

Inside this issue

- 02** Officers and board members
President's corner
Closed collection sites wanted
- 03** March auctions and displays
2005 dates to remember
MAGS field trip—northern AL
Ode to a rock swap
- 04** **All in the MAGS family:**
Accolades • Sunshine • March birthdays • Website statistics • Membership directory • Fossil group • New groups
- 05** MAGS roadcut
2005 Rock Show update
- 06** **Southeast Federation news:**
DMC field trip—Diamond Hill
March SFMS shows and events
- 07** **January 05 in review:**
Board meeting notes
Membership meeting notes
Welcome new members
- 08** Two new books in the library
From the treasurer
February field trip report
- 09** **MAGS youth notes:**
Making fossils/earning badges
First merit badges awarded
- 10** MAGS rock starz shine:
David and Kris Helms

Sumatra earthquake measured 9.3

by Mike Baldwin

By analyzing seismograms, Evanston, Illinois' Northwestern University seismologists have determined that the December 26, 2004 Sumatra earthquake that set off a deadly tsunami throughout the Indian Ocean was three times larger than originally thought, making it the second largest earthquake ever instrumentally recorded and explaining why the tsunami was so destructive. These results also indicate that the chances of similar large tsunamis occurring in the same area are reduced.

The Sumatra earthquake's rupture zone was much larger than previously thought. Initial calculations of 9.0 did not take slow slip into account. Slow slip occurs when the fault, delineated by aftershocks, shifts more slowly. The additional energy released by slow slip along the 1,200-kilometer long fault played a key role in generating the devastating tsunami. The largest slip resulted from rupture of the northern segment of the fault, closest to Sri Lanka and India. Because the entire rupture zone slipped, strain accumulated from subduction of the Indian plate beneath the Burma microplate has been released, leaving no immediate danger of a comparable ocean-wide tsunami being generated on this segment of the plate boundary. However, the danger of a local tsunami due to a powerful aftershock or a large tsunami resulting from a great earthquake on segments to the south remains.

Gigantic earthquakes, such as the Sumatra quake are rare. The largest earthquake ever recorded, which measured 9.5, was in Chile on May 22, 1960.

Reference: [Sumatra Earthquake Three Times Larger Than Originally Thought](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/02/050211094339.htm#); Science Daily; <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/02/050211094339.htm#>; 02.12.05.

March 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
- 17 7:00p MAGS Fossil Section Meeting at the home of Roger Van Cleef
- 19 TBA MAGS Field Trip to northern Alabama to collect fossils [see page 3]
- 19-20 DMC Field Trip to Diamond Hill Mine, Antreville, SC [see page 6]

Our March program will be "Dinosaurs, Fossils and Zinc Mining of Northern Arkansas", presented by Bill Prior. The MAGS Youth will be making fossils during their meeting.

2005-2006

Officers and board of directors

President-W.C. McDaniel • 2038 Central Avenue, Memphis
38104 • 901-274-7706 • w.c.mcd@worldnet.att.net

1st VP (Field Trips)-Lou White • 3805 Melanie June, Bartlett,
TN 38135 • 901-937-8522 • Axelrod300@aol.com

2nd VP (Programs)-Idajean Jordan • 104 Plainview, Memphis
38111 • 901-452-4286 • rockclub@earthlink.net

Secretary-Susan Thom • 3246 Oakbrook Cove, Bartlett, TN
38002 • 901-213-0199 • sthom@memphis.edu

Treasurer-Cornelia McDaniel • 2038 Central Avenue, Memphis
38104 • 901-274-7706 • cfmcdaniel@worldnet.att.net

Director (Asst Field Trips)-David McIlwain • 305 Catlin Drive,
Oakland, TN 38060 • 901-465-7388 •
davidmcilwain@netscape.net

Director (Asst Programs)-Roger Van Cleef • 4683 Aloha,
Memphis 38118 • 901-794-1641 • Fossilorb@aol.com

Director (Youth)-Raynee Randolph • 6578 Birch Walk Drive,
Memphis 38117 • 901-367-9329 •
wrandoll@midsouth.rr.com

Director (Asst Youth)-Sherida Helms • 5555 Park Avenue,
Memphis 38119 • 901-682-7426 • sheriHelms@aol.com

Director (Librarian)-Nancy Folden • 379 McDermit, Memphis
38120 • 901-683-8497 • nancy.folden@kroger.com

Director (Membership)-Melba Cole • 8280 Bon Lin Drive,
Memphis 38133 • 901-382-0344 • JMeCole@aol.com

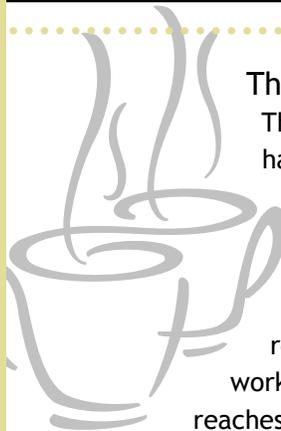
Director (Historian)-Sherri Baldwin • 367 North Main Street,
Collierville, TN 38017 • 901-853-3603 •
sherri.baldwin@memphisgeology.org

Editor/Web Coordinator-Mike Baldwin • 367 North Main Street,
Collierville, TN 38017 • 901-853-3603 •
editor@memphisgeology.org

Show Chairman-James Butchko • 4220 Dunn, Memphis 38111 •
901-743-0058 • butch513j@yahoo.com

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 North Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017 or email them to editor@memphisgeology.org . ©2005.

President's corner: WC McDANIEL



The year is off to a good start.

The first two membership meetings have produced good attendance, programs, displays and best of all, a lot of new members. If our renewals continue on track and with new memberships, MAGS may reach 300 members. Keep up the good work and get ready for the show as it reaches a critical stage.

The show committee has been meeting since August of 2004, devoting many hours to planning, recruiting dealers and exhibitors, developing and carrying out marketing strategies and looking at ways all MAGS members can be involved in making sure the annual show is a success. I hope you are asking, how can I help? We have the answer. Volunteer a few hours. We need help with the show set up on Thursday and Friday, show dinner on Friday night and help with the ticket and information booth and ROCKZONE on Saturday and Sunday. We complete our needs with the show breakdown on Sunday night. So sign up now, either at the membership meeting, by phone or by email. New members are especially encouraged to volunteer. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

While the show is occupying our time and thoughts don't forgot about some upcoming events. A fossil collecting field trip to Northern Alabama is scheduled for March 19. Specific details will be announced at the March meeting. If you are unable to come to the meeting, you may request information by email or phone. We are also in the process of planning a return trip to Black Rock. An exact date has not been finalized. Hopefully, by the March meeting we will have details. This trip will also include a rock swap. **WC**

Closed collection sites wanted

WC McDANIEL: I am in the process of writing an article on closed collected sites. I would like to include a list of sites. If you know of any, please let me know. Include name of site, location, list of specimens/material and why (to the best of your knowledge) the site is now closed. Please reply to w.c.mcd@worldnet.att.net, mail to W.C. McDaniel, 2038 Central, Memphis, TN 38104 or call 901 274-7706.

March auctions and displays

March auctions

WC McDANIEL: The March membership meeting will feature a live auction and silent auction of materials donated to the club. Featured material will include: Puposaur dinosaur tooth (Triassic), "petrified" mollusk shells from Indiana, sapphires and rubies (rough), Jeffery quartz, oxalic acid and miscellaneous materials. Arrive early to check out the goods.

Display theme

The March membership meeting display theme is Shapes and Carvings. Shapes can be natural or man-made, such as spheres or pyramids. Carvings of any shape or object are OK. You don't have to bring your entire collection for a themed display. Just bring your favorite ones. Everyone's shapes and carvings will be placed on the same table. Themed displays are not for competition. They are just for information and the enjoyment of everyone at the meeting.

Competitive displays

Bring your favorite collection in March for the display competition. A vote will be taken at the end of the membership meeting to determine who will be the adult winner and the youth winner. Winners receive special gifts at the end of the year.

2005 dates to remember

	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Articles
Mar	3	11	—
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

March MAGS Field Trip

WC McDANIEL: The MAGS field trip for March will be on Saturday, March 19. We will be traveling to north Alabama (near Muscle Shoals) to collect fossils (blastoids, crinoids and archimedes). Muscle Shoals is about 2 hours from Memphis. Complete details will be available at the Membership Meeting on Friday night, March 11. You may call or email me for details as well.

Ode to a rock swap



*Warm weather is coming; it's on the way.
I have a question to ask you today.*

*Would you like a picnic with good friends and rocks?
If you host a rock swap, to your backyard we will flock.*

*With our lawnchairs and tables to display our things
We'll have potluck dishes, chips and desserts when your doorbell rings.*

*If you are willing to host a rock swap, please contact me.
My name is Sherri at 853-3603.*

POEM BY SHERRI BALDWIN, MAGS DIRECTOR—HISTORIAN

Accolades

In February, Cornelia and WC McDaniel and Sherri and Mike Baldwin visited Cordova Elementary School to present a rocks and minerals program for the entire second grade class—about 140 students. One of the second grade teachers at Cordova contacted MAGS by email and asked if we could speak to the classes. For about an hour we talked to the kids and passed specimens around for them to look at and touch. We hope to see some of the kids and their families at the Rock Show in April and at our MAGS meetings.

Thanks to Raynee Randolph and Sherida Helms for helping our MAGS youth work their way through the AFMS Rockhound Merit Badge Program, and the American Federation thanks you too (see page 9).

Website statistics

MIKE BALDWIN, MAGS WEB COORDINATOR: Here's a brief look at our website [www.memphisgeology.org] from 01.21.02 through 02.26.05:

Visits	111,151
Hits	498,569
Avg visits/day past month	318
Top pages in the past 30 days:	
Home page.....	1334 hits
Explorer0203.pdf	741 hits
argon2003.pdf	692 hits
rocknews0205.pdf	663 hits
Explorer0903.pdf	393 hits
Explorer0403.pdf	383 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 to the family of Mr. Horace Roane (his wife, Jane and to his daughter, Sherry, and Barry McCalla). Mrs. Roane has high commendations to Barry for his able assistance and constant support during Mr. Roane's illness.

MEMORIAL TO DIANE McILWAIN: Diane and David immediately became active in MAGS upon moving to the Memphis area from the northwest about five years ago. With the grandchildren, they were active participants at meetings, and enjoyed field trips. Diane's energy and enthusiasm was contagious. She was a woman of vitality and zeal. Pleasant thoughts of her leaves us with a smile on our face. Diane is greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with Carolyn Hays as she continues to battle illness. We send our well wishes to Roger Van Cleef, and hope to see his smiling face at the board meeting and membership meeting this month.

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

Fossil group meeting

ROGER VAN CLEEF—DIRECTOR, ASSISTANT PROGRAMS: The first MAGS Fossil Group meeting will be at 7:00pm, Thursday, March 17 at my home. Email Fossilorb@aol.com or call 794-1641 for more information.

March Birthdays

MELBA COLE: Birthstone for March is Aquamarine.

- 3 - Dana Griffin
- 6 - Rick Rodgers
- 8 - Scott Norris
- 10 - Tess Cannito
- 11 - Nancy Folden
- 11 - Casey Randolph
- 12 - Ernest Babb
- 12 - Doug Behm
- 15 - Anahita Enzerink
- 23 - Dorothy Foster
- 26 - Stephany Rainwater
- 27 - Ann Huber
- 29 - Angela Cates
- 30 - Hisami McNeil
- 31 - Patrick Hill

Membership directory

MIKE BALDWIN, MAGS EDITOR: The annual MAGS Membership Directory is now in production and should be ready for distribution at the March membership meeting. Plan now to attend the March 11th meeting and receive your copy of the directory. This edition has been expanded to include a copy of the MAGS by-laws, standing rules and an application (in case you know someone who would like to become a member).

New groups

WC McDANIEL: Interested in petrified wood or agates? How about beading and jewelry? If so, let me know and if enough members express an interest we will proceed with discussions about starting a self-directed MAGS emphasis group, like Roger's Fossil Group that meets once a month at his house.

WC McDANIEL: MAGS Roadcut continues to focus on fossils this month by looking at how the geologic time periods' got their names:

- The three geologic eras are the PALEOZOIC, MESOZOIC and CENOZOIC, from the Greek for ancient, middle and recent life. They are divided into 11 periods, most of them named for the places where rocks from the period were first discovered.
- The Cambrian Period (570-500 million years ago) is named for Cambria, or Wales. The next two periods also received Welsh names: Ordovician and Silurian for two Welsh tribes, the Ordovicians and the Silurians.
- The Devonian is named for Devonshire, England, and the Cretaceous comes from "creta", Latin for chalk, referring to the White Cliffs of Dover, England.
- The Jurassic is named for the Jura Mountains in Germany, and the Permian for Perm is Russia's Ural Mountains.
- The Triassic got its name because it was easily divided into three parts. In North America the Carboniferous (carbon = coal) is subdivided into the Mississippian, named for the Mississippi River and the Pennsylvanian, named for the coal deposits first discovered in the state of Pennsylvania.

Source: Arkansas Rockhound News and the Shoshone Rock Club of Powell, Wyoming.

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 clean up 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 Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society March 19-20, 2005 • 9:00am • Antreville, South Carolina

The Diamond Hill Mine: The Diamond Hill Mine has been producing skeletal, amethyst and smoky quartz crystals as well as quartz scepters and an assortment of pegmatite minerals for many years.

FEE: \$10.00 a person/per day. Children under 13 are free. Pay for both days on the 20th if staying to camp overnight. Everyone attending will have to sign a release wavier.

WHEN: Saturday, March 19th. and Sunday, March 20th. We will meet at 9:00am on both days.

BRING: You will need to bring a pick and shovel as well as hard rock tools and safety glasses. Be sure and bring plenty of newspaper to wrap your finds in. A lot of the quartz has iron-staining on it. Frequently the stains vary in color from face to face on the crystals and make for very attractive specimens as long as you don't ding them up! Lunch, bug spray, some sun protection, and don't forget some good shoes or boots.

DIRECTIONS: We will meet at the mine at 9:00am. Take I-85 to exit 19A in South Carolina. Exit and go south on Highway 76/28 a short distance and the highways will split. Stay on highway 28 south to Antreville. There is a big church at the intersection of Highway 284 and Highway 28 1/2 mile south of Antreville. Turn onto 284 and go 2.3 miles and take a right on Suber Road, SC Road S-01-508. Be careful not to turn into the folks' driveway just before the road there. Go seven tenths of a mile and you will see on your right a gravel road, Diamond Mine Road, SC Road S-1-538. Turn right and go half a mile and the mine entrance will be on your right. Large RV's will have difficulty in making this turn. Please find Jim and we'll get you in!

Contact Jim Haege at 706-253-5920 or jimhaege@mindspring.com if you need more information.

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!

March SFMS shows and other events

MARCH 4-6, 2005 • Largo, FL • Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society; 35th Annual Gem & Mineral Show • Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Avenue N • Hours: 4th & 5th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 6th, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. • Contact: Sue Black @ 727.345.8994.

MARCH 4-6, 2005 • Augusta, GA • Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society with the Augusta Gem and Mineral Society; Gem & Mineral Show • Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street, Augusta, GA 30904 • Hours: 4th & 5th, 10:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M.; 6th, 10:00 11:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. • Contact: wkkw@bellsouth.net.

APRIL 15-17, 2005 • Poplar Bluff, MO • Rock, Gem and Mineral Show • Bess Activity Center, Three Rivers Community College • Vendor information: 573-840-9637. jtiner@trcc.edu.

APRIL 23-24, 2005 • Memphis, TN • Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society; 26th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show • Pipkin Building, MidSouth Fairgrounds (corner of East Parkway and Central Avenue) • Hours: 23rd, 9:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 24th, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. • Contact: W.C. McDaniel, 901.274.7706 or cfmcdaniel@worldnet.att.net . • All members of a SFMS club will be admitted free to show with proof of club membership.

January 2005 board meeting notes

Susan Thom, MAGS Secretary

The MAGS board of directors met January 06 at The Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The following were present: Mike and Sherri Baldwin, Melba Cole, Nancy Folden, Sherida Helms, Idajean Jordan, Cornelia and WC McDaniel, Raynee Randolph, Susan Thom, Lou and Carol White. President McDaniel recommended Mike Baldwin for the appointed position of editor/web coordinator. Recommendation approved. Board member attendance guidelines were discussed.

The following reports were given: **[01] Treasurer's Report**; **[02] 1st VP Report**—Field trip possibilities Jackson MS Show for February; Alabama petrified wood in March; 20-Mile Creek in June; **[03] Newsletter/Web Report**—Agenda for field trips should be less detailed in newsletter and web. General information about state, mineral, date, etc. should be included, but specific information can be obtained at membership meeting, by email, or phone call. Replace field trip details with monthly speaker and theme display information; **[04] Library Report**—Need field trip books and maps for past two years placed in library. Book or video to be given in honor of deceased members. \$35/honoree limit set; **[05] Youth Report**—January project is "making tooth-paste". Display will be made for Rock Show; **[06] Membership Report**—Two new member applications presented and approved—Cecil Perkins and Lisa Edwards. We have 206 adult and 66 junior members; **[07] Show Report**—The show committee will meet 01.13.05; **[08] Historian**—Several boxes of material in storage. club does not need anymore past newsletters; **[09] Old Business**—Considering other locations for board meetings. Need to involve more members in volunteer opportunities. Perhaps develop a schedule; **[10] New Business**—[a] 2 of 3 signatures will be required on club checks; [b] Guest speakers to receive one year free MAGS membership and a certificate; [c] New membership meeting events—demonstrations/workshops, silent auctions, swap tables, run old videos with no sound. Adjourned at 7:50pm.

January 2005 membership meeting notes

Susan Thom

The MAGS January membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on January 14, 2005, presided by President WC McDaniel. There were 52 members and seven visitors present. The visitors were Nelson and Micky Eddlemon, Savannah Hunter, Marvin Nutt, Michael Terrell and Margie Zacher. **Dues:** Pay your dues to help pay for newsletter, facility rent, parties, etc.; **Youth:** FRA requirements explained. Juniors attending meeting now until July will work on 6 merit badges; Rhena South and Kristopher are first to earn merit badges; Rhena won SFMS Junior Of the Year for 2004; **Newsletter:** Mike Baldwin won 5 awards from SFMS for MAGS Rockhound News; Special Publication award for MAGS Explorer; Roger Van Cleef, WC McDaniel and Mike Baldwin won adult article award awards; **Field Trips:** MAGS will no longer publish details of monthly trips in the newsletter or on the web. Information available at meetings, on email, or by phone; **New Activities:** Demonstrations/workshops, videos, theme display, swap table (no selling), club info table; **Show:** April 23-24; **Program:** Steve Webb with "Stone Cutting"; **Displays:** Adults—Dr. Young, George Fulghum, Sherri Baldwin (adult winner); Youth—Rhena South and Kristopher Helms (youth winners); **Door Prizes:** James Butchko, Kim Prudhomme, and visitor Nelson Eddlemon. Meeting adjourned to refreshments at 8:45.

Welcome new members to the club

[01] Steve and Ellen Webb • 5137 N Charlotte Cir • Memphis TN 38117 • 763-1015 • webkin@bellsouth.net

[02] Kelsey Lyons • 1763 Carruthers Place • Memphis TN 38112 • 274-8720 • klyons@midsouth.rr.com

[03] Greg, Jeanette, Zachary and Faith Britt • 36 Sandalwood Drive • Brandon MS 39042 • 601-573-6967 • gbritt@a-s.com

[04] Don and Gwen Lum • 1101 W 46th Ave • Pine Bluff AR 71603 • 870-541-0400 • donlum@cablelynx.com

Two new books in the MAGS library

NANCY FOLDEN, DIRECTOR—LIBRARIAN: Stop by the library and check out our two newest additions.

Florida's Geological Treasures by Iris Tracy

Comfort: This book will tell you where to collect every type of mineral and fossil in Florida, and explain how they got there. Maps of the collecting areas, tips on carving, collecting, tools, and techniques for identifying and preserving your finds will help you prepare to uncover the remarkable variety, beauty, and wealth of Florida's geological treasures.

Midwest Gem, Fossil and Mineral Trails: Prairie

States by June Culp Zeitner: This book is an indispensable guide for any rockhound collecting in South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas or Missouri. This updated edition describes where and what to collect, how to hunt on our own, and where to get more information and additional help in each state. Helpful hints for collecting minerals, gem materials, and invertebrate fossils are highlighted by the author.

From the treasurer

CORNELIA McDANIEL, MAGS TREASURER: The process of collecting dues for 2005 is passing its final deadline. The last notification reminders have been sent to the remaining unpaid members. It is our hope that every one has the intention of renewing their membership for 2005 so you can participate and enjoy the expanded features of our monthly membership meetings.

THANK YOU to the 69% of our members who have already paid their dues. Dues are vital to the club and are the primary source of income used to fund our expenses and provide club services.

After having paid dues for twenty five consecutive years, MAGS grants its members "Lifetime" status, entitling those members to all the benefits of the club without paying annual dues. This year our total has risen to fourteen. I'd like to acknowledge our following "HEIR-LOOM" members: Kathy Bullard; Clyde and Shirley Chrisman; Melba Cole; Robert and Dorothy Foster; George and Maxine Fulgum; Ramon and Helena Gafford; Dick McKittrick; Jim and Hisami McNeil; Lenette Mewborn; Dr. James Prather; Bill and Anna Scheffer; Vivian Sharpe; Wayne and Ann Williams; and Dr. Joe M. Young

This year Doris Currington, Idajean Jordan and Paul Sides will celebrate Twenty-Year anniversaries. Although Doris now resides in Nevada, she remains in touch with MAGS via the newsletter. Year-after-year, Idajean has contributed to the club by serving numerous board positions throughout her membership. Paul has also served through board positions and special committees. We appreciate and thank our hearty members for their invaluable contributions to MAGS.

February field trip report

CORNELIA McDANIEL: Traveling south 120 miles into western Mississippi on a grey and misty morning, MAGS members met at the Burger King near downtown Cleveland. The caravan was then led in procession to the golden brick campus of Delta State University. After arriving at Caylor-White Hall, twenty-one participants convened in a science classroom where the extensive ice-age fossil collection of Lonnie Looper was meticulously laid out atop student's desks.

Mr. Looper had assembled the diverse array of specimens from years of collecting along the gravel bars of the Mississippi River. It was awe inspiring to view the variety of extinct animals that were native to this specific region where we now live today. We also saw many ancient Indian artifacts and Civil War memorabilia.

MAGS can take pride in having participated in the preservation of this magnificent collection by giving the University a gift, in the form of a grant, which aided in the purchase of this collection. At the conclusion of construction on the campus, the collection will have a new home and in the future will be on permanent display.

Thanks to our hosts, Keith and Nina Riding for allowing MAGS this opportunity and supplying refreshments. And special thanks to Lonnie and Freida Looper for joining us, providing us with such interesting information and answering our questions.

Making fossils and earning badges

by Raynee Randolph

While the adults are hearing about Arkansas fossils during their meeting Friday night, March 11, the MAGS Youth will be busy making their own fossils. That's right . . . making fossils. OK, so they won't be real fossils. That would take a few million years more time than we have, but the ones we make will look like fossils. Anyway, it will be fun. Come and make your own.

At the January meeting, seven more MAGS Youth members earned the AFMS FRA (Future Rockhounds of America) Rockhound Badge. Congratulations to Alan Adams, Zachery Faddis, Taylor Faddis, Rachel Griffin, Karen Schaeffer, Lauren Schaeffer, and Charlie Thomas.

We need material for the Kid's RockZone (part of the April MAGS Rock Show). If you (or your parents) have extra specimens (like fluorite, gypsum, quartz, magnetite, coal, copper or any others), bring them to the April meeting. They will be greatly appreciated and used in the RockZone.

First merit badges awarded

by Jim Brace-Thompson,
AFMS Junior Activities Chairperson

It gives me much pleasure to introduce you to two young people who hold district positions of honor in our new AFMS/FRA Merit Badge Program: Rhena A.V. South and Kristopher J. Helms of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society (MAGS). Rhena and Kristopher are the very first juniors in the US to earn FRA Merit Badges! And not just one badge: Kristopher has earned 4 and Rhena 6. Thus, Rhena also becomes our first junior member to be awarded the FRA "Rockhound" badge! My congratulations to both Rhena and Kristopher. This month's column is dedicated to them.

Rhena, age 9, started picking up pretty rocks when she was 3 and enjoys sharing what she finds and learns. For instance, at a recent club meeting, she made toothpaste from minerals, displayed obsidian, and demonstrated a volcanic eruption. An active Junior Girl Scout, she earned 20 Girl Scout badges and 10 Girl Scout program patches in 2004 alone. She also earned a Lewis & Clark Patch, Earth Science Week Badge, and a Junior Arkansas Naturalist Badge. She won the 2004 Southeast Federation Junior of the Year. She was also a finalist in the Earth Science Week Visual Arts Contest in October 2004.

Kristopher, age 12, is Rhena's step-brother, and he loves music as well as rocks. He's played the piano since he was

6 and the flute since age 9. He loves animals, especially his cat and dog, and also enjoys doing experiments and building things and always has a project going with one kit or another. He started collecting rocks when he was 8. He doesn't get to go on as many field trips as he would like, but still manages to find time for field trips, visits to museums, PS2 games, travel and the movies. In addition to earning 4 FRA Merit Badges, he has earned a Lewis & Clark Patch and an Earth Science Week Badge, and joined Rhena in demonstrating how to make toothpaste and with a volcano demonstration to his fellow club members. He wrote his first article about the hobby on dolomite, which appeared in the February issue of *MAGS Rockhound News*.

MAGS Youth Director, Raynee Randolph, and Assistant Director, Sherida Helms, have planned their activities for 2005 around the FRA Merit Badge Program and spent many hours working out a teaching guide to implement the program with the 10 to 15 kids who normally attend their monthly meetings. They've set the ambitious goal of having a third of their registered junior members as FRA "Rockhounds" by year's end and to get their older members more active as mentors to the younger kids. My thanks and congratulations to them.

This excerpt is from the March 2005 issue of the AFMS Newsletter.

MAGS rock starz shine

CORNELIA McDANIEL: 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.

This month we'd like to recognize the father and son team of David and Kris Helms. Since our membership meeting attendance and exhibitions have expanded, this job has become even larger as more chairs and tables are necessary. These guys really worked hard to get the chairs

and tables set up in preparation for the February membership meeting, and then cleared and returned the room to its original condition at the conclusion of the meeting. Thanks, David and Kris. Your valued efforts benefit the comfort of all the members, guests and presenters in attendance.

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

Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, other societies may use material published in **MAGS Rockhound News** provided that proper cred^o TN 38017.

©2005 Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. **MAGS Rockhound News** is printed on Hammermill Laser Copy. Typefaces are Times and Trebuchet.

The main purpose of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society is to promote and advance the knowledge of the Lapidary Sciences in the mining, identifi^o



AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 7th-95 • Small Bulletin Honorable Mention-04
Adult Article 10th-04 • Junior Article 3rd-98; 8th-03 • Special Pub 4th-03

DUES:
Family-\$20.00
Single-\$16.00
Junior-\$8.00



SFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 1st-86; 2nd-88, 97 • New Editor (Explorer) 4th-03
Certificate of Excellence-89, 90, 91, 92, 93 • Large Bulletin 1st-87 • Small Bulletin 1st-04, 4th-03
Special Publication 2nd-03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st-03
Adult Article 2nd- 89, 90, 04; 3rd-92; 4th-85, 04; 5th-91, 03; 6th-87; 8th-04; Honorable Mention-03, 04

MAGS Rockhound News
367 North Main Street
Collierville, TN 38017

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meeting
March 03

Membership Meeting
March 11

Fossil Group Meeting
March 17

MAGS Field Trip
March 19

DMC Field Trip
March 19-20

