie theater one block north of the intersection of US 11 and Gault Rd. in Fort Payne, AL. If coming from Georgia, on AL 35, go north through Ft. Payne on US 11. Gault Rd. will fork on your right past the Krystal. If arriving from Tennessee, or western Alabama, take I-59 to exit 222 (US 11), go south to Gault Rd. at the second light (Jack's burger joint on your left, Krystal's on your right). Turn Left. When on Gault Rd., go a block, past a Hardees, on the right, and a Subway, on the left, and the theater parking lot will be on the right. Drive time from the I-285/I-75 north interchange in Atlanta should take 2 hours 15 minutes for this 104-mile trip.

**Field Trip Leader:** Jeff Deere, Rome Georgia Mineral Society, Field Trip Chairman, 770-386-5447, jdeere@adelphia.net

**NOTE:** DMC field trips are exclusively for DMC member clubs! This trip is closed to non-DMC clubs, their members, or members of the general public.

### Wildacres Retreat and William Holland Retreat

If you would like to obtain information about class schedules, fees, and registration for Wildacres or William Holland, please check out the SFMS website by following these links: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/wildacres-retreat.html> and <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/william-holland-retreat.html> .

# MAGS REVIEW

## BOARD MEETING JAN 2, 2003; 6:30pm

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: The January board meeting of MAGS was held on January 2, 2003 at the Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. Mike Baldwin, Nancy Folden, Idajean Jordan, W.C. and Cornelia McDaniel, David McIlwain, Park Noyes, Kim Prudhomme, Raynee Randolph, Dennis Sanders, Bill Scheffer, Roger Van Cleef, and Lou White were present. December 2002 Minutes were presented and approved.

Reports for the night included: [1] Treasurer—books to be audited will be ready at the Friday general meeting; budget for 2003 is in the works; and several members have not paid 2003 dues. [2] First VP—yearly agenda of field trips is being planned; January field trip will be to Reelfoot Lake on January 18. [3] Second VP—January program will be Mississippian Mound Builders; about ten other programs have been planned for 2003. [4] Library—The new cabinet has been delivered and will now house our Lapidary Journals. [5] Juniors—Those who went to Birmingham Ridge will bring their material for show and tell; we have not chosen a name. [6] Membership—Reminder calls will be made to members who are delinquent with their dues. [7] Show—Next committee meeting will be January 21.

**Old business:** [1] No photos will be included in the directory; [2] e-mail addresses are needed for the directory; and [3] our five-year strategic plan will begin again in 2003.

**New Business:** [1] The church had a light broken near the time of our Christmas party. The club was not blamed, but in good faith we have reimbursed the church for the expense of a new light. [2] There will be a one-month delay in the printing of the minutes in the newsletter to avoid typos or incorrect information. The January minutes will appear in the March newsletter. February minutes will be in April, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. For a full copy of the minutes, please contact Raynee Randolph by phone 901-367-9329, email wrandoll@midsouth.rr.com or mail your request to 6578 Birch Walk Dr, Memphis, TN 38117.

## GENERAL MEETING JAN 10, 2003; 7:35pm

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: MAGS January General Membership meeting, held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, was called to order by President W.C. McDaniel at 7:35pm on Friday, January 10, 2002. There were 56 members and 5 visitors present. Visitors were Charles Teague, Sharon Muir, Myrna Muir, Corinne Fletcher, and Mike McQuinnle. **President:** [1] Comment and idea sheets are laid out to be filled in. If you have an idea for a field trip or suggestions, put them on these sheets. [2] Please bid tonight on the silent auctions. Al Bowman and Janet Stuart have donated material. The proceeds of the auction will go to the club so bid high and bid often. [3] Officers for the following positions have been appointed. Editor/Web—Mike Baldwin, Library—Nancy Folden, Membership—Cornelia McDaniel, and Youth coordinator—Idajean Jordan.

**1<sup>ST</sup> VP:** Reelfoot Lake will be our trip for this month on January 18. We will meet at the visitor's center at Reelfoot and caravan from there to see the Eagles and other waterfowl. Please check your newsletter for directions and other details of the trip. PLEASE wear warm clothes, as the wind coming off the lake will be very cold. February's field trip to Nonconah Creek for petrified wood, fossils, and agate will be February 15.

**Program:** Our program tonight was to be on the Mississippian Mound Builders, but Corinne Fletcher from the Hemson Museum, Wilson, AR has brought a brand new slide presentation on artifacts found at the Sloan site of the Dalton Culture of 8500-7000 BC. And thanks to the recent program of Flint Napping we all could appreciate how long and laborious the job of making stone tools can be. Thank you Corinne for a great program.

**Displays:** Kelly Baldwin—Pinatasaurus and Dino bone collection; Dennis Sanders—Geodes from Iowa; and Roger Van Cleef—Coon Creek Collection. **Display Winners:** Kelly Baldwin and Dennis Sanders

Thank you, to Nancy Folden our librarian, for a great resource display in conjunction with our speaker. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm followed by refreshments.

## Written in Stone A MAGS Glossary of Terms

This month's glossary terms were submitted by Don Blalock. Thank you Don. Watch our website for an ever-expanding glossary.

**IRIS:** (Newton's Rings) Bright spectral colors due to diffraction of light through bands of translucent agate; a transmitted light phenomenon. It has also been applied to the reflections observed in various cracked transparent gem materials, notably rock crystal (quartz).

### LABRADOESCENCE:

The special colored reflections, usually blue, purplish blue, green, and gold, noted in the variety of feldspar known as labradorite. It is due to the mosaiclike arrangement of minute tesserae of different compositions.

**OPALESCENCE:** The special name for the intense pure colors observed in precious opal. It is caused by diffraction of light from colonies of close-packed opal spherules.

**SCHILLER:** Bright reflections, often metallic in appearance, from minute partings, solution cavities, or platy inclusions in minerals, e.g., bronzite. Coarser silvery reflections are commonly noted in amazonite and other perthite feldspars.

**SHEEN:** Used to describe bright reflections from many minute points, e.g., as from the surface of satin. A general term used with many gemstones and minerals.

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# SHOW 2003

W.C. McDANIEL—As the show dates get closer all MAGS' club members are requested to help as these key events and dates approach:

**March 14—Membership Meeting:** [1] We need help stamping and placing address labels on over 2000 postcard show announcements; [2] Club booth contracts will be available for pickup. Tables are assigned on a first come basis; [3] Signup sheets for volunteer help during the show; [4] Signup sheets for the Friday night show dinner will be available; [5] Pickup show tickets and announcements for distribution; and [6] Bring material for the gem dig and grab bags.

**April 12—Membership Meeting (last meeting before show):** [1] Signup sheets for volunteer help during the show. Look at April 24-27 entries for types of help we need; [2] Signup sheets for the Friday night show dinner will be available; [3] Pickup show tickets and announcements for distribution; and [4] Bring material for the gem dig and grab bags

**April 13—Show Work Day 2038 Central Avenue:** [1] Transport material and items between storage (near Fairgrounds) to 2038 Central; [2] Help clean gem dig pea gravel; [3] Help sort gem dig material; [4] Help sort and pack the grab bags; [5] Work on checking out, repairing and upgrading display boxes; and [6] Pack show information bags.

**April 24—Thursday afternoon (if building is available):** [1] Begin moving items from storage to Pipkin; [2] Begin layout of building and arrangement of tables—Note table vendor will unfold and place tables in approximate location; and [3] Begin decorating display tables.

**April 25—Friday:** [1] Continue layout of building; [2] Help dealers/exhibitors setup; [3] Setup building for Friday night dinner; [4] After dinner convert area to ROCKZONE; and [5] Friday night security.

**April 26—Saturday—Show Opens At 9:00am:** [1] Work ticket/information booth, ROCKZONE and hospitality—We need 6-8 volunteers for every hour; and [2] Saturday night security.

**April 27—Sunday—Show Opens at 10:00am:** [1] Work ticket/information booth, ROCKZONE and hospitality; and [2] Close of show at 5:00 p.m. break down show and take items back to storage.

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**DEALERS [as of 23 February 2003]**

[1] Stones and Bones—*Georgia*; [2] Treasure Chest—*Missouri*; [3] Criss. Inc.—*Mississippi*; [4] Marble Gems—*Florida*; [5] Exquisite Stones—*Louisiana*; [6] McNeil Minerals—*Mississippi*; [7] Terra Firma—*Wisconsin*; [8] Crystal Warehouse—*Arkansas*; [9] Austin Gem and Beads—*Arkansas*; [10] Javeds—*Georgia*; [11] Mineral House—*Ohio*; [12] Gem and Crystals Unlimited—*Georgia*; [13] Janda Gems—*Alabama*; [14] Quest Crystals—*Ohio*; [15] B&J—*Alabama*; [16] Mo' Rocks—*Missouri*; [17] G.P. Rock Company—*West Virginia*; [18] Palmetto Designs—*South Carolina*; [19] Rock Barrel—*Tennessee*; [20] Blue Chip Minerals—*Kentucky*; [21] Sculptured Originals—*Florida*; [22] J. R. Rocks—*South Carolina*; [23] Laster Gemstones—*Mississippi*; [24] Jim's Minerals—*Tennessee*; [25] Lincoln Curios—*Nebraska*; [26] Volunteer Gems—*Tennessee*; [27] Memphis Novelty Works—*Tennessee*

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**CLASSES—New show feature (note times subject to some modification)**

- Saturday 10am—Wire Wrapping—beginning level—\$10
- Saturday 2:00pm—Stretch Bracelets—beginning level—\$10
- Sunday 10:00am—Stretch Bracelets—beginning level—\$10
- Sunday 1:00pm—Wire Wrapping—beginning level—\$10
- Sunday 3:00pm—Wire Beading/Necklace Design—intermediate level—\$15

Classes include all supplies and equipment, limited class size.

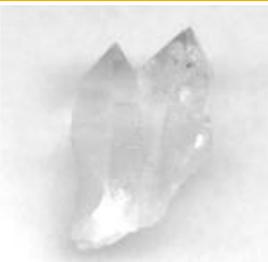
# MINI MAGS

## GEM TREES SUCCESSFUL!

A great big thank you to Mildred Laster and Idajeen Jordan for doing such a fantastic job of instructing 20+ Mini MAGS youngsters as they built their gem trees at the February meeting. There were lots of very nice trees going home with the kids last month.

**COLLECTOR'S CARDS:** Cut out the Dinosaur Card, and the Specimen-of-the-Month card, fold on the dotted lines, tape them closed and add them to your collection.

<b>Did You Know . . .</b>	<b>Epachthosaurus</b>
<p>Epachthosaurus is one of the giant titanosaurs of South America. These huge plant-eaters, the last of the long-necked sauropod dinosaurs, spread from South America through the rest of the world in the last part of the Cretaceous period.</p> <p>Unlike the other titanosaurs, Epachthosaurus appears to have lacked dermal plates. Very little material is known from this dinosaur, primarily vertebrae and parts of the hip.</p>	<div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">MAGS DINOSAUR CARD</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>Epachthosaurus sciuttoii</i>                      Pronounced: ee-Pack-thoe-Sore-us                      Diet: Herbivore (plant-eater)                      Name Means: "Heavy Lizard"                      Length: 50-66 ft. (up to 20m)                      Height: 16-22 ft. (up to 7m)                      Weight: unknown                      Time: Middle cretaceous-95 mya</p> </div>
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<b>Did You Know . . .</b>	<b>Quartz SiO<sub>2</sub></b>
<p>Quartz is a very common mineral found world wide, from the German "quarz", of uncertain origin. Common synonyms are: [1] Agate-banded variety of chaledony; [2] Amethyst-purple; [3] Aventurine-ranslucent chaledony; [4] Carnelian-red chaledony; [5] Cat's Eye-chatoyant; [6] Chalcedony-microcrystalline quartz; [7] Chert-cryptocrystalline quartz; [8] Chrysoprase-apple green chaledony; [9] Citrine-yellow; [10] Flint-microcrystalline quartz; [11] Hornstone-flint; [12] Jasper-ed or brown chaledony; [13] Moss Agate-variety of chaledony; [14] Plasma-green chaledony; [15] Prase-leek green chaledony; [16] Rock Crystal; [17] Rose Quartz-rose colored; [18] Sapphire Quartz-blue colored; [19] Smoky Quartz-brown to black; [20] Tiger Eye-pseudomorph of asbestos.</p>	<div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">MAGS SPECIMEN CARD</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Composition: SiO<sub>2</sub>                      Hardness: 7                      Crystal sys.: Trigonal-Trapezohedral                      Cleavage: indistinct                      Fracture: conchoidal                      Streak: white                      Color: brown, colorless, violet, gray, yellow</p> </div>
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## [M&M's] WHAT'S UP WITH THE KIDS

**MARCH MEETING:** On March 14, Roger Van Cleef will be taking us on a journey to the ancient fortress city of the Incas-Machu Picchu! He will be making a few very interesting stops along the way. You won't want to miss this expedition into South America. Bring a friend or two with you to the March meeting, and get there early, so you can get a good seat. If you have any South American artifacts or specimens, be sure to bring them with you too.

### YOUTH NEWSLETTER:

To learn more about Machu Picchu and other South American places, read the March issue of your newsletter, the *MAGS Explorer*. You will receive your copy of the *March MAGS Explorer* at the March meeting. If you miss the meeting, you can read it online or download it from our website at <http://www.memphisgeology.org/images/explorer0303.pdf>. Send your articles to [rockclub@earthlink.net](mailto:rockclub@earthlink.net). *MAGS Rocks!*

## WEB STATISTICS

Here's a brief look at our website ([www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org)) from 01.21.02 through 02.23.03:

Visits\* ..... 45,981  
 Hits\*\* ..... 237,025

### Top pages in February

RockNews0103.pdf ..... 229 hits  
 RockNews1202.pdf ..... 185 hits  
 Explorer0203.pdf ..... 166 hits  
 Explorer1202.pdf ..... 163 hits

Average visits per day in Feb ..... 222

\* visit= every time someone comes to the site

\*\* hit= every page viewed on the site

## IN MEMORY OF JENA STOUT

JENA EVELYN SMITH STOUT, 85, of Memphis, advertising employee for Sears, past away on Friday, January 24, 2003 at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville. Services were held on Tuesday, January 28, at Memphis First Baptist Church with burial in Elmwood Cemetery. Jena, a longtime member of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, leaves a son, Larry Stout of Ashland City, TN; a brother, Paul C. Smith of Arlington; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## FINAL NOTICE

This is the final notice prior to printing of this year's membership directory. Our annual dues directly support business expenses that enable our club to succeed. Your dues help pay the rent for our meeting place. They help pay printing and mailing costs of our newsletters and membership directory. They help pay for all the incidental expenses of running a club as large as ours. At press time, several members had not paid their 2003 dues. If you have paid your dues, thank you. If you have not, and plan to continue your membership, please send your check to Bill Scheffer today.

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### AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:

New Editor 7th Place-95 • Junior Article 3rd Place-98

### SFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:

New Editor 1st Place-86 • New Editor 2nd Place-88, 97

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

Art-77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Original Articles-(4) 85, (6) 87, (2) 89, (2) 90, (5) 91, (3) 92

### DUES:

Family-\$20.00

Single-\$16.00

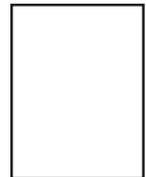
Junior-\$8.00

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  
TODAY**

Board Meeting  
March 6

General Meeting  
March 14

M<sup>3</sup> Meeting  
March 20

MAGS Field Trip  
March 22

DMC Field Trip  
March 29

