

## AGATE DAYS AND AGATE WAYS

IN MOOSE LAKE, MINNESOTA

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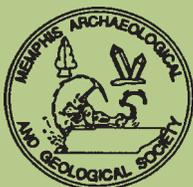
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2003 Agate Days in Moose Lake, Minnesota.  
 Photographs by W.C. and Cornelia McDaniel.

W.C. McDANIEL: With the finesse and precision comparable to Martha Stewart spreading foie gras on a slice of baguette, the driver of a ten-ton dump truck raised the bed, slowly opened the tailgate, and with a wailing siren police escort drove up a two block section of Elm Street in Moose Lake, Minnesota, spreading gravel containing 350 pounds of Lake Superior Agates and 1,200 (\$300) quarters. It only took a few seconds to complete the run. An eager crowd of thousands stood by, restrained by a long yellow rope on each side of the street. Young and old. Large and small. Some with buckets. Others with bags. A few with kneepads. The Agate Stampede was poised and waiting for the signal.

BOOM! A recorded cannon blast roared. The ropes dropped and two city blocks of heads, arms and legs rushed to the middle of the street. Decorum was gentile. No knocking down of tykes by (see Agate Days and Agate Ways on page four)

### SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sept 04	6:30p	Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
Sept 12	7:30p	General Meeting: Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Rd., Memphis [bring displays and refreshments] Program: "Cretaceous Palynomorphs and Ice-age Vertebrate Fossils from Northern Mississippi" presented by Dr. Nina Riding, Associate Professor of Biology and Environmental Science, Delta State University
Sept 18	7:00p	M <sup>3</sup> Micromounters Meeting @ Roger Van Cleef's home
Sept 20	8:00a	MAGS Field Trip: Richardson's Landing, TN [page 3]
Sept 20	8:00a	DMC Field Trip: Graves Mountain, GA [page 6]

## 2003-2004 MAGS BOARD

### President--W.C. McDaniel

2038 Central Ave, Memphis, TN 38104  
901-274-7706 • cfmcdaniel@worldnet.att.net

### 1st VP (Field Trips)--David McIlwain

305 Catlin Dr, Oakland, TN 38060  
901-465-7388 • djmclwain@earthlink.net

### 2nd VP (Programs)--Paul Sides

1062 CR 739, Wynne, AR 72396  
870-238-8078 • rockclub@earthlink.net

### Secretary--Raynee Randolph

6578 Birch Walk Dr, Memphis, TN 38117  
901-367-9329 • wrandol1@midsouth.rr.com

### Treasurer/Co-Editor--Bill Scheffer

2959 Sky Way Dr, Memphis, TN 38127  
901-358-1194 • schefwb@midsouth.rr.com

### Director--Idajean Jordan

104 Plainview, Memphis, TN 38111  
901-452-4286 • rockclub@earthlink.net

### Director--Terry Noyes

3366 Rosita Circle W, Memphis, TN 38116  
901-396-5835 • RNJ1958TLE@aol.com

### Director--Kim Prudhomme

3870 Robin Hill Dr, Bartlett, TN 38135  
901-266-5848 • dvdandkm@midsouth.rr.com

### Director--Dennis Sanders

2261 Scenic View Dr, Nesbit, MS 38651  
662-449-5199 • rockclub@earthlink.net

### Director--Lou White

3805 Melanie June, Bartlett, TN 38135  
901-937-8522 • Axelrod300@aol.com

### Editor/Web Coordinator--Mike Baldwin

367 N Main St, Collierville, TN 38017  
901-853-3603 • rockclub@earthlink.net

### Librarian--Nancy Folden

379 McDermit, Memphis, TN 38120  
901-683-8497 • nfolden@kroger.com

### Membership--Cornelia McDaniel

2038 Central Ave, Memphis, TN 38104  
901-274-7706 • cfmcdaniel@worldnet.att.net

### Show Chairperson--W.C. McDaniel

2038 Central Ave, Memphis, TN 38104  
901-274-7706 • cfmcdaniel@worldnet.att.net

### Youth Program--Idajean Jordan

104 Plainview, Memphis, TN 38111  
901-452-4286 • rockclub@earthlink.net

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

## From the President

As the autumnal equinox approaches, school is underway, temperatures and the river stage will (hopefully) drop and the rockhounds of MAGS have a full fall agenda. The remaining months have good field trips, programs and our last rock swap of the year.

The upcoming field trips are really good. The Richardson Landing trip in September is always a dandy and draws a good crowd. The October trip to the Ledbetter farm in Middle Tennessee is a good overnight trip. Up on the mountain collecting geodes, dodging a few fresh cow pies, and having lunch among the fall foliage is a great way to spend a day. Be sure to bring a rake to remove leaves covering your geodes. But it doesn't end there; in the afternoon we will drive over to Dale Hollow Lake to collect crinoids and check out a couple of sites. These crinoids have agatized and many will tumble/polish. If someone has a good boat and the lake level is down a great collecting site is about a 5-minute boat trip away.

We conclude our 2003 field trips in November with a trip to Vulcan Quarry to collect fossils. New members are really encouraged to go on this trip. Vulcan is not a long drive and one of the premier fossil-collecting sites in America with abundant fossils that are fairly easy to collect.

The August indoor picnic during our membership meeting was very successful; good attendance (about 80), food, rock swapping and the giving away of 10,000 rocks as door prizes were all fun. At the September meeting we will have another auction. This will be a "Big" and "Small" auction. Displays will return, so be sure you bring one. Look for the October newsletter to contain some specific requests for immediate help as we plan the 2004 show. A hint, crank up your sewing machine and circular saw.

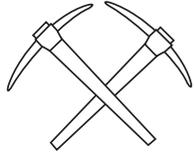
Also, mark your calendars for October 11. This will be the last rock swap of the year and it will be special. We will have catfish, rock swapping/selling, door prizes, and several activities including a fossil preservation demonstration by Roger Van Cleef, geode cracking by the Baldwins, special hands on activity for the juniors and a few surprises.

W.C. McDaniel

## DIRECTORY CHANGE

CORNELIA McDANIEL: Matha Rannels has a new address. Please make this change to your 2003 MAGS directory:

Martha Rannels  
6015 East Primacy Parkway, Apt. 117  
Memphis, TN 38119  
901-682-9833



## MAGS FIELD TRIP RICHARDSON'S LANDING, TN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2003 • 8:00AM  
FIELD TRIP LEADER, DAVID McILWAIN, 901-456-7388

**Collecting site:** Richardson's Landing on the Mississippi River, Shelby County, southwest of Millington, Tennessee. Collecting is free at this site.

**Material:** Banded agate, Lake Superior agate, red jasper, petrified wood and ice age fossils. These specimens may be found on Mississippi River gravel bars, on or just below the surface.

**Meeting Time/Place:** 8:00am at the east end of the parking lot of the Millington Wal-Mart Supercenter, located at 8445 US Highway 51 North, near Popeye's Chicken Restaurant. Please sign the MAGS attendance sheet when you arrive. We will convoy to the Richardson's Landing promptly at 8:30am. Follow AFMS Field Trip Convoy Guidelines [on our website]. At approximately 5:00pm the field trip will conclude.

**Driving Directions:** From Memphis take I-40 to exit 2A onto US 51 North towards Millington/Covington. Continue on US 51 through downtown Millington to North millington. Turn left into Wal-Mart parking lot just before the traffic signal at Wilkinsville Road.

**Tools:** Bring rock pick, screwdriver, small garden tools and leather gloves, etc. Newspapers for wrapping specimens are optional. Collecting containers such as buckets, clothe rock bags and backpacks are helpful.

**Safety Notes:** [1] Please wear hiking boots or other comfortable walking shoes. Walking sticks are optional. This trip will require quite a bit of walking while carrying equipment and the specimens you have collected. Don't go on this trip if you have walking, heart, or breathing difficulties. [2] While at this site, all safety rules must be followed. All children and junior members must be supervised by an adult member at all times. Please be advised that there is always a possibility for injury. Be aware of the possibility of encountering poisonous plants and snakes, ticks and chiggers at this site. Sorry, no pets please. Follow AFMS safety rules, code of ethics and collecting courtesy code.

**Lunch Break:** Around noon, we will break for lunch so please bring a small sack lunch. Also, please bring plenty to drink such as soft drinks, fruit juices, water, etc.

**Difficulty Level:** 4 to 6 on a scale of 1 [easy] to 10 [hard].

**Field Trip Leader:** If you want to go on this trip, please sign the list or call David McIlwain. If you sign up and decide not to go, please contact David McIlwain ASAP at 901-465-7388 or davidmcilwain@netscape.net.

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



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September Birthstone is SAPPHIRE

- 3 – Kathy Ethridge
- 3 – Lenette Mewborn
- 5 – Jerry Ehrlich
- 5 – Emily Hill
- 5 – Barry Walther
- 10 – Alishia Parks
- 12 – Emily Barton
- 12 – Turid Dulin
- 12 – Julia Ethridge
- 13 – Fred Anderson
- 15 – Gaben DeVoe
- 16 – Barry McCalla
- 17 – Kelsey Beckum
- 17 – Nola Beckum
- 19 – Karen Schaeffer
- 21 – Rachel Griffin
- 21 – Carolyn Hays
- 23 – Ron Aycock
- 23 – Park Noyes
- 24 – Phil Novarese
- 25 – Terri DeVoe
- 25 – William Randolph



## SUNSHINE REPORT

CORNELIA McDANIEL—Martha Rannels has settled into her new retirement community apartment. Martha's therapist has released her with a challenging series of exercises to restore walking strength.

Breezy Levitch sustained a broken wrist caused by a fall that occurred during the recent wind storm.

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

# AGATE DAYS AND AGATE WAYS IN MOOSE LAKE, MINNESOTA

(continued from page one)

adults. No cannon ball dives or belly flops into the pile of gravel. No smashing of eager fingers by large feet. Although I heard of one guy wearing rubber cleats, only to be rebuffed by a stern faced and determined mother. With their behinds and fannies extended upward or outward, eyes and noses to the pavement, the crowd pursued the treasures of the earth and of the U.S. monetary system. Agates went into buckets and bags. Quarters secretly squirreled away into pockets. The hunt continued for some time as every last rock was closely examined and moved to see what was underneath. Soon the large throng had departed. A return that evening to the scene of the stampede found no wayward rocks or rolling coins. A thin dust veil was the only visible evidence of this marvelous and enjoyable stampede of rockhounds.

Three blocks from the Agate Stampede a quieter but equally active event was taking place on the grounds of the Moose Lake School, the 34th annual Agate Days, a Gem and Mineral Show celebrating the Lake Superior Agate. In just a little over a billion years, this colorful agate has moved from a great geological happening to become the Minnesota state gemstone and into the hearts, minds and wallets of many folks. Agate Days features three events: the Agate Stampede, tailgaters, and a gem and mineral show.

The tailgater's section, located in the school parking lot, contains the dedicated and persistent agate hunters and lovers. These are the folks who get up at dawn looking for the farmer plowing the field, checking gravel pits, returning to old and going to new haunts, checking estate sales and some scuba diving into the chilly waters of Lake Superior. They arrive, spread out tailgates and

tables full of eye popping agate specimens. Some attendees were observed walking around carrying a briefcase. Was it cash for their day's purchases? A quick flick of the wrist and the case snapped opened to reveal a choreographed display of their agate collection. The briefcases paled when compared to the collector walking around carrying a long gun case; opening to reveal rows of agates nestled in the friendly confines of a crate of foam. His agates, along with many others, have a curious and intriguing association, they have a provenance that includes a name (for the agate), date of discovery, location, original finder, previous owners and current owner. They should publish their own agate cards (i.e. baseball cards).

Two things were evident. First, pricing is not for those who want to hold on to your money as the big specimens (1/2 pound and up) were priced several hundred dollars, with the highest single price observed was \$1,700.00. Size, condition, color and originality all influence the price. Second, there two are distinct camps of opinions on what to do with these agates. The first camp considers any permanent alteration of the agate through lapidary work a crime against geology. This is especially true for large specimens. Although many of them will put baby oil or mineral oil on



2003 Agate Days in Moose Lake, Minnesota.  
Photographs by W.C. and Cornelia McDaniel.

the agate to enhance their presentation and appearance. This is easily reversed. The second camp are those who change (or as they would prefer enhance) the agate through lapidary work such as polishing, capping and sphere making. Both sides have convincing points of view and beautiful examples to back up their position. It boils down to each agate, its possibilities and personal preferences of the owner.

Leaving this field of agate dreams you enter the high school gym, containing the more traditional gem and mineral show. With a good mix of dealers and materials the indoor show could stand on its own without the tailgaters and agate stampede.

(see Agate Days on page five)

## AGATE DAYS

(continued from page four)

Another benefit of the indoor show was that the agate prices were a little lower than those in the parking lot. Mineral and fossil specimens and exhibits were somewhat limited in quality and quantity. These three events, coupled with other town activities, make this weekend celebration unique and worth the drive. Moose Lake is about 1,100 miles from Memphis and is located between St. Paul and Duluth. Agate Days are usually the third weekend of July.

The Lake Superior Agate is reportedly to be the oldest agate in the world. Formed over a billion years ago in an area rich in iron the agate's colors and patterns are among the most beautiful in the world. As geological time progressed great glaciers disperse the agate over a wide area. Most of the maps and literature show this journey stopping in what is now Iowa and Kansas. However, southern rockhounds who frequent the gravel bars, rivers and streams along those states that border the Mississippi River know that the glacial movement didn't stop distribution of the Lake Superior Agates at the Iowa border. Richardson's Landing just north of Memphis continues to produce Lake Superior Agates. While most are in the 1 to 3 ounce sizes, a very nice 6-ounce was found in the fall of 2002. It would bring about \$50 at Agate Days.

Editor's Note: W.C. and Cornelia McDaniel attended 2003 Agate Days this year as part of a great geo/paleo vacation in the north central and northwestern states this summer. Ask them about their adventure next time you see them.

## PICTURES FROM THE MAGS THIRD ANNUAL INDOOR PICNIC



MAGS Third Annual Indoor Picnic and Rock Swap. Digital photography by Nancy Folden

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

PAUL SIDES: Programs for the remainder of 2003 are: [1] "Pleistocene Animals and Pollen Spores" with Nina Riding in September; [2] "Facetting" with Ed Underhill and Paul Sides in October; [3] "Scrimshaw" with Mary Austin Talley in November; and [4] the MAGS Christmas Party in December.

## SFMS CLUBS SHOWS/EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 5-6 • 10am-7pm  
SEPTEMBER 7 • noon-6pm  
Winston-Salem, NC—Forsyth Gem & Mineral Club. 32nd Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Education Bldg., Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Deacon Blvd. Paul Burton, 336-924-8510.

SEPTEMBER 19-20 • 9am-6pm  
SEPTEMBER 21 • 9am-4pm  
Murfreesboro, AR—16th Annual Murfreesboro Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. Murfreesboro Municipal Building. Jessie Watkins, 870-285-3245.

SEPTEMBER 20 • 10am-6pm  
SEPTEMBER 21 • 10am-5pm  
Jacksonville, FL—Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society. 15th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Morocco Temple, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road. Mary Chambliss, 904-269-4046, ivorytowers@msn.com.

SEPTEMBER 20 • 10am-6pm  
SEPTEMBER 21 • 10am-5pm  
Siloam Springs, AR—11th Biennial Gem & Mineral Show. Siloam Springs Community Center, 110 N. Mt. Olive Street. DeLane Cox.

OCTOBER 4-5 • 8am-5pm  
Little Rock, AR—Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral, & Geology Society. 2003 Rock, Gem, & Mineral Show. Shelby Pavilion. Ron Wilhelm, 501-821-2440, downhome11@msn.com.

OCTOBER 9-11 • 9am-3pm  
Mt. Ida, AR—Mt. Ida Chamber of Commerce. 17th Annual World Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest. Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds. Mt. Ida Chamber of Commerce, 870-867-2723, mountida@ipa.net.

OCTOBER 10-12  
Huntsville, AL—35th Annual Gem & Mineral Show. 701 Monroe. Patricia H. Mitcham, 256-880-0623, pmitcham@sprintmail.com

## SFMS FEDERATION NEWS



**Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip:**  
Hosted by Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society  
8:30am [EST], Saturday, September 20, 2003  
Graves Mountain, Lincoln County, GA

**Collecting:** Rutile, Lazulite, Kyanite, Quartz, Pyrophyllite, Goethite/Hematite (iridescent), Pyrite, Muscovite (clear to green) and Ilmenite are some of the best known and most frequently found. Forty plus species are known from Graves Mountain, most being in micro size. Some of these that are found in crystal form are Barite, Cacozenite, Crandallite, Gypsum, Phosphosiderite, Strengite, Sulfur, Variscite, Wavellite and Woodhouseite.

**Assembly Point:** At 08:30 along west side of C.E.Norman Road at junction with Hwy 378. *From Washington, Georgia* travel east on Hwy 378. From junction of Hwy 378/47/78/10/17 in Washington (at Lin's Wok Restaurant) it is approximately 10.5 miles to the Lincoln County line. C.E.Norman Road is about 100 yards ahead to the left. *From Lincolnton, Georgia* (Hardees Restaurant) travel west on Hwy 378 approximately 5.5 miles to C.E.Norman Road to the right.

**Lodging:** [1] The Cullars Inn adjacent to Hardees in Lincolnton. Rate \$44. plus tax for two persons. 706-359-6161. [2] Jameson Inn (near the Hwy 378/47/78/10/17 junction) in Washington. Rate \$63.27 includes tax for two persons. 706-678-7925. Reservation can be made toll free thru 1-800-JAMESON. [3] Other lodging can be found in Thomson (20 miles) and off Bel Air Road and I-20 junction west of Augusta (35 miles).

**Camping:** Elijah Clark State Park—approximately 6 miles east of Lincolnton on Hwy 378. Reservations 770-389-7275 or 1-800-864-7275. Park Office 706-359-3458.

**Equipment:** Any or all of the following. Some sort of transport vehicle (cart), buckets, 8lb sledge, 2-4 lb crack hammer, rock hammer, pry bar, shovel, chisels, SAFETY EYEWEAR, magnifier, back pack w/egg cartons and/or wrapping material. Hard hat required if you plan to work adjacent to the high wall areas.

**Entry Fee:** \$5.00 per person (bring correct amount). Will be collected as Letter Agreement and Release form is filled out.

**Special Notes:** [1] All day rain and/or thunderstorms will cause cancellation. [2] No food and drinks available at Graves Mountain. Bring what you need for the day. [3] Children 12 years and older can participate but must be supervised by their parent or guardian. [4] Pets allowed but must be kept under control by owner.

**Contact:** Don Reems if you have questions pertaining to the field trip. 706-860-6406 or Don Reems@aol.com.

**Safety:** Follow guidelines set down by DMC and MAGS. Don't endanger yourself or others around you.

*DMC 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!*

# MAGS REVIEW

## BOARD MEETING July 1, 2003; 6:45pm

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: The MAGS board of directors met July 1, 2003 at The Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The following were present: Mike Baldwin, Nancy Folden, Idajeane Jordan, Cornelia and W.C. McDaniel, David McIlwain, Kim Prudhomme, Raynee Randolph, Dennis Sanders, Bill Scheffer, and Lou White. The secretary's minutes from the June board and general meetings were accepted and approved. The following reports were given:

**(1) First VP:** It is our turn to host the DMC field trip for 2004. Suggestions for locations will be appreciated, but Coon Creek always seems to be the top choice. July 19-20 we will collect at Magnet Cove for minerals and possibly pyrite Sunday in a creek bed. There will be a collecting fee of \$20/day/person or \$20 for 2 days as a club. August we will be in Mississippi at Frankstown and Birmingham Ridge for fossils. September, water level cooperating, Richardson's Landing. October, the Ledbetter Farm and Dale Hollow for geodes and fossils. We will wrap up the year with Vulcan Quarry in November. **(2) Program:** Our program for this month will be about the impact crater in Belize. **(3) Library:** Sherri Baldwin will open the library for us in the absence of our Librarian. Library card and pockets to hold them needed for the inside of the books. A computer copy may be possible. **(4) Youth:** We will be talking about gypsum and Herkimer diamonds. **(5) Sunshine:** Condolences sent to Alan Jacobs. Get well to Roger VanCleaf. **(6) Membership:** Five new membership applications were approved for the following families: Hurley, Helms, Hackett-Whitley, Stevenson, and Fields. **(7) Rock Swap:** June 14<sup>th</sup> cancelled due to inclement weather. August will be our annual indoor picnic/rock swap. Bring lots of food and stuff to sell or swap. **(8) Editor:** Our newsletter has won several awards as well as some of our members for their articles. Please see page ten in the July newsletter for more details. August 2<sup>nd</sup> will be an editor's breakfast held at Spruce Pine, North Carolina. Our editor will try to be there. **(9) Show:** David McIlwain has volunteered to get the books audited. **(10) New Business:** We will have a live auction at the next general meeting. Membership renewal needs improving. Any ideas are welcome. Earth Science week is October 12-18. How can we help promote it? RMH has need of volunteers for our food table display July 26<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that we pass out bracelet kits to the kids at RMH as well as give out rocks. These kits are left over from the show. A prototype pictorial directory has been put together by our editor and membership director. See Mike with comments. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm. *Board Meeting Minutes subject to board approval.*

## GENERAL MEETING July 11, 2003; 7:30pm

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: MAGS July General Membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, presided by President W.C. McDaniel. There were 54 members and 8 visitors present. **(1) First VP:** July 19-20 field trip will be to Magnet Cove for minerals and Sunday will be pyrite in a creek bed. **(2) Sunshine:** card sent to Nancy Boucher. **(3) Old Business:** If you haven't received your certificate for volunteering at the show, please see W.C. Also, if you have any outstanding Money due for tickets please turn that in ASAP. **(4) Program:** Dr. Mike Gibson from UT Martin will be speaking about "Coon Creek, Window to the Past". In August we will have our inside rock swap, so there will be no program for that month. **(5) Announcements:** Large black cotton boxes from the USDA are available in July. They are free if you go pick them up. These make excellent collection boxes with attached lids and are very durable. See Lou White for more information. **(6) Adult Displays:** Docia Lenz – Missouri calcite, pyrite and drusy. Carol and Matthew Lybanon – Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee collection–**Junior Display:** Hunter Hill – Grandpa's rocks. **(7) Display Winners: Adult** —Carol and Matthew Lybanon. **Junior** —Hunter Hill. Three door prizes were awarded and the meeting adjourned at 9:00pm followed by refreshments. *General Meeting Minutes subject to board approval.*

## Written in Stone A MAGS Glossary of Terms

This month's glossary terms are from *The American Heritage Dictionary of Science*, Robert K. Barnhart, Houghtlin Mifflin Company, Boston, 1986.

**FAULT:** A break in the earth's crust, with the mass of rock on one side of the break displaced: *In lowland areas large-scale structural features such as folds and faults are generally masked by soil. It is to the mountains and deserts that the geologist must go to find large rock structures clearly displayed. The remarkable San Andreas fault forms a continuous break in the earth's crust from beneath the Pacific Ocean at Point Arena, 100 miles north of San Francisco, southward to Cajon Pass.*

**MOHS SCALE or MOHS' SCALE:**

An empirical scale for classifying minerals on the basis of relative hardness, determined by the ability of harder minerals to scratch softer ones. Values for the Mohs scale are as follows: talc 1; gypsum 2; calcite 3; fluorite 4; apatite 5; orthoclase 6; quartz 7; topaz 8; corundum 9; diamond 10. Named after Friedrich Mohs, 1773-1839, German mineralogist who invented the scale.

**TRANSFORM FAULT:** One of numerous strike-slip faults between segments of mid-oceanic ridges and rises along which lateral movement of crustal plates occurs.

*If you have entries [5 or 6 glossary terms] that you would like to see included in the MAGS Glossary, email them to editor@memphisgeology.org or mail them to Mike Baldwin, 367 N. Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017. Send as many entries and as often as you like. Don't forget to include your sources.*

## BROUGHT TO YOU BY M<sup>3</sup> PALEOINDIAN CONFERENCE

The Northern Alabama Chapters of the Alabama Archaeological Society presents:

**The Longboat Symposium: A Paleoindian Conference**

Chan Auditorium, Administrative Science Building

University of Alabama at Huntsville

September 27, 2003 • 8:00am to 5:00pm

The conference will include an enormous paleo artifact display and five guest speakers: [1] *David Anderson, Archaeologist, National Park Service.* One of the most recognized and respected Paleoindian experts in America. Co-Editor of Paleoindian and Early Archaic Southeast; [2] *John Broster, Archaeologist, Tennessee Division of Archaeology.* Author and co-author of numerous papers and site reports regarding the Paleoindian occupation of Tennessee; [3] *Albert Goodyear, Allendale Paleoindian Expedition Director of the Allendale Paleoindian Expedition, Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina.* Currently excavating the Topper Site for the Allendale Paleoindian Expedition, a potential Pre-Clovis habitation; [4] *Mark Norton, Archaeologist, Tennessee Division of Archaeology.* Co-researcher at Carson-Conn Short Site, as well as numerous other Tennessee sites. Lead Archaeologist at Pinson Mounds; and [5] *James Dunbar, Archaeologist, Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research C.A.R.L. Archaeological Survey.* A leader in underwater archaeology nationwide. Current research includes Paleoindian land use and the Page/Ladson Site.

The conference will also feature the largest display of Tennessee Valley fluted points ever assembled. Seating is limited. Register now! A \$20 registration fee per person is requested to help cover the expenses of the speakers. Deadline for early registration is September 8, after which registration increases to \$25. For more information or to register, visit the symposium website at [http://myweb.cableone.net/kingorbit/longboot\\_symposium/](http://myweb.cableone.net/kingorbit/longboot_symposium/)

## M<sup>3</sup> MEETING

JENNIFER BALDWIN: MAGS Micromounters met on August 14, 2003 at the home of Roger Van Cleef with the following members in attendance: Nancy Folden, Idajean Jordan, WC McDaniel, Cornelia McDaniel, Roger Van Cleef, Sherri Baldwin, Jennifer Baldwin, Kelly Baldwin, and Mike Baldwin. The McDaniels shared their summer vacation pictures with us from the Hot Springs, South Dakota Mammoth excavation. I want to go to the Bad Lands . . . soon! We enjoyed another night of binocular microscope viewing as we looked at: [1] Manganese dendrites on brown jasper; [2] micro Pharengial sharks teeth; [3] Mexican amethyst geode crystals; [4] Moroccan trilobite; [5] Dalmonites; [6] Jarosite; [7] 653 million-year-old fossil cyanobacteria from Scotland; [8] Miocene coral from Lee Creek, Aurora, NC; [9] Pre-cambrian conodont teeth; [10] Upper Cretaceous triceratops bone from Glendive, Montana; and [11] Upper Cretaceous anatosaurus duckbill dinosaur bone from Niobrara County, Wyoming. Conodonts were eel-like swimmers. M3 will not meet in September, December, or January. The next meeting will be October 16. Hope to see you there!

# MINI MAGS

## SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP TO RICHARDSON'S LANDING

Kids, join us on September 20 for the Richardson's Landing Field Trip. You never know what you're going to find along the Mississippi River, but you will find something neat!

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

## [M&M's] WHAT'S UP WITH THE KIDS

**BACK TO SCHOOL:** It's that time of year already. It seems like the summer breaks keep getting shorter every year. That means you have to cram a whole lot more fun in a shorter amount of time. Tell us about your summer vacation, or summer camp, or your family reunion. Bring some of your favorite summer pictures to share at the next MAGS meeting. If you would like to have your summer story in the October Explorer newsletter, write about it and give your story to Jennifer or Kelly Baldwin at the MAGS meeting on September 12. Include a picture or two. We'll scan them and give your original pictures back at the October meeting. It doesn't have to be geology related . . . it just has to be fun!

Pick up your copy of the *September MAGS Explorer* at the September meeting or online at <http://www.memphisgeology.org/images/explorer0903.pdf>.

## WEB STATISTICS

Here's a brief look at our website ([www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org)) from 01.21.02 through 09.01.03:

Visits\* ..... 80,255  
Hits\*\* ..... 367,840

Top pages in the past 30 days:

RockNews0203.pdf ..... 482 hits  
Explorer0703.pdf ..... 336 hits  
RockNews0803.pdf ..... 313 hits  
Explorer0203.pdf ..... 264 hits  
RockNews0403.pdf ..... 246 hits

Average visits/day this month..... 209

\* visit= every time someone comes to the site  
\*\* hit= every page viewed on the site

Did You Know . . .	Spinosaurus
<p>The star of "Jurassic Park III," the Spinosaurus is one of the strangest of the large meat-eaters. What makes it so different is the large sail on its back, formed by spines that grew as tall as six feet. No one knows exactly why it had these on its back, but it is possible that they helped to regulate body temperature, or maybe they were used as a display during courtship. This huge dinosaur ate mostly fish!</p> <p>The teeth of Spinosaurus are designed differently from any of the large carnivores. They are long and conical-shaped, the kind found on reptiles that eat mostly fish. How could something this large be so specially designed to eat mostly fish? It probably lived along the shore where fairly large fish were abundant, but it could also have eaten just about anything else it could catch.</p> <p><small>©2003 Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society</small></p>	<div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">MAGS DINOSAUR CARD</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="background-color: #e6f2e6; padding: 5px; font-size: small;"> <p><i>Spinosaurus aegyptiacus</i> Pronounced: Spy-no-Saw-rus Diet: Carnivore (Meat-Eater) Name Means: "Spine Lizard" Length: 45 feet (15m) Height: 16 feet (5m) Weight: 6 tons (6,000 kilos) Time: Middle Cretaceous -100mya</p> </div>

Did You Know . . .	Chalcedony SiO <sub>2</sub>
<p>Chalcedony can be found in sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rocks. It is a very common mineral found world wide. Other names for Chalcedony are: Agate-banded variety of chaledony; Amethyst-purple; Aventurine-feeibly translucent chalcedony; Carnelian-flesh red chalcedony; Cat's Eye-chatoyant; Chalcedony-microcrystalline quartz; Chert-cryptocrystalline quartz; Chryso-prase-apple green chalcedony; Citrine-yellow; Flint-microcrystalline quartz; Hornstone-flint; Jasper-ed or brown chalcedony; Moss Agate-variety of chaledony; Plasma-green chalcedony; Prase-leek green chalcedony; Rock Crystal; Rose Quartz-rose; Sapphire Quartz-blue; Smoky Quartz-brown to black; Tiger Eye</p> <p><small>©2003 Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society</small></p>	<div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">MAGS SPECIMEN CARD</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; font-size: small;"> <p>Composition: SiO<sub>2</sub> Hardness: 7 Crystal: Microcrystalline Luster: Glassy Streak: White Transparency: translucent Color: Highly variable Location: Hatch, NM</p> </div>

## 2003 BULLETIN AFMS EDITOR AWARDS

MIKE BALDWIN—There were 129 entries in the 2003 AFMS Bulletin Contest, representing the best from each of the regional federation competitions. Although we have not received the results from the 2003 SFMS Bulletin Contest, the results from the American Federation are in and I am proud to announce that MAGS won two awards in the national competition. The newsletters and articles in this competition were all published in 2002. In the *Junior*

*Articles—Authors Ages 12-17 Category*, MAGS member Kelly Baldwin won 8th place with her article, “A Visit With Sue at the Field Museum, Part I: Just the Facts”. And in the *Special Publications Category*, MAGS editor [yours truly—Mike Baldwin], won 4th place for “MAGS Rockhound News Extra: Birdsong Shale”. Send in your articles today! We are already gearing up for the 2004 Bulletin Editor’s contest. Yours could be the winning article!

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**AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:**

New Editor 7th–95 • Junior Article 3rd–98; 8th–03 • Special Pub 4th–03

**SFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:**

New Editor 1st–86 • New Editor 2nd–88, 97  
Certificate of Excellence–89, 90, 91, 92, 93 • Large Bulletin–87  
Art–77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Original Articles–(2th) 89, 90; (3rd) 92; (4th) 85; (5th) 91; (6th) 87

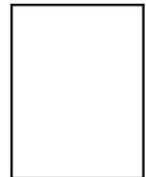
**DUES:**

Family-\$20.00  
Single-\$16.00  
Junior-\$8.00  
Associate: \$13.00

The Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society’s main purpose is to promote and advance the knowledge of the Lapidary Sciences in the mining, identification, cutting, polishing and mounting of gems, minerals and fossils to the utmost of our geological and lapidary capabilities.

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MAGS Rockhound News  
367 North Main Street  
Collierville, TN 38017-2301



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meeting  
September 4

General Meeting  
September 12

M<sup>3</sup> Meeting  
September 18

DMC Field Trip  
September 20

MAGS Field Trip  
September 20

