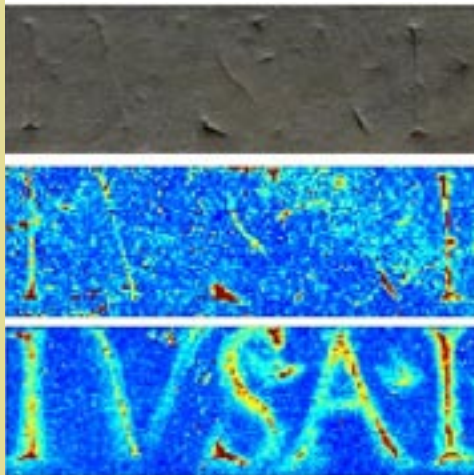


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X-ray technology helps shed new light

on ancient stone inscriptions



In this group of scanned letters, the top panel is a photographic image. The middle panel is iron fluorescence, which becomes very weak in areas that have been significantly worn away. The bottom panel is lead fluorescence. Even in areas that have been significantly weathered, the fluorescence is strong enough to clearly read the text.

MIKE BALDWIN: A Cornell University team of humanists and scientists have collaborated to recover faded text on ancient stones by mapping these 2,000-year-old inscriptions with X-ray fluorescence (XRF) imaging.

A nondestructive chemical analysis technique widely used in geology, archaeology and materials science was used to carry out the research at the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS).

X-ray fluorescence imaging appears to be a much more powerful tool than anything currently being used in epigraphy (the study of incised writing on various surfaces, including stone). This discovery could help usher in a new era in the study of ancient cultures. The information contained in these stones are valuable sources for

historians, archaeologists, art historians and anthropologists.

At CHESS, a high intensity X-ray beam was fired at inscribed marble stones. By using a spectrometer to analyze the energies and intensities

>>see X-ray technology on page seven>>

August MAGS events

- 04 6:30p MAGS Board Meeting • Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
- 12 7:30p MAGS Membership Meeting • Shady Grove Presbyterian Church
5535 Shady Grove Road • Bring refreshments and swap stuff
- 13-14 Pink Palace: Behind the Scenes Tour with Ron Brister [see page 3]
- 20 8:00a MAGS Field Trip to Starkville, Mississippi [see page 2]
- 20 9:00a DMC Field Trip to Ladd's Mountain, Cartersville, GA [see page 6]

Our August adult and youth programs will be preempted by the 4th Annual "A Mid-Summer Night's Indoor Picnic and Rock Swap". Bring your goodies and join the fun.

2005-2006

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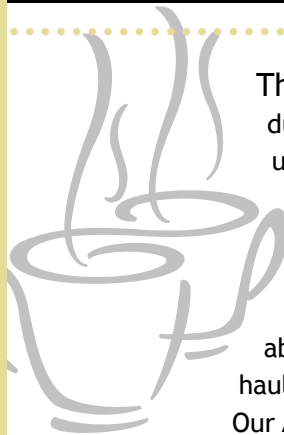
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MAGS Rockhound News is published monthly by and for the members of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments and articles to Mike Baldwin, 367 North Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017 or email them to editor@memphisgeology.org . ©2005.

President's corner: WC McDANIEL



The weather sure has been busy during July. Rains and high creeks kept us from our original creeking date in Mississippi. However, the rescheduled trip on July went off without a hitch. Great weather greeted 12 rockhounds and at the end the day about 800 pounds of petrified wood was hauled out of the creek.

Our August membership meeting will be the 4th edition of our indoor rock swap and picnic. It combines the best of many worlds. Rocks to sell, buy or swap, good food and all done in the comfort of an air-conditioned and mosquito free environment. Be sure to check out the rock swap/picnic announcement on page three.

I'd rather be rock hunting is a thought and wish many rockhounds have as we go about the chores and rigors of everyday life. Now you can let people know how you feel. The show has a free gift for any MAGS' member who helped with the show. This includes those who volunteered to work a shift, donated rocks to the gem dig or grab bags, passed out marketing material/show tickets or brought food to the Friday night dinner. The gift is a bumper sticker that reads: "***I'd Rather be: Rock Hunting.***" You may pick one up at a membership meeting or just give me a call to come by and pick one up. For those who were unable to help or you just want an extra sticker or two they are available for \$1.00 each.

Last spring I requested members to sign up to help out with some membership meeting chores. The response was fairly limited. One area that needs help is hospitality/refreshments. So beginning with the September meeting I will assign those functions. At the moment I am not sure of the exact criteria I will use, only to say those members who have current meeting duties will be excluded. **WC**

August MAGS field trip

LOU WHITE: The MAGS field trip for August will be on Sat., August 20, to Starkville, MS. We will be collecting pyrite in a creekbed. Specific field trip meeting times and locations will be available at the August membership meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can contact Lou White at 901-937 8522 or WC McDaniel at 901-274-7706 (or w.c.mcd@worldnet.att.net) for details. Mark your calendar and bring your water shoes!

Pink Palace: Behind the Scenes

MAGS member, Ron Brister, will be sharing his Pink Palace knowledge with us on Saturday, August 13 and Sunday, August 14. If you haven't signed up for one of these "Behind the Scenes" tours of the Pink Palace, time is running out! There are only two times available . . . 10:00 A.M. Saturday morning, August 13 or 1:00 P.M. Sunday afternoon, August 14. Check the sign-up sheets at the August meeting and get your family on the list (space is limited).

Dates to remember

	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Articles
Aug	4	12	—
Sep	1	9	August 21
Oct	6	14	September 25
Nov	3	11	October 23
Dec	1	9	November 20
Jan	5	13	December 18

MAGS Presents the Fourth Annual *A Mid-Summer Night's Indoor Picnic and Rock Swap*

SHERRI BALDWIN, MAGS DIRECTOR-HISTORIAN: Friday, August 12 • 7:30 P.M. • Our picnic and swap will be held in lieu of the regular membership meeting.

For the picnic (potluck)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> MAGS will provide the table coverings, plates and cutlery Board members will provide the drinks Members bring a dish or two and/or dessert to share
For the swap	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> If you plan on selling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear your selling attire and bring your own table Must donate a nice specimen for a future club auction If you just want to swap: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear your swapping attire and bring your goods If you just want to buy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear your spending attire and bring your money

Other events and activities • Games • Door prizes • Surprises

If you have minerals that you think might fluoresce, bring them and check them under the fluorescent light.

You could be the next MAGS editor!

MIKE BALDWIN, MAGS EDITOR: In the July newsletter, I asked if you would consider taking on the responsibility of becoming the next MAGS editor. If you are a graphic designer or a desktop publisher, being the editor of the **MAGS Rockhound News** may be just what you're looking for! I have been fortunate over the past few years, in that there never seems to be a lack of articles and events to write about. So, take a serious look at the newsletter and think about it. It's a great way to keep your finger on the pulse of the club and leave your mark on the history of MAGS. Editor is a President-appointed board position. If you are interested contact WC McDaniel at w.c.mcd@worldnet.att.net, 901-274-7706 or me at rockclub@earthlink.net, 901-853-3603.

Artist Market News

New Work by MAGS Member
David A. Day, Sculptor
Opening Reception
6 until 9 • August 26

Show will be up until October 2
At the Midtown Artist Market (MAM)
2027 Madison Avenue • Memphis

Go to www.midtownartistmarket.com
for more information

The Artist Market has a nice opening reception, joined by a used bookstore and coffee shop where there are regular live music and other events. Many of the artists and craftspeople who permanently exhibit there would be of interest to MAGS members as there are many jewelers and artists who use stones in various ways. We may have members who would be interested in joining the group or at least getting their name on the mailing list.

New books in the library

NANCY FOLDEN, MAGS LIBRARIAN: There are a couple of new books in the library that you might want to check out. Melba Cole presented MAGS with a copy of "The Complete Guide to Jewelry: Soldering" by Sara M. Sanford, and Nancy Folden brought a copy of "Jewelry: Fundamentals of Metalsmithing" by Tim McCreight back with her from William Holland last month. *Fundamentals of Metalsmithing* is presented to the MAGS library in memory of John Jones.

Stop by the library and browse for a while. I know there's a book or two there that are just what you've been looking for.

Sunshine and caring

MELBA COLE, MAGS MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR:
Roger Van Cleef continues to improve. He has been moved to the Atria Rehab Center, near St. Frances for intensified rehabilitation. He is in Room 101. Your prayers and visits are greatly appreciated.

Jean Helt has been moved to the Baptist Germantown Rehabilitation Center, Room 227b. She's making a good bit of progress in recovering her strength and getting around. She will be in Physical and Occupational Therapy about three hours a day at the Rehab Center. Visitors are allowed after 5:30 P.M., until about 8 P.M. Jean and Alan appreciate your prayers and cards very much.

MAGS member Al Klug passed away on Wednesday, July 27 at his home. Al was a United States Army veteran who served during the Vietnam War. He was also a former Boy Scout leader in Germantown. Our heartfelt condolences go to his wife and MAGS member, Mary Klug and to his daughter, Susan Thomas and her family: husband Randy, daughters Amanda and Sara, and son Charlie. The Thomases are very active MAGS members.

Although the Klugs have not been MAGS members for very long, they joined with great vitality and enthusiasm. Mary, your friends and MAGS family look forward to seeing you at MAGS activities very soon.

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

August Birthdays

MELBA COLE: Birthstone for August is Topaz.

- 4 - Richard Butterick
- 4 - Roger Van Cleef
- 4 - Donald Spencer
- 6 - Irma Idell
- 7 - Sara Thomas
- 9 - Dr. Don Lum
- 11 - Paul Sides
- 12 - Ron Brister
- 12 - Jeri Givens
- 13 - Steven Walker
- 15 - Qiaoli Liang
- 16 - Lelitia Brister
- 16 - George Loud
- 17 - Anna Sisk**
- 19 - Ramon Gafford**
- 19 - Rachel Huber
- 21 - Ariana Enzerink
- 21 - Zachary Faddis
- 22 - Idajean Jordan
- 22 - Jerome Wood
- 25 - Sherri Baldwin
- 25 - Dylan Burns
- 25 - Robert Foster**
- 25 - Frances Walker
- 27 - Tim Long
- 30 - Norm Hall

Bold type indicates lifetime members.

Website statistics for July

MIKE BALDWIN, MAGS WEB COORDINATOR:

Here's a brief look at our website [www.memphisgeology.org] from 01.21.02 through 07.31.05:

Visits	110,646
Hits	483,012
Avg visits/day past month	265
Top pages in the past 30 days:	
Home page.....	609 hits
rocknews0705.pdf	552 hits
Explorer0203.pdf	314 hits
Explorer0703.pdf	300 hits
argon2003.pdf.....	266 hits

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

WC McDANIEL: This month's Roadcut is dedicated to the MAGS members and show attendees who envied and wanted the amethyst cathedral given away as the grand door prize.

- The majority of amethyst geodes are mined in a region of Brazil that has nine distinct layers of basalt. However, the geodes are found in only one of these layers and is at 1,300 to 1,450 feet above sea level.,
- It is estimated (there are no official records) that 100-200 tons of geodes are mined per month. An additional 20-30 tons of gem grade geodes are also mined.
- At the mining sites the quality of each geode is gauged by looking inside with a light powered by a car battery. Gem grade amethyst geodes are immediately broken into pieces and transported to a secure location for grading and eventual sale. Geodes for cathedrals are transported to a site where they are cut and polished for preparation for export and sale. Poor quality geodes are essentially by-passed from any additional mining activities.
- The single largest geode is reportedly to have weighed 35 tons and was cut in multiple pieces, transported to Germany and reassemble for display.
- The majority of citrine colored cathedrals are the result of the heat treating of the purple amethyst. This process can be reversed.
- The outer dark green color of the geodes is coated with minerals such as celadonite. This coating provides as secure shell for the interior of the geodes.'

Information for this Roadcut was obtained from *Rock and Gem* magazine.

MIKE BALDWIN: **Choctaw Indian Heritage Festival will be held August 6-7 at the Chucalissa Indian Village in Memphis.** I realize that this information and the information about Cherokee Days at Red Clay (on page nine) is coming to the readers of the mailed version of MAGS Rockhound News late, but email and web readers should take advantage of this opportunity and attend the Choctaw Indian Heritage Festival. The Festival offers visitors a tremendous way to experience the art and traditions of the Native American culture. Arts, dance, music and other forms of entertainment will all combine for an exceptional time of entertainment and education. One of my favorite activities at the Festival is always the stickball games—lacrosse . . . Native American style! Bring the entire family and experience all the fun of the Choctaw Indian Heritage Festival—Saturday 9-5; Sunday 12-5.

Even if you miss the Festival on August 6 and 7, you can still take a step back in time to explore the culture of a people who flourished before the first Europeans set foot in the Mississippi Valley. Nestled in the tranquility of T.O. Fuller State Park lies a piece of living history, just waiting to be discovered and explored by both academician and the casual visitor alike. Chucalissa (Choo-kah-le-sah), a Choctaw word meaning abandoned house, has stepped out of the past and into the modern world.

Although projectile points dating back some 3000 years have been found at the site, most evidence indicates that the first town was founded around 1000 C.E. Although brief, this occupation, known as the Ensley Phase, paved the way for more stable communities in the following centuries. Little has survived of this first occupation, the site appears to have been a satellite of a larger community located near Downtown Memphis.

Chucalissa escaped scientific notice until 1939, when the site was recognized by members of a Civilian Conservation Corps crew sent to develop a new state park. The University of Tennessee, then the only school in the state with an archaeology program, conducted test excavations in 1940. As a result plans were made to develop the site as part of the park. The onset of WWII diverted attention from the project, and Chucalissa was all but forgotten until 1955 when development resumed under the Tennessee State Parks sponsorship. By 1959 nine houses and a temple had been reconstructed, exhibits developed, and the museum itself constructed. The charter members of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society were directly responsible for the development of Chucalissa.

Chucalissa is open to the public Tues thru Saturday, 9 to 5 and Sunday, 1:30 to 4:30. Call 901-785-3160 for more information.

Reference: C.H. Nash Archaeological Museum And Reconstructed Indian Village; <http://chucalissa.memphis.edu/index.html>; August 2, 2005. Information used for educational purposes under the provisions of the Fair Use Act of 1976.



DMC program of the SFMS field trip committee An official field trip of the Georgia Mineral Society 9am • Aug 20, 2005 • Ladd's Mt/Weinman Museum, Cartersville, GA

Ladd's Mountain is "THE PLACE" in the state of Georgia and the southeast to collect Cave Onyx (flowstone). In the process of mining this mountain for limestone, caves were exposed that contained beautifully banded calcite ranging in colors of orange-red to creamy white and yellow. This type of calcite formation is called "Cave Onyx." The material is very beautiful and can be cut and polished with ease. It also brightly fluoresces white in short-wave ultraviolet light and phosphoresces blue when you turn off your UV light. COLLECTING: Cave Onyx, black flint nodules, Dendrites, Calcite crystals (botryoidal and stalactic), Aragonite, and Dolomite. Cave formations and onyx can be found loose in the dirt as well as in pockets in the rock. The flint has been washed up in a large graded area next to the pit and is easily collected on the surface. There is also onyx in this area but most of it appeared to be weathered.

SPECIAL TRIP: When it gets too hot to collect at the quarry, we will travel back through town to the Weinman Mineral Museum for the air-conditioning and some great minerals/fossils! The museum has a new exhibit on Georgia Gold! We will be able to view the largest discovery of Georgia gold in recent times - over 300 nuggets plus the largest gold matrix specimen on public display! Our group will receive a special reduced entrance fee to the museum.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: We will meet in the corner of the Ingles parking lot next to Highway 113 (West Avenue) and the light. Ingles is on your right on 113 about 1.5 miles west of downtown Cartersville. We will meet at 9:00 AM, on SATURDAY, August 20, 2005

For more complete information, contact Mike Baldwin at rockclub@earthlink.net or call 901-853-3603. Field Trip Contact: Jim Haege, jim.haega@chart-ind.com, 706-253-5920.

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!

Upcoming SFMS shows

SEPT 2-5, 2005 • Hendersonville, NC • Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society • 24th Annual Gem and Mineral Spectacular and Sale • Whitmore Activity Building, Lily Pond Road • Hours: 2nd-4th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 5th, 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. • Contact: Margaret L. Johnson, P.O. Box 6391, Hendersonville, NC 28739-6391, 828.692.1249 or email mgt.j.ed@brinet.com

SEPT 3, 2005 • Hendersonville, NC • Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society • 16th Annual Micro-mount Symposium • Salvation Army Building, Grove Street between 3rd and 4th Avenues • Hours: 8:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M. • Contact: Emily Adams, 355 Pelham Road, Greenville, SC 29615, 864.271.3877

SEPT 9-11, 2005 • Winston-Salem, NC • Forsyth Gem and Mineral Club • 34th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Show and Sale • Educational Building, Dixie Classic Fairgrounds • Hours: 9th-10th, 10:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M.; 11th, Noon-6:00 P.M. • Contact www.forsythgemclub.com

SEPT 24-25, 2005 • Hiddenite, NC • Western Piedmont Mineral and Gem Society • 17th Annual Hiddenite Gem and Mineral Show • Hiddenite Educational Complex, Sulphur Springs Road • Hours: 24th, 9:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; 25th, Noon-6:00 P.M. • Contact Patty Arnold, 828.465.2769

Aircraft Archaeology

MIKE BALDWIN, MAGS WEB COORDINATOR: I found <<http://www.aircraftarchaeology.com/>> to be a fascinating website. It is dedicated entirely to Arizona Aircraft Archaeology. Take the time to visit this site. I think you will find it as interesting as I did. Below is just a tidbit of the information found there.



WWII-Era B-24

"Arizona has long been regarded one of the best states for flight training by the military. This is primarily due to the sunny weather and open space that allows for a great training environment. Not only did airmen from the United States train here, but pilots from Germany, France, Spain, England, China and South America were trained here through the decades.

During World War II, Arizona became a major hub in the training of USAAF personnel on the many airfields that were located there. As a result, over 300 aviation mishaps occurred in the mountains and flatlands of Arizona before September, 1945. In the following years when jets were introduced to the Air Force, about 400 more aviation mishaps occurred within the state by 1960. A few of these crash sites were left the way they were the day they crashed, while most of the bigger pieces of the other crash sites have been cleaned up years ago by the military, forest service or by people who would melt the aluminum down to sell to scrappers. Either way, there is always something to photograph or document at these sites to help preserve what is left of these great WWII and early jet-era aircraft.

Today, wreckchasing is a popular hobby among the people who enjoy hiking and have an appreciation for vintage military aircraft."

RESOURCE: Arizona Aircraft Archaeology; <http://www.aircraftarchaeology.com/>; August 2, 2005. Information used for educational purposes under the provisions of the Fair Use Act of 1976. Thanks to Mike Kinsley for submitting this website to MAGS.

Tenth planet discovered

MIKE BALDWIN, MAGS WEB COORDINATOR: A planet larger than Pluto has been discovered in the outlying regions of the solar system with the Samuel Oschin Telescope at Palomar Observatory, California Institute of Technology.

The planet is a typical member of the Kuiper belt, but its sheer size in relation to the nine planets already known means that it can only be classified as a planet. Currently about 97 astronomical units from the sun (an astronomical unit is the distance between the sun and Earth), the planet becomes the farthest-known object in the solar system, and the third brightest of the Kuiper belt objects.

A proposed name for the planet has been submitted to the International Astronomical Union by the planet's discoverers. They are awaiting approval of the name before making the official announcement.

RESOURCE: Tenth Planet; Astrobiology Magazine; <http://www.astrobio.net/news/modules.php>; August 3, 2005. Information used for educational purposes under the provisions of the Fair Use Act of 1976.

X-ray technology

<<from page one<<

of these rays, the concentrations of trace elements in the stone were determined. Because of the high intensity of the X-ray beam, these trace-element measurements could be quickly repeated as the stone was scanned back and forth in the beam, producing a map or image of each element's concentration.

The chosen inscriptions (one in Classical Greek and two in Latin) each presented different levels of wear. XRF imaging detected minute amounts of iron, zinc and lead in the inscribed regions, among other elements. Iron chisels were commonly used to inscribe the stones, and the letters were usually painted with pigments containing metal oxides and sulfides. These may account for the iron and lead, but the source of the zinc is a mystery. In the most worn stone, the trace elements measured by XRF clearly revealed the contours of the original letters, even where they were no longer visible to the eye. XRF imaging will help to decipher texts and may provide new information on how the inscriptions were made.

RESOURCE (Article and Photo): Franklin Crawford; *Scientists and humanists join forces to use X-ray technology to shed new light on ancient stone inscriptions*; Cornell University News Service; www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Aug05/XRF.imaging.stones.fac.html; August 2, 2005. Information used for educational purposes under the provisions of the Fair Use Act of 1976.

June 2005 board meeting notes

Susan Thom, MAGS Secretary

The MAGS board of directors meeting met on June 2, 2005 at the Blue Plate Cafe, 5469 Poplar Avenue, presided by President W.C. McDaniel who opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Mike and Sherri Baldwin, James Butchko, Melba Cole, Nancy Folden, Sherida Helms, Idajean Jordan, W.C. and Cornelia McDaniel, Park and Terri Noyes, Raynee Randolph, Susan Thom and Lou White. Reports included: (1) Treasurer—Report accepted; (2) Field Trips—20- Mile Creek looking for sharks teeth. In May at Sugar Creek everybody found petrified wood. Black Rock will probably be in October. In August, near Starksville, MS for pyrite; (3) Program—In June David McAlister will talk about polishing slabs. July will be Dr. Swann from Chucalissa. August will be rock swap and potluck. September will be Gary Patterson on Chucalissa sea bed. October will be our state geologist; (4) Youth—June will be about our state rock, gemstones, and how to build a mineral collection. July will be about safety while collecting and handling specimens. Allen Helt may wire wrap. August will be the rock swap and potluck; (5) Library—No new books purchased. Need book on Brazilian gemstones in honor of Martha Rannels; (6) Web/Editor—10 delivery failures on email. WC will check those against his list. Need articles for July and August; (7) Sunshine Report—David McAlister's mom is in assisted living. Allen and Jean Helt's daughter was injured in car accident coming back from Sugar Creek. Membership—Applications for Ivon V. Clark and Megan and Mark Oldfield were presented; (8) Rock Swap—Rock Swap Friday night at 6 p.m. at Thomases home in Collierville. Come early to set up tables. July—still working on it; (9) Show—Surprise gift to participants who donated their time and labor for show. Be at the meeting; (10) New Business—[a] In 2008, MAGS will host another DMC field trip; [b] At another club's field trip location, some club members of another club, visited a dig site, didn't sign a release form, collected and left the site before the field trip was to occur. This will not be allowed in our club. If it does occur, those collectors will not be allowed to collect any more with the club. [c] Need new television. Ours is no longer operational. Club checking into pricing, options available, and cabinetry. [d] W.C. met with Ron Brister on archeological proposal. Subcommittee would work out policy and program requirements. Ron and Weaver and Associates want to be on subcommittee along with the University of Memphis, Chucalissa, and Pan American. Sherida Helms and James Butchko from our club are interested in subcommittee. WC will recruit more members from club membership. [e] Fossil/Mineral roadshow (like Antique Roadshow) is at Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. [f] Club members will have opportunity to participate in a behind the scenes tour at the Pink Palace in August. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

June 2005 membership meeting notes

Susan Thom

The MAGS membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on June 10, 2005, presided by Idajean Jordan. There were 68 members and 7 visitors--Lauren Rutherford, Barry Gilmore, Joanne Gilmore, Billy Graham, Daniel Williams and Peter Williams (grandchildren of Wayne and Ann Williams, and Patricia Allen. (1) Field Trip Report: Field trip to W.M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park, 20-Mile Creek near Frankstown, Mississippi in June. July 16 Field Trip in Mississippi to collect petrified wood and possibly tour active coal mine. August Field Trip to Turkey Creek in Mississippi to collect pyrite. (2) Program presented by David McAlister on Lapidary Arts: Cutting and Polishing Slabs. Jimmy McNeal presented a carving demonstration. (3) Rock swap/picnic at Thomases home in Collierville on June 17. (4) Door prizes - Mike Cannito/adult and Daniel Williams/youth. (5) Display winners - Mike Cannito/adult and Hunter Hill/youth. Meeting adjourned @ 8:30 p.m.

The Geology of Baseball

SHERIDA EDDLEMON HELMS

Summer is here and the baseball parks crowded with people. I never realized that there is a geology to the infield skin. There is a mix to the soil to give the ground playability, traction and resilience. It is not just plain dirt. The dirt of the ballfield is a special blend of sand, silt and clay in specific proportions. The field gains its strength from clay and is softened by sand and silt. A



ground conditioner is made from roasted and calcined clay. (Calcining is the process of heating to a high temperature.) The conditioner allows players to control slides, fall more safely and it also keeps their cleats from sticking. Groundskeepers maintain the field by adding water, adding the top dressing as needed, raking and even

low-level soil testing may be necessary.

Umpires use a special regulation rubbing mud on new balls to take off the gloss. It is fine silt from a New Jersey streambed. So the next time you are sitting in the bleachers eating a hotdog, and cheering on your favorite player, recall the geology facts that help make baseball the wonderful game we see every time the umpire yells "Play Ball!"

Source: http://geology.about.com/od/sediment_soil/a/aa_ballfield.htm?nl=1

Cherokee Days at Red Clay

Cherokee Days of Recognition • August 6-7 Red Clay State Historical Park

SHERIDA HELMS: ASSISTANT YOUTH DIRECTOR: This event features authentic Cherokee crafts, music, dance, and storytelling. Visitors have the opportunity to learn firsthand about Cherokee culture. For those dancing up an appetite, food booths will be available also. Contact: Lois Osborne, Lois.Osborne@state.tn.us, or (423) 478-0339.

The events that made Red Clay famous happened between 1832 and 1838. Red Clay served as the seat of Cherokee government from 1832 until the forced removal of the Cherokee in 1838. It was the site of 11 general councils, national affairs attended by up to 5,000 people. Those years were filled with frustrating efforts to insure the future of the Cherokee. One of the leaders of the Cherokee, Principal Chief John Ross, led their fight to keep Cherokee's eastern lands, refusing the government's efforts to move his people to Oklahoma. Controversial treaties, however, resulted in the surrendering of land and their forced removal. At Red Clay, the Trail of Tears really began, for it was at the Red Clay Council Grounds that the Cherokee learned that they had lost their mountains, streams, and valleys forever.

Red Clay State Historic Park is located in the extreme southwest corner of Bradley County in Tennessee, near Cleveland, just above the Tennessee-Georgia state line.

Welcome new members to MAGS

MELBA COLE, MAGS MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR: Please join me in welcoming our newest MAGS members.

[01] Barry and Joanne Gilmore • 133 Fox Glade Lane • Cordova, TN 38018 • jgilmore@memphis.edu • 901.755.2506

[02] David and Linda Waddell • 6212 Ledgewood Lane • Bartlett, TN 38135 • waddel@bellsouth.net • 901.380.1874

[03] James, Danielle, Dylan, Briana Burns and Truate Bearden • 4 Belmar, Little Rock, AR 72209 • 501.568.0315

[04] Anne Fordyce • 700 Francis Drive • Whiteville, TN 38075 • afordyce@bellsouth.net • 901.231.0890

AFMS Convention and Show to be held in St. Louis

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) and The Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and Geological Societies present the 2005 AFMS Convention

The convention will be August 16-21. The host hotel for the convention is Marriott—St. Louis West, 660 Maryville Centre Drive, St. Louis, MO 63141.

The national show will be August 19-21 at Queeny Park, Greensfelder Recreation Complex, 550

Weidman Road, St. Louis County, MO 63011.

For more information about the national show and convention in St. Louis, visit the website listed here.

<http://convention.stlearthsci.org/>

Events will include a field trip, and a program on Lake Superior agates. MAGS' members Jimmy and Hisami McNeil will be dealers at the show.

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The main purpose of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society is to promote and advance the knowledge of the Lapidary Sciences in the mining, collecting, and identification of minerals and gemstones.



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
August 4

Membership Meeting
August 12

Pink Palace Tour
August 13-14

MAGS Field Trip
August 20

DMC Field Trip
August 20

