

Inside this issue

- 02 • Officers and Board Members
 - President's Corner
 - 2006 dates to remember
 - MAGS April field trip
- 03 • Show dinner invitation
 - MAGS has new t-shirts
 - Show supports Ronald McDonald House of Memphis
 - April program
- 04 • Turtle Shell Fossil-Grand Door Prize
 - 27th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show
 - Two new additions to library
- 05 • April birthdays
 - New members and new directories
 - March Website Statistics
 - Sharing and caring
 - Rock food table—a show staple
- 06 • April DMC Field Trip
 - Federation Shows
- 07 • Proposed MAGS bylaws changes
- 08 • Feb 2006 Board Meeting Notes
 - Feb 2006 Membership Meeting
- 09 • Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (continued)
 - Remembering years gone by
- 10 • April 2006 MAGS Calendar

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show

February 2006

ALAN JACOBS: What an experience! If you have never been to Tucson for the annual Gem and Mineral Show it is something out of a rockhound's dream. Cathie and I had wanted to go for years but, like everything else in life, events and family matters always got in the way. However, this year we really had no excuses. Cathie's cousin, Steve, lives in Tucson.

Steve teaches English in Japan and he and his wife Tomoko and their 3-year-old daughter, Misa, travel back and forth to Japan months at a time. This year their schedule had them back in Tucson during the show.

So on the plane we went. Steve picked us up at the Tucson Airport Sunday afternoon, February 5th. The show had already been going on for a week with a week left on the schedule. From the airport we stopped by the Tucson Ball Field and there in front of us were tents, tents, and more tents. Each tent was like a mini-Memphis Gem and Mineral Show. All at once there was sensory overload, I had stepped into another world. We did not realize that is was just one of many locations across Tucson.

The Tucson Gem and Mineral show attracts people from around the world. We heard at least a dozen languages being spoken. Walking around I got the feeling I was not in the US any more. Dealers and sellers were talking in weights and measures that I was not use to, such as grams and kilograms (kilo for short). The US is a little backwards from the rest of the world in its use of the English system of units; but I digress. The first thing I saw were pairs of five foot tall Brazilian amethyst geodes in front of the first tent, and after I put my tongue back in my mouth I knew that Cathie and I were in for a treat.

On Monday morning we met another friend who happens to be a TV weatherman for one of the local Tucson stations. He had ordered up some beautiful weather for our expedition into the gem and mineral world.

Our first stop – the motels along the south side of Interstate 10. At this location vendors were not only setup in large spacious tents with tables setup with rocks, minerals, and fossils; but displays were setup in the motel rooms. Mattresses were stacked against the walls to make room for their displays and inventories.

Since Cathie and I have different perspectives on rocks and minerals (Cathie is the shopper and I am a looker), we just kind of naturally split up and went our own way. The show's main thrust is toward the large wholesale buyers and traders. It was interesting that people did not try to hard sell you. They smiled at you when you entered their tent or motel room.

To give you an example of the hospitality we encountered, Cathie went into a vendor's tent and was looking into a box containing pieces of pyrite. The box must

see Tucson Gem and Mineral Show on page nine

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 38134 • 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)—Randa Spears • 157 Marne, Memphis 38111 • 901-324-2490 • spearsrg@msn.com

Director (Youth)—Raynee Randolph • 6578 Birch Walk Drive, Memphis 38117 • 901-367-9329 • wrandol1@midssouth.rr.com

Director (Asst Youth)—Sherida Helms • 5555 Park Avenue, Memphis 38119 • 901-682-7426 • helms_david@bellsouth.net

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 • JMelCole@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 . ©2006.



President's Corner WC McDANIEL

The letter for April is very simple and straightforward. At 9:00 am on Saturday, April 22, the doors of the Pipkin Building will swing open, customers will stream in, the first tickets will be sold, the first load of material will be scattered into the Gem Dig, Rocks Around the Clock will start spinning and the 27th annual edition of the Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show is underway.

The work arriving to this point took a little longer and involved a lot of hard work. The show chair is appointed, committee is appointed, initial planning gets under way, dealer contracts are mailed, committee continues to meet and plan, grand door prize is selected and purchased, exhibitors and demonstrations are selected, committee continues to meet and plan, mailing list is updated and prepared for mailing, marketing plans are launched, event and show listings are sent, Gem Dig, Rocks Around the Clock and grab bag materials are solicited, volunteers recruited, hospitality/food ordered, security, table vendor and electrician are arranged and confirmed. Post show activities include a dealer survey, depositing show proceeds, paying the bills and undergoing an audit. During this time we also make a donation to the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis. Be sure to check out the article that provides information on this home-away-from-home for 51 children and families.

Have a good show and thanks for your participation and help.

WC McDaniel

2006 Dates to Remember

	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Articles
April	6	14	-
May	4	12	April 28
June	1	9	May 26
July	6	14	June 23
August	3	11	July 22
September	08/31	8	August 25

April Field Trip

LOU WHITE: Details for the April 15 agate-fossils-petrified wood field trip to Sugar Creek in Millington will be available at the April membership meeting.

You're invited to

The Premier Gem Show
Dinner in America

Presented by the

Memphis Archaeological and
Geological Society's

27th annual Mid-America Mineral,
Fossil, Jewelry Show

Friday, April 21 6:30 pm

Pipkin Building,
Midsouth Fairgrounds

Catered by Leonard's Barbeque

Members RSVP by bringing:

A side dish or two;

Dessert or two;

Can drinks, bottled water and pack-
aged snacks for the hospitality booth

MAGS has new t-shirts

Our new t-shirts will be available at the
membership meeting April 14.



Design by David Day

Price \$12.00 each

- Green text on sport grey (all sizes)
- Red text on tan (no youth or 3x or larger sizes)

Show supports the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis

WC McDANIEL: For the fifth consecutive year the show will commit a portion (25%) of our admission income to the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis, a home-away-from-home for 51 children and their families. Each of these families has a very brave child battling cancer and receiving treatment at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. At the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis, families can sleep in a warm bed, take a shower in their private bathroom and prepare and eat meals in a spacious, cheerful kitchen. Families, also, have access to a fitness room, a meditation room, one of three laundry rooms, and a park with a playground, basketball court and pavilion. More importantly, families find the support and comfort of others who share their experience of having a very sick child. All families stay free of charge.

Some House facts & figures

- The House was established in 1991 and has served more than 3,360 families from around the world
- Each night an average of 250 families are in Memphis while their children receive treatment at St. Jude
- The House stays fully occupied, with an average length of stay of about 32 days.
- Patients range in age from infants to 21 years, roughly half will have leukemia, 15% brain tumors, and the remainder have other types of cancer or catastrophic illnesses.

Some House ongoing needs

- Groups to cook a meal or plan an activity for the House
- Volunteers or groups to collect wish list and / or pantry items for the House. A complete list is available at their web site (www.rmhmempis.org), and will be available at the MAGS membership meetings and the show.
- Monetary donations are gratefully accepted.

Source: www.rmhmempis.org.

April Program

IDAJEAN JORDAN: You won't want to miss the MAGS General Meeting on April 14. Our very own Lou White will be talking to us about the Civil War battlefields of Western Tennessee, showing us Civil War artifacts found in Shelby County, and taking a close look at battlefields in the Collierville-Germantown area. If you have Civil War artifacts of your own, bring a display Friday night. We would enjoy looking at them.

Turtle Shell Fossil – Grand Door Prize

27th Annual Mid- America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show
Saturday April 22 9-6 Sunday April 23 10-5



Photo by David Day

Some prize facts

- Complete fossilized land turtle shell, 9 ½ inches long and 8 ½ inches wide
- Name - *Stylemeys nebrascensis*. *Stylemeys nebrascensis* is a dry land tortoise and is the earliest fossil turtle discovered in America. *Stylemeys* was first described in 1851 by Dr. Joseph Leidy. Skulls are rarely found.
- Location- Brule Formation, White River Badlands of northwestern Nebraska
- Age - Oligocene about 30 million years

Two new additions to the library

NANCY FOLDEN: Thanks to the generous donation of Melba Cole, the MAGS library has two new books for you to examine - “The Mining of Gems and Ornamental Stones by American Indians”, a Smithsonian Institute Bureau of American Ethnology publication by Sydney H. Ball, and “Sewanee In Stone: Architecture and History”, by former MAGS member, David Bowman.

Our library continues to grow. As you plan your summer vacation, remember the resources available to you. We have videos, field guides, reference books and reports for you to borrow and use to make your plans. You might just discover a new, favorite vacation spot, based on the information you find in the library. Come on by on meeting night, and help yourself to a wealth of information, but don't forget your library card.

MAGS 27th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 - 6:00
Sunday, April 23, 10:00 - 5:00

Pipkin Building, Mid-South Fairgrounds
Memphis, Tennessee

*Portion of admission benefits the
Ronald McDonald House of Memphis*

GRAND DOOR PRIZE:

Fossilized Turtle (Rare-Museum Quality)

2006 SHOW DEALER PARTICIPANTS

- 01 Boutwell Tumbled Stones-IN
- 02 Terra Firma-WI
- 03 Stones and Bones-GA
- 04 Treasure Chest-MO
- 05 Austin Gems-AR
- 06 Larsen's Minerals-TX
- 07 Butterflies by God-MO
- 08 Memphis Novelty-TN
- 09 McNeil Minerals-MS
- 10 FossilMall-AR
- 11 G.P. Rocks-WV
- 12 B&J Enterprises-AL
- 13 Exquisite Stones-LA
- 14 Christopher's Crystal Mine-FL
- 15 Gema and Crystals Unlimited-GA
- 16 Volunteer Gems-TN
- 17 J.R. Rocks-SC
- 18 Mineral House-OH
- 19 Javed's-GA
- 20 Janda Gems-AL
- 21 Mo-Rocks-MO
- 22 Blue Eagle-AR
- 23 Rock Barrell-TN
- 24 Carl's Slabs and Cabs-GA
- 26 O'Mega Gems-TN
- 27 Custom Creations-MS
- 28 Jim's Minerals-TN
- 29 Quest Crystal-OH
- 30 Sculptured Originals-FL

SHOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Thursday (20) - Building setup
- Friday (21) - Building setup for dealers, Show dinner, ROCKZONE
- Saturday (22) and Sunday (23) - Volunteer to help with the ROCK ZONE, front ticket desk/information and hospitality
- Sunday - Show breakdown and clean up

April Birthdays

CORNELIA McDANIEL: Birthstone for April is Diamond.

- 1 Steven Hajdu
- 1 Frank Walker
- 6 Chris Whitley
- 7 Michael Kingsley
- 11 Ruth Ault Carr
- 11 **Dr. James Prather**
- 15 John H. Gary III
- 15 Mark Oldfield
- 20 Joi Bennett
- 20 Jim Parsons
- 21 Megan Oldfield
- 22 Carlene Bell
- 22 **Ruth Rice**
- 23 Elissa Powell
- 27 **Kathy Bullard**
- 30 David Waddell

Bold type indicates lifetime members.

Diamond: April's birthstone is remarkably simple in composition, yet stunning in its unique ability to reflect and refract light into vivid flashes of brilliant color. The Diamond is harder than any other substance on earth.

New members and new directories

David Carter

559 Diana Street, Memphis, TN 38104
carterd4@juno.com • 901.725.4523

Bob Dorrough

196 German Park Cove
Cordova, TN 38018
infrabloo@yahoo.com • 502.523.0809

Kelly Rayne and John Gary

2157 Jefferson, Memphis, TN 38104
otis219@aol.com • 901.276.2010

Shelby Lynn Hartman

5116 Whiteway Drive
Memphis, TN 38117
miashart@aol.com • 901.683.0145

William Prior

8300 Pennwood
Sherwood, AR 72120
billprior@arkansas.gov • 501.835.6161

You may pick up your new 2006 MAGS Directory/Handbook at the April meeting or at the information desk at the Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show later in April.

Web Site Statistics for March 2006

MIKE BALDWIN: Here's a brief look at our web site [www.memphisgeology.org] 01.21.02 through 03.31.06:

Visits.....127,399
Hits515,752 Hits
Average visits/day in past 30 days.....501
Top pages in the past 30 days:
homepage947 hits
argon2003.pdf..... 726 hits
Explorer0604.pdf.....621 hits
Explorer0203.pdf.....577 hits
Explorer0403.pdf..... 495 hits

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

Sharing and caring

MELBA COLE: Please remember Rena Everett in your thoughts and prayers, as she is recovering from surgery and facing some very significant health challenges. She is in Baptist Memorial Hospital, Oxford, Mississippi.

Rock Food Table – A Show Staple



The "Rock Banquet" or "Food Table" has been a staple that has fed rock-hound enthusiasts at our annual show since it was established in the mid 1980's. The original idea was developed by MAGS' member Frances McKittrick who saw a similar table at a Texas rock show. Telling her husband Dick "we can do that" she returned to Memphis and with the help of Frances Scheffer and Vivian Sharp launched the project. All the rock, mineral and fossil specimens were collected, donated and/or made by members of the Memphis Archeological and Geological Society. Approximately 45 food and drink items are displayed and they represent about 12,000 calories.

Photo by Robert Enzerink

April DMC Field Trip

The DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

Presents An Official Field Trip of:

the Mobile Rock and Gem Society, Mobile, Alabama (Host)
and the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

9:30 AM (Central time) • Saturday, April 22, 2006

Epes, Alabama (Sumter County)

Children are allowed under adult supervision. Pets are allowed on leash.

Fees: There is no fee for collecting at this site.

Contact Numbers: Larry Landry, Field Trip Chairman • (251) 653-8459

e-mail address: maryloulandry@aol.com

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

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

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

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

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!

DMC Program/SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose: To collect field trip information from its member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.

Federation Shows and Conventions

California Federation

Hosts: Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society • Angels Camp, CA •
June 9-10, 2006.

Eastern Federation

Hosts: Gem and Mineral Society of Palm Beaches, Inc. • West Palm Beach, FL •
November 18-19, 2006.

Midwest Federation

Hosts: Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society • Detroit, MI •
May 12-14, 2006.

Northwest Federation Annual Convention and Show

Hosts: Southern Washington Mineralogical Society and Mt. Hood Rock Club •
Longview, WA • July 14-16, 2006.

Rocky Mountain Federation Annual Convention and Show

Hosts: Stillwater Mineral and Gem Society • Stillwater, OK • June 9-11, 2006.

South Central Federation Annual Convention and Show

Hosts: Austin Gem and Mineral Society •
Austin, TX • December 2-4, 2006.

Annual Convention of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Hosts: Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society • Nashville, Tennessee •
August 14-20, 2006.

Proposed MAGS bylaws changes

CORNELIA McDANIEL/MIKE BALDWIN: At the April general membership meeting, you will be given an opportunity to vote on the following proposed MAGS bylaws changes (changes are denoted in bold type):

CURRENT ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP
SECTION II:

- B. Family membership consists of 1 or 2 adults and all children under 18 residing in the same home.

PROPOSED ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP
SECTION II:

- B. Family membership consists of 1 or 2 adults and all **dependent children** residing in the same home.

CURRENT ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP
SECTION III: MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

- B. A Regular member may change (his/her) membership to a Family membership at any time if in the event they are married or if they bring (his/her) children under eighteen (18) years of age into the society (club). In the event it is because of a spouse, the spouse's first year of credit for Life Membership starts that year. They pay only the difference between the dues of a Regular membership and a Family membership for that year and are not subject to Article I, Membership, Section I.

PROPOSED ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP
SECTION III: MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

- B. A Regular member may change (his/her) membership to a Family membership at any time if in the event they are married or if they bring (his/her) **dependent child(ren)** into the society (club). In the event it is because of a spouse, the spouse's first year of credit for Life Membership starts that year. They pay only the difference between the dues of a Regular membership and a Family membership for that year and are not subject to Article I, Membership, Section I.

CURRENT ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS
SECTION V: DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

- G. To write all checks for the society. In the treasurer's absence, one of the other officers, whose signature is on file with the bank as authorized to sign checks, may draw checks that require immediate payment.

PROPOSED ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS
SECTION V: DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

- G. **To obtain secondary authorized signature and** write all checks for the society. In the treasurer's absence, **two** of the other officers, whose signature **are** on file with the bank as authorized to sign checks, may draw checks that require immediate payment.

PROPOSED ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS
ADDITION TO SECTION V: DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

- L. **To update and maintain electronic and paper file of member Liability Waiver forms. Periodically provide list to First VP, Director Assistant Field Trips or Designee.**

February 2006 Board Meeting Notes

SUSANTHOM: The MAGS board of directors meeting met on February 2, 2006 at the Blue Plate Cafe, 5469 Poplar Avenue, presided by W.C. McDaniel who opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were—Mike, Sherri, and Kelly Baldwin, James Butchko, Melba Cole, Nancy Folden, Sherida Helms, Idajean Jordan, W.C. and Cornelia McDaniel, Park Noyes, Raynee Randolph, Randa Spears, Susan Thom, and Lou White.

- (1) Treasurer's Report presented by Cornelia McDaniel.
- (2) Field Trips Report presented by Lou White: David McIlwain, WC & Lou met to compile list of fieldtrip possibilities.
- (3) Adult Program Report presented by Idajean Jordan: In February, representative from University of Memphis Center for Earthquake Research is not available (will come in April). Idajean will give program on gypsum quarry mining in Arkansas. Bill Prior from Little Rock, AR will present the March program. 15-20 minute video on Southwest Arkansas and program on northern Arkansas geological survey experiments being done, as well as a new mineral found in gypsum quarry as well as state rock information—how decided, named, etc. In May the topic will be on the La Brea tarpits. In extenuating circumstances, members will be notified by emails of changes in program & date.
- (4) Youth Program Report presented by Raynee Randolph: Out of the Rock book & video will be used. Also, the youth program will be planning around the Women in Mining website information.
- (5) Library Report presented by Nancy Folden: No report. It was requested that any equipment/materials not used monthly (and not connected with library) be removed from cabinets to make room for the growing library. Out of the Rock book and video from Youth Program will

be donated to library at end of year.

(6) Web/Editor Report presented by Mike Baldwin: Mike appreciates the articles coming in. Submitted articles earn points toward the Rockhounds of America requirements—50 pts for junior article that shows research and 10 pts. for article with minimal research.

(7) Sunshine Report: Marilyn Free home from hospital.

(8) Membership Report presented by Cornelia McDaniel: Two family applications were submitted & approved: Gary & Leisa Law and Richard & Lorraine Bradford & sons Parker & Nathan. Honorary membership to Tom (January speaker) & Kathryn Miller.

(9) Rockswap Report presented by Sherri Baldwin: Waiting for warmer weather to schedule another one.

(10) Show Committee Report presented by James Butchko: Planning committee to meet February 16 at Ronald McDonald House at 6:30 pm (tour at 5:30 pm).

(11) Old Business: Encourage members to donate money and materials for the Roger Van Cleef Educational Program & Earth Science Award.

(12) New Business: (a) Church rent is going up from \$75 to probably \$150 a month. Church will send a contract soon. This is the first rate increase since we started meeting here. (b) Memphis Botanical Gardens is working on a Pre-historic plant/fossil trail to possibly open in late May. (c) Memphis/Shelby County Science Fair is Feb. 28th. Club will participate in judging. Need judges! (d) Bylaw changes were presented for discussion. Motion was tabled, 2nd, and carried to vote on later.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and the vote carried the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

February 2006 Membership Meeting Notes

SUSANTHOM: The MAGS membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on February 17, 2006 (a week later than usual due to inclement weather), presided by W.C. McDaniel. There were 42 members and 2 visitors - Rheba Wall & Dr. Shawn Tummelapaki.

- (1) Welcome new members: Gary & Leisa Law and Richard & Lorraine Bradford with sons Parker & Nathan.
- (2) Members who partook in Pink Palace "Behind the Scenes" Tour with Ron Brister enjoyed it!
- (3) Some old style MAGS t-shirts are still available.
- (4) Gem show dealer space is sold out for April 22 & 23, 2006. Club tickets & flyers are available for distribution. It's not too soon to sign up for volunteer activities at show.
- (5) Field trip on Feb.18 has to be rescheduled to March 4. On Saturday Feb. 25 Marvin Berwind, geologist for state of Tennessee, will lead trip - Wells Station near Cumberland City, TN. In March, we're looking for geodes near Cookeville, TN. In April, we'll be in Millington at Sugar Creek.
- (6) No Junior Program tonight- A Rockhound Club requirement is to attend one Adult Program Meeting.
- (7) Door prize winners were Rheba Wall (visitor) and Marvin Nutt (member).
- (8) No Junior Display Participants. Adult Display Participants were David Day (winner), Pam Gurley, and Steve Hajdu.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show *from page one*

have weighed 50 pounds. Cathie only wanted to buy a few pieces for the kids in her class (Cathie teaches 3- and 4-year-olds). The vendor came over not knowing what Cathie had in mind and said they only sell by the box. After we explained, the vendor said go ahead and pick out some pieces. When we went to pay, the vendor did not charge us a dime.

We learned very quickly that there were multiple dealers selling the same material and if you paid attention and negotiated you could pick up some pieces at a fair price. Since we were small buyers the prices we paid were all right but not like if you were buying 100s kilos of material. I think I may need a lesson in honing my negotiating/bargaining skills.

Anyway, Tuesday and Wednesday were like Monday but at different locations around the city. On Wednesday we ran into MAGS members, Jim McNeil

and his wife, at the Clarion Hotel. We talked for a while, and I came to the realization that the vendors come back annually not only to sell and trade but to visit with one another before they go off in different directions.

On Thursday, the main show opened at the Tucson Convention Center. Talk about beautiful material! It was like walking into a natural history museum, with jewelry stores in between exhibits. Everything was for sale, except for some special exhibits that were donated for the event. Beautiful agates and opals caught my eye and some of the gem sculptures were magnificent.

As our trip approached the final day, I began to worry about how we were going to get the material we bought back to Memphis. Luckily, we brought along some empty suitcases, and Steve had managed to find us shoe boxes. So Thursday night

we sat in Steve and Tomoko's kitchen wrapping our purchases and packing the shoe boxes as tightly as possible, then placing them in larger boxes making sure the total weight stayed below 50 pounds which was a challenge.

Friday morning, we left beautiful Tucson where the weather was mild and temperatures were in the 60s and 70s, and were greeted in Memphis by a snow storm and traffic jams. I believe that in the four and a half days we probably saw two thirds of the show. So now Cathie and I have an excuse to go back next year to see the rest and look for new discoveries.

Next year my plan is fly down to Tucson and rent a car for the return trip back to Memphis. That way Cathie and I can buy more stuff and not worry about weighing down the plane.

Remembering years gone by

DAVID BOWMAN (Former MAGS member): I was trying to think about my MAGS membership days, starting around 1952, when I worked on my Rocks and Minerals merit badge for Troop 42 (St. John's Episcopal Church). Dad and I went to a special exhibit of the Holbrook sisters' fine gems and minerals collection at the Pink Palace. As an 11-year-old, I was knocked out by the exhibit (and so was my father).

I recall helping Charlie Nash and his crew of Penal Farm prisoners clear the Chucalissa mounds in T.O. Fuller State Park in 1953. The trees had been cleared back in the CCC days of the 1930s, so there were 15 or 20 years of second-growth

trees to deal with. Grubbing out the stumps was a mess, but once it was finished, Charlie and the State of Tennessee created the State Archaeologist office, and of course another MAGS stalwart, Marck Pritchard, went on to hold that post.

For my own memory-testing, at 65, I will try to recall of the most exciting field trips and what was collected there. We had a wonderful calendar of trips that included Hot Springs (novaculite), Mount Ida (unbelievable quartz groups and crystals), Magnet Cove (brookite on smoky quartz), and Crow Creek (sharks teeth and petrified logs) in Arkansas; Sylacauga (snowy white marble) and Marjorum (sea urchins) in Alabama; Coon Creek (rich

fossil beds) in Tennessee; and trips farther afield past Rush to Joplin (galena and sphalerite) in Missouri; and the fluorite site in southeaster Illinois.

Chief among the remarkable MAGS programs in my memory was the night we met with Esther McLean, to see her great collection of Chinese hand-carved mineral figurines—jade, lapis lazuli, malachite, tiger eye and so on—collected with considerable discernment and devotion over the years.

As the editor of a bimonthly newsletter (KEYSTONE) I have to say how handsome MAGS' newsletter is. Congratulations to all concerned. You've come a long way since the mimeo/ditto newsletter days of my recollection.

The main purpose of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society 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.

Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, other societies may use material published in MAGS Rockhound News provided that proper credit is given and the sense or meaning of the material is not changed. Editor: Mike Baldwin, 367 North Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017.

©2006 Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society.

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

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

DUES: \$20 (Family); \$16 (Single); \$8 (Junior)

APRIL 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- Apr 06 6:30P MAGS Board Meeting - Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
- Apr 14 7:30P MAGS Membership Meeting - Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road • Bring displays and refreshments • Adult Program: Civil War Battlefields and Artifacts • see page 3
Youth Program: "Out of the Rock"
- Apr 15 TBA MAGS Field Trip - Sugar Creek, Millington, TN • see page 2
- Apr 21 6:30P Rock Show Dinner - Pipkin Bldg., Mid-South Fairgrounds • see page 3
- Apr 22 9:30A DMC Field Trip - Epes, AL • see page 6
- Apr 22-23 27th Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show • see page 4



MAGS Rockhound News
367 North Main Street
Collierville, TN 38017

