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Join Us at Black Rock Quarry!

SHELBY HARTMAN: As much as I hate to confess it, I don't go on a lot of MAGS field trips. It certainly isn't because I don't want to. I just let them slip up on me — or by me, entirely — and then regret not having gone. I'm not going to let that happen to me this time and I challenge each of my fellow MAGS members to join in on this upcoming field trip.

The trip to Black Rock Quarry was originally scheduled for May 9th. Unfortunately, without snorkels, we wouldn't be able to do a lot of collecting right now. The area is underwater and it will need to be pumped out. The trip has been rescheduled to June 13th. So see? There is plenty of time to put this new date on your calendar, clear that weekend and prepare for this trip!

The beauty of this trip is it's proximity to Memphis. For those of you who are NOT morning people, like me and my sister, Sandy Ward, then you can drive over the night before and spend the night. However, for all of you early birds, it's only an hour and forty-five minute drive and it would be easy to make this a simple day trip, if you prefer.

With the trip being over a month away, you have plenty of time to collect the necessities: a hard hat (around \$10 at Northern Tools), protective eyewear (under \$6 at Northern Tools and Harbor Freight), and steel-toed shoes (I just bought mine at Payless for \$38 but I've heard WalMart has them much cheaper).

Everything else you will need should be easy to come by. I'm taking a couple of buckets, a spray water bottle, a small rock hammer and some gloves. I would also suggest taking some plastic or newspaper in case you find something too big for your buckets and need to set it in your car trunk or floorboard.

Bear in mind that this site doesn't allow children under 18 years of age. Usually our field trips are kid friendly but this is for their safety as this is an active quarry.

Now, what are we going to be looking for? I don't have an extensive rock collection yet so sometimes I have no idea what the club experts are talking about when they rattle off what we will be looking for on these field trips so here's a layperson's explanation:

1. Primarily, we will be looking for pink dolomite. You may recall, there was a newsletter article a few months ago about how much I like pink

(continued on page 4)

2009 – 2010 Officers and Board of Directors

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Rockhound News is published monthly by and for the members of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments and articles to the attention of Shelby Hartman, 5116 Whiteway Drive, Memphis, TN 38117 or via email at magsnewsletter@comcast.net

President's Corner



- While the show dates have come and gone much follow up and wrapping up will continue for period of time. You also will be getting more information in the near future about the show, plus the opportunity to provide feedback about the 2009 show and suggestions for the 2010 show.
- On June 13, MAGS will open an exhibit, "The Minerals of The Earth Wide Open" at the Union County Museum in New Albany, Mississippi.
- Our membership director, Neville Mayfield, has been working overtime the last couple months as the club has added 23 new memberships (family and individual). Until someone proves me wrong I will say we have added more new members in the last couple of months than any club in America.
- Remember the field trip to Black Rock requires some very specific and mandatory rules, including hard hat, steel toed shoes, and safety glasses. I would also recommend long pants.

W.C. McDaniel

Comments or Questions regarding MAGS?

Contact W.C. McDaniel, MAGS President, by phone at (901) 274-7706, by mail at 2038 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104, or by email at w.c.mcd@worldnet.att.net.

Check out the clubs website at www.memphisgeology.org

MAGS Field Trip



Driving Directions:
 (102 miles, 1.45 hours of driving)
 Leave Memphis heading into Arkansas.
 Get on I-55 North heading towards
 Missouri. Take Exit 23 (Follow US 61/
 US 63 North towards Jonesboro) Keep
 following US 63 North to the Rest Stop
 (approximately 70 miles or so).

**The May 9th MAGS field trip has been moved
 to June 13th due to flooding in the area.**

Where: Black Rock Quarry
 4437 Highway 63
 Black Rock, AR 72415
 (870)878-6245

Trip Leader: Dan Reed
Contact Info: 662-781-9299 – Home / 360-710-7003 – Cell

Meeting Place: We will meet at the Rest Stop at 7:30 am near
 the Black Rock Quarry entrance (roughly 1
 mile away on the left hand side of the road
 prior to getting to the Quarry). We can do
 the required safety check and get our waivers
 in order at the Rest Stop.

**Keep in mind that if the quarry receives a heavy rain
 before the trip, it will be cancelled.**

No children under 18 allowed on this field trip.



WELCOME NEW MAGS MEMBERS

We extend a welcome to our newest members: Michael & Ann Austen, Matthew & Tammy Bendele, Jim Butcher, Stacy Carr, Pamela Chase, Frank Horrell, Amy Hertz, Robert Shankman, James Johnson, Jimmy Matlock, Virgil & Regina Richards; and Roy, Stephanie & Thomas Van Arsdale. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming membership meetings and field trips!

A NOTE FROM THE ALAN PARKS, MAGS SHOW DIRECTOR

For those of you who haven't already heard, the 2009 Earth Wide Open was a great success and I am looking forward to providing a full brief on the Show and hearing everyone's comments and suggestions.

I am currently out of pocket and won't be able to include a brief in this month's newsletter on such short notice but you will be hearing from me shortly.

Until then, thanks to everyone who contributed to make the Show such as success!

**Announcements
 &
 Tidbits**

Join Us At Black Rock Quarry! *(continued from front page)*



dolomite. Nicer specimens are quite eye catching. Dolomite is common sedimentary rock-forming mineral. It can be found in beds hundreds of feet thick. There is some dispute on just how these dolomite beds are formed. They are not known to form on the earth's surface. Magnesium rich ground water that is warm and high in saline is most likely crucial for its formation. The specimen to the left is actually from Black Rock, Arkansas so it's a pretty good representation of what you will be looking for.

2. Calcite will be something else to watch out for while collecting at Black Rock Quarry. Calcite is one of the most common minerals on earth. It makes up about 4% of the weight of the earth's crust. It would be impossible to describe all the varieties of calcite because there are thousands of

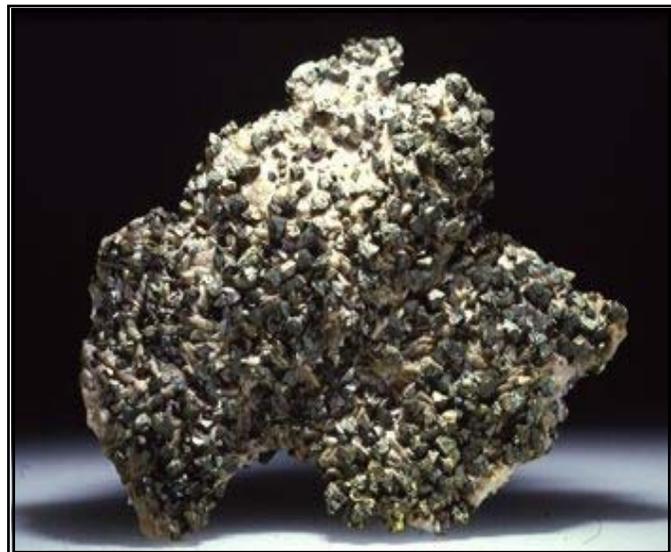
them. The specimen to the right is from Black Rock Quarry so it should give you some idea of what to be watching out for.



3. Chalcopyrite is a copper iron sulfide mineral that forms in a tetragonal shape. It has a brassy yellow color. It is often confused with pyrite, which forms in a cube shape, instead of tetragonal. Sometimes it's referred to as "Yellow Copper." It's widespread distribution makes it the leading source of copper. The two photos below will give you some idea of what to look out for. The specimen on the right is a more substantial piece of chalcopyrite. The specimen on the left is pink dolomite with a light spattering of chalcopyrite.

So I hope this guide will get you excited about the specimens you can add to your collection on this field trip.

Hope to see you there!!!



THANKS, EVERYONE!!!

THANKS TO ALL OUR GREAT MEMBERS WHO DONATED MATERIAL OR TIME – OR BOTH – TO *THE ROCK ZONE!*

WE HAD PLENTY OF REALLY GOOD SPECIMENS FOR BOTH BURYING IN THE GRAVEL AND FOR TRADING FOR MARBLES. ALL THE KIDS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC, AND THE PARENTS HAD A GREAT TIME WATCHING – AND SO DID THE VOLUNTEERS !

PAT YOURSELVES ON THE BACK AND TAKE AN EXTRA COOKIE OUT OF PETTY CASH !

OUR FIRST AGRICENTER SHOW WAS A KNOCKOUT, AND WE HAVE PLANS ALREADY FOR AN EVEN BETTER SHOW NEXT YEAR. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR, PLEASE SEND THEM TO ANY BOARD MEMBER ! WE LOVE TO STEAL YOUR IDEAS.

SHAAZZAAAAAMMM !!!

NEVILLE MAYFIELD

ROCK ZONE COORDINATOR

Schedule of MAGS Events

Month	Adult Program	Junior Program	Field Trips	Rock Swaps	Special Events
May	Mark Norton— Pinson Mounds Archaeological Site	Minerals—Karen Schaeffer		May 23rd—McNeils	
June	Ashley Allen— Science Education in the USA and China	Mike Baldwin	Crowley Ridge Rocks & Blueberries	TBA	June 13—Black Rock Quarry, Black Rock, Arkansas
July	David Dockery	Fluorescent Minerals	Tentative Turkey Creek for pyrite & marcasite	TBA	
August	Club Rock Swap	Club Rock Swap	Blanchard Springs Caverns side trip to Leslie, AR for fossils	Club Rock Swap	MAGS at the Big Scoop

May Birthdays



SHELBY HARTMAN: Emeralds are a variety of the mineral "beryl." They are colored green due to the presence of chromium and, sometimes, vanadium. Emeralds

(beryl) has a hardness of 7.5-8 on the Mohs scale. Emeralds come in a variety of shades of green to blue/green. Most emeralds are highly included which causes them to be quite brittle. The more expensive stones typically are clear from inclusions and are more intensely dark green in color. Almost all emeralds contain numerous inclusions, cracks and flaws. During the lapidary process, most emeralds are oiled with cedar oil, which greatly improves their clarity. The emeralds of the highest quality come from the Muzo mine in Colombia. Fine emeralds are also found in Zimbabwe, Brazil, Zambia, Madagascar, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and Russia. Some emeralds are found in the United States in Gastonia, North Carolina.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Kathy Hemingway | 15 Carlos Sejas |
| 4 Theodore Muir | 15 Kaycee Mathias |
| 5 Tom Prodanovich | 16 Robert Duncan |
| 6 Becky Hare | 17 Alan Adams |
| 7 Fred Hidaji | 19 Joanne Gilmore |
| 8 Jean Helt | 21 Jeff Oswalt |
| 8 Amanda Thomas | 23 Sharon Drungell |
| 9 Carol Lybanon | 25 Sidney D. Selvidge IV |
| 10 Caitlin Cannito | 25 Maureen Johnson |
| 11 Mary Elliott | 25 Maureen Johnson |
| 11 Mike Easley | 27 Kelly Baldwin |
| 12 Billy Kennedy | 27 Cameron Caldwell |
| 12 Pam Crumpton | 28 Carl Warren |
| 13 Daniel Baird | 29 Austin Loveland |
| 13 James Butchko | 29 Faye Smith |
| 14 Phillip W. Eglsaer | 30 Michael Cannito |
| 14 Bonnie Brooks | 30 Gary Law |
| 14 Eli Shankman | 30 Herb Nichol森 |
| | 31 Rheba Wall |

2009 Meeting Dates

Month	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Submissions
May	Apr 30	May 08	Apr 15
June	June 04	June 12	May 15
July	July 02	July 10	Jun 15
August	Aug 06	Aug 14	Jul 15
September	Sep 03	Sep 11	Aug 15
October	Oct 01	Oct 09	Sep 15
November	Nov 05	Nov 13	Oct 15
December	Dec 03	Dec 11	Nov 15

Web Site Statistics for March 2009

a brief look at our website (www.memphisgeology.org) since 1/21/02

Total Visits & Hits

Total visits to web site since 1/21/02	373,008
Total hits to web site since 1/21/02	1,587,844
Visits in past 30 days	5,250
Hits in past 30 days	42,420
Top page views past 30 days	
eris	1,230 hits
rocknews0409	630 hits
rocknews1005	570 hits
rocknews0107	480 hits

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

Do It Yourself Field Trip by Dan Reed

It's early Saturday morning, the sun is shining and your plans to spend the morning with the Mother In-Law just fell through. Now you're left with the kids and wife and need to come up with something to do fast.

How about a Field Trip to a Creek in North Mississippi just a few miles South of Memphis and a mile or two West of Olive Branch? Oh, the name of the Creek, well I looked at several maps and did not see a name. I do recall sometime ago seeing a sign along the road, but do not recall the name. I will provide some directions below to get you to where you need to be.

Smaller (palm size) Petrified Wood is abundant in this creek. I have been to this creek many times and have never returned home without petrified wood. In fact a couple of other MAGS members also frequent this small creek just for wood.

Here is the information you will need to collect:

- Locate on a map the corner of Church Road and Hwy 305. Church Road runs East and West and runs into 305 just Southwest of Olive Branch Mississippi. If you were sitting at this intersection and facing West, you will see the Soccer Field Complex on your Right. The creek of interest is approximately 20 to 30 feet wide and follows Church Road for a good distance. The Creek is North of Church Road approximately 150 yards.

(cont'd page 8)



Do It Yourself Field Trip *(Continued from page 7)*

- If you coming from Memphis area you can follow I-55 South. Just as you pass Southaven take the exit for Church Road and follow the road left until you come to a tee (not sure on the mileage, but it is several miles). This is the corner of Church and 305.

1. You can park at the West end of the Soccer Field and make your way to the creek. Once there try either direction to collect (note: this area has more vegetation to pass thru to get to the creek, but also is less picked over from other collectors.

2. Heading West on Church Road from the Soccer Field. The first small overpass you come to is a great starting point (1/2 mile from the soccer field).

You will need to pull off the road and park on the North side of Church Road. A small gravel creek bed leads right to the main creek. In fact this little creek bed is where I located the point shown above and much of the wood I located comes from. You can also head South under the small overpass and follow the gravel creek bed that direction.

3. Following Church Road West from the Soccer Field you will see two side roads that have bridges over them. Park at these locations as well and head either direction along the creek.

- The collecting area of this Creek is about 1.5 to 2 miles long and has many gravel bars along the way which produce Petrified Wood, Points, Small Fossils and Agates.
- The best time to collect is soon after a heavy rain, allowing a couple of days to pass so the creek returns to it's normal level.
- As mentioned, the creek has many Gravel Bars, you will need wading shoes. and expect to wade no higher than your knees during the summer months.
- Ouchy Stuff! The creek has slow moving water and somewhat clear water, not the muddy water you find normally in the area. In all my travels to this location I have only seen two snakes, I know there is probably more, but I've seen less snakes here than any other creeks I've walked in Mississippi— one of the reasons I like walking this creek. Up on the banks I have noted Poison Ivy, but to access the creek you don't need to worry about this except with access point 1 above.

Last of all, if you have a hard time finding this site and want additional information please feel free to call or email me:

Dan Reed
662-781-9299
dr4538@comcast.net



Common Agate from this creek

Have Fun and let me know how your Field Trip went!

March 2009 Board of Directors Meeting Notes : CAROL & MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Board of Directors met March 5 at the St. Claire Room in St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P. M. Those present were: Mike Baldwin, David Day, Shelby Hartman, Doris Jones, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Neville Mayfield, W. C. McDaniel, Alan Parks, Dan Reed, Alan Schaeffer, Paul Sides, and Sandy Ward. The February Board & Membership Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Treasurers Report: The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted, subject to audit. Doris Jones said she has started on the 2008 tax report. **Membership:** Applications for membership were reviewed and approved. Neville Mayfield reviewed several things about his job as Membership Chair. Matthew Lybanon will email copies of the Bylaws and Standing Rules to all Board Members. Mike Baldwin will change the address for mailing applications downloaded from the website so that they will now go to Neville. **Adult Programs:** W. C. McDaniel asked Paul Sides to get information about upcoming programs into the newsletter; a 3-month advance schedule would be good. Tentatively, Ashley Allen will give a presentation on his recent China trip at the May meeting. Also tentatively, John McFarland will give a presentation on Fossils of Arkansas in June. **Junior Programs:** Alan Schaeffer announced the April program, fossil identification, and the May program, rocks and minerals identification. He would like to buy boxes so that each Junior can begin a collection. He would like to give each Junior one specimen monthly, to add to their collections. W. C. McDaniel would like to see Alan get some help with the Junior program. Jim Butchko has agreed to help, but we need more participation. **Show:** Alan Parks reported that the postcards are here; please pick up some and give them out. McDaniel reminded the Board that there will be a signup sheet for volunteers at our Membership Meeting. The Show needs many volunteers. Alan asked for donations of quartz for the grab bags and RockZone. **Library:** David Day asked if there are bookplates for dedications, or whether we need to design one. **Newsletter:** No report. The transition to the 15th of each month as the submission deadline seems to be working. Shelby Hartman has reduced the number of printed copies she mails out to about 10. **Webmaster:** Mike Baldwin said he is making daily updates to the Show website. **Historian/Rock Swap:** No report.

Old Business: > Bylaws change (definition of Junior Membership)--The Board approved the change

it will be submitted to the membership at the March meeting and voted on at the April meeting. W. C. McDaniel asked Matthew Lybanon to print a few copies of the proposed change for the March Membership Meeting, and to send an article to the newsletter. **New Business:** > MAGS will participate in the Chucalissa Archaeology Days April 16-18. W. C. McDaniel asked for volunteers to man a "station" 10:00-2:00 each day. School children will come on Thursday and Friday. It will be open to the public on Saturday. > W. C. talked to a lady in New Albany who would like us to set up an exhibit of the MAGS Collection for about a month. We will list the New Albany museum on our website. > Dan Reed suggested setting up a display at the Memphis Airport. Susan Thompson's name was given as a contact for the airport. The Board decided to hold the April 2 Board Meeting at the same place. Alan Schaeffer will reserve the room. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P. M.

March 2009 Membership Meeting Notes : CAROLE & MATTHEW LYBANON

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on March 13. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. There were 61 Members and 8 visitors. W. C. McDaniel welcomed Members and visitors. He pointed out that 2009 dues are overdue if you haven't paid them already. Membership Chair Neville Mayfield reported that Membership rosters are out on the tables in the back of the room, and asked people to check them to make sure the information is current. He said that we still need materials for the RockZone at the Show. He said that any of the older Juniors could contact him if they wanted to work at the Show. W. C. McDaniel informed Members that the April newsletter may be published a few days late, to make sure it has the most complete information about the Show. He told Members that Cornelia is at a table in the back of the room, with postcards and a Show volunteer signup sheet. Since the Show is in a new location we will need lots of help. Cornelia is also selling raffle tickets for a piece of Madagascar petrified wood. Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5. The drawing for this prize will be Friday night, April 24, after the Show dinner. Proceeds will go to the Show. He also said that the "name the dinosaur egg" contest is in full swing; names are coming in rapidly. And he reminded everyone to look at the Show website, which is loaded with information. Field Trip Chair Barry Burns fell and broke his hip, so he will be out for a while. Paul Sides introduced Jim Cunningham, who presented a program on Pterosaurs. There was one Junior display: John Matthew Ericson showed his quartz crystals. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P. M.

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.

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AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 7th—95 • Small Bulletin Honorable Mention—04, 05, 06 • Adult Article 10th—04; Honorable Mention—05 (x2), 06 (x2) • 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, 2nd—06, 4th—03, 3rd—07 • Special Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st—03, 07 • Adult Article 1st—06, 2nd—89, 90, 04, 06; 3rd—92; 4th—85, 04, 07; 5th—91, 03, 07; 6th—87; 8th—04, 07; Honorable Mention—03, 04, 07 • Adult Poetry—07

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

MAY 2009						
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
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

April 30 6:30 p.m. **Board Meeting at St. Francis in St. Claire Room behind ER. (5959 Park Ave) REMINDER: NO FOOD!**

May 8 7:30 p.m. **Membership Meeting at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church**



MAGS Rockhound News
5116 Whiteway Drive
Memphis, TN 38117