



## Inside This Issue.....

Officers & Board	2
President's Corner	
MAGS Best of Show Rules & Update	3
Announcements & Tid- bits	
Adult Program	4
Youth Program	
Sunshine Report	
Continuation of Lead Article	5
September Birthdays	6
Web Stats	
Dates to Remember	
DMC September Field Trip	7
July '08 Board Meeting Notes	8
July '08 Membership Meeting Notes	
MAGS September Field Trip Info	9
Monthly Calendar	10
Newsletter Awards	

## C.H. NASH MUSEUM at CHUCALISSA

**ROBERT CONNOLLY, DI-  
RECTOR, C.H. NASH MU-  
SEUM** This past year  
has brought several op-  
portunities to expand  
and upgrade the visitor  
experience at Chucal-  
issa. Here are examples  
of some of our im-  
proved and new offer-  
ings: First, in February  
we premiered a new  
introductory video  
shown to all site visi-  
tors that is their first



stop in visiting the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa. The new video specifically places the Chucalissa site into the broader development of American Indian prehistory of the Midsouth region. The video also informs the site visitor about the history of the Chucalissa site from its discovery by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s to the present day. The visual images contained in the film are drawn from the Chucalissa archives and are assembled in a digital format with a script and musical background. The video was produced by Jason Smith as a project in the Museum Practices course offered through the University of Memphis' Graduate Certificate Program in Museum Studies.

This past March we launched our Hands-On Archaeology Lab in the Museum. Making use of the existing Archaeology Lab, we organized a series of stations that take the visitor through a series of stages in archaeological discovery. Subject areas include artifact identification, faunal analysis, ethnobotany, dating methods, lithic analysis, ceramic analysis, typology and trade networks. The goal of the exhibit is to provide the visitor with the opportunity to handle the very types of artifacts investigated by archaeologists in the analysis of the material cultures of prehistoric peoples. This exhibit was designed and coordinated by Jennifer Graham, an Urban Anthropology graduate student at the University of Memphis. Jennifer is also a Graduate Assistant at the C.H. Nash Museum.

Two new exhibits focus on the contemporary Choctaw culture. First, we opened the Choctaw Heritage Exhibit that highlights the contribution of members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw over the past 50 years at Chucalissa. The Choctaw contribution at Chucalissa is unique to prehistoric sites in the region. Members of the West Tennessee Community of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw have been the primary public face of Chucalissa interpretation for the past half century. The new

## 2007 – 2008 Officers and Board of Directors

**President – Sandy Ward** • 5119 Whiteway Drive, Memphis  
TN 38117 • 901-684-1819 •  
sandypepperspray@comcast.net

**1<sup>st</sup> VP (Field Trips) – Barry Burns** • P.O. Box 666, Atoka, TN  
38004 • 901-829-4246 • bburns@utmem.edu

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP (Programs) – W.C. McDaniel** • 2038 Central Ave.,  
Memphis, TN 38104 • 901-274-7706 • w.c.mcd@  
worldnet.att.net

**Secretary – Carol Lybanon** • 2019 Littlemore Dr., Cordova, TN  
38016 • 901-757-2144 • lybanon@earthlink.net

**Treasurer – Mike Cannito** • 1051 Sandra, Memphis, TN 38122  
901-454-9326 • mcannito@memphis.edu

**Director (Asst Field Trips) – David Day** • 5974 Ivanhoe,  
Bartlett, TN 38134 • 901-387-2347 • stonenchanter@  
yahoo.com

**Director (Asst Programs) – Carl Warren** • 818 Hyden Dr,  
Clarksville, TN 38043 • 931-647-8845 •  
cwarren506@bellsouth.net

**Director (Youth) – Mike Baldwin** • 367 North Main St.,  
Collierville TN 38017 • 901-853-3603 • mbaldwin05@  
gmail.com • rockclub@earthlink.net

**Director (Asst Youth) – Idaeon Jordan** • 104 Plainview,  
Memphis TN 38111 • 901-452-4286 • no email address  
provided

**Director (Librarian) – Ron Brister** • 3059 Old Brownsville Rd.,  
Bartlett, TN 38134 • 901-388-1765 • ronald.brister@  
Memphistn.gov

**Director (Membership) – Pam Gurley** • 460 E. Swan Ridge  
Cr., Memphis TN 38122 • 901-324-7235

**Director (Historian) – Cathie Jacobs** • 5328 Denwood,  
Memphis TN 38120 • 901-680-0686 • jakeandcattoo@  
aol.com

**Web Coordinator – Mike Baldwin** • 367 North Main St.,  
Collierville TN 38017 • 901-853-3603 • mbaldwin05@  
gmail.com • rockclub@earthlink.net

**Newsletter Editor – Shelby Hartman** • 5116 Whiteway Dr.,  
Memphis, TN 38117 • 901-626-1920 •  
magsnewsletter@comcast.net

**Show Chairman – Alan Parks** • 831 West Powell Rd, Collierville,  
TN 38017 • 901-853-6898 • alanparks@bellsouth.net

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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 magsnewslet-  
ter@comcast.net

## President's Corner



Due to a busy real estate appraisal workload, Sandy had to forego writing her usual monthly article. She'll be back next month!

Sandy Ward

### YOU MIGHT BE A ROCK- HOUND IF.....

...the road sign says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.

...someone mentions cleavage and you don't think about women.

...you've moved rocks out of your bathtub to take a shower.

...you shouted "Obsidian!" in a theater full of moviegoers when you saw "Shawshank Redemption."

...you have real gemstones in your aquarium.

## “Best of Show and Found Display Contest” Rules

To display and compete each member is requested to:

1. Bring a single specimen from the location listed in the table on the right (collected on a MAGS field trip or at the same collection site at another time).
2. You must have found the specimen your self.
3. Specimen must be in original form or, if changed/modified, only through lapidary or prep work.
4. Juniors and adults are combined for this contest.
5. One winner will be selected. Winner will determine by members using a point rating from 3(high) to 1(low).
6. Winner will receive a certificate and entry into the Best of Show event in December. A special prize will be awarded to the Best of Show winner at the December Christmas Party.

# Best of Show

Month	Type of Material	Location	Winner
March	Druze Quartz	Missouri	David Day
April	Petrified Wood	MS, TN, AR	Carol Lybanon
May	Quartz Crystal	Arkansas	Wayne Williams
June	Fossil	Vulcan or Dale Hollow	John Matthew Erickson
July	No Display—Mineral Sale		
August	No Display— Rock Swap Fund Raiser for Shop		
September	Agate	Gravel bars or pits, etc.	
October	Fossil	Frankstown or Birmingham Ridge	
November	Geode	Ledbetter or Pharis Farm	
December	Winners from previous months compete for “BEST OF SHOW.”		



### Announcements & Tidbits

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome the Abe Plough family as new members of MAGS. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings, field trips and club functions!

#### RIVER ROCKS FOR SALE

New MAGS member, Kasia Ferguson is redoing her flower beds and she has a number of smooth garden stones (river rock) for sale. If interested, contact Kasia by email at [k1tutor@comcast.net](mailto:k1tutor@comcast.net).

#### STAY INFORMED WITH 2009 SHOW PLANNING!

Check out the new Show blog at <http://thememphisshow.blogspot.com/> and stay up to date on the planning of the 2009 Show at its new location at the Agricenter!

#### WILLIAM HOLLAND (“GROWN UP CAMP”)

William Holland will be October 12-18 this year. The \$310 fee includes room, board, and classroom instruction in everything from wirecraft to faceting. Go to [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms) for more info and list of classes!

## 2008 Adult Program Presentations

**September 12**

**Robert P. Connolly, Director  
Chucalissa**

**October 10**

**Alan Parks & Ron Brister  
The Geological & Paleontological History of  
Nonconnah  
Marvin Nutt: Extinct and Extant Plant Life of  
Nonconnah Creek**

**November 14**

**TBA**

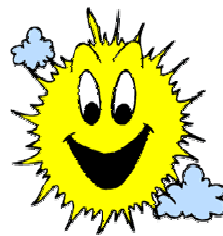
**December 12**

**MAGS Holiday Party**

## Youth Program Presentations

Sept	Study of Mining	Alan Parks
October	Civil War Artifacts	Lou White
November	Fossil & Mineral ID	Idajean Jordan
December	Holiday Party with Adults	

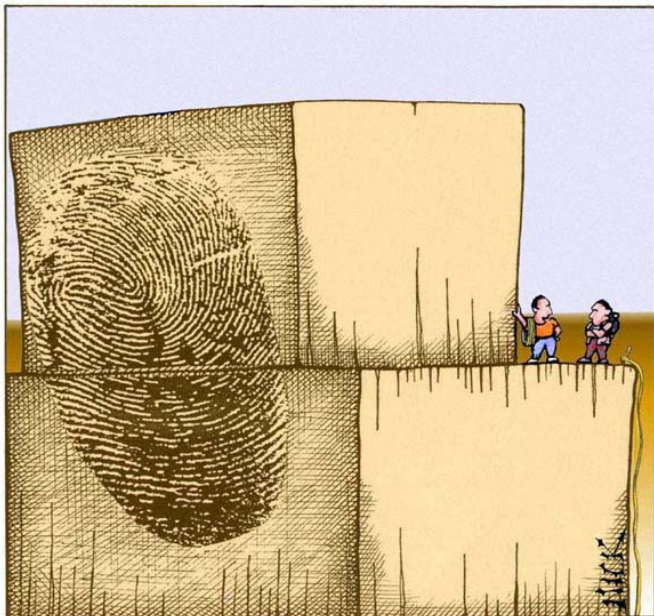
# Sunshine Report



*Sadly, we recently learned of the passing of Lenette Mewborn. She had been a member of MAGS since 1968 and lived in Clanton, Alabama at the time of her death.*

*If you have any announcements to include in the sunshine report, please contact Pam Gur-*

*Pam Gurley*



*"Of course, it's still a complete mystery as to how the ancients even managed to MOVE these massive stones..."*

## “Chucalissa” *(cont'd from front page)*



Choctaw Heritage exhibit celebrates this legacy through tribute to the individuals and their contributions to the Museum.

Also, we have expanded our contemporary Choctaw Culture exhibits by including a series of panels that highlight several aspects of the traditional and contemporary lives of these American Indians. The panels highlight the Choctaw language, stick-ball games, traditional basketry, contemporary government, origin belief, to name a few. The Choctaw Culture exhibit was researched by Deshonna Lewis and designed and produced by Jennifer Graham. Deshonna is also a Graduate Student in Urban Anthropology at the University of Memphis.

A coordinated effort by several researchers and designers allowed for the update of several of our exhibit cases in the Main Hall of C. H. Nash Museum. For example, our First Americans exhibit has been updated to include the latest information on human migration into the New World. As well, our ceramic case is now not only more aesthetically pleasing but also contains considerably more information about the symbolism and function of individual vessels. These updates, like all of those reported above, are made possible by the support of the University of Memphis community.

This past month, the Friends of Chucalissa made a generous contribution of \$15,000.00 that will in part be used to purchase equipment to allow us to begin having audio tours of the museum, earthworks, and nature trail at the site. This technological innovation is an essential step forward in our ability to serve the Memphis community with timely information about the Chucalissa site. We expect that the audio tours will be written, recorded, and fully operational by October 1 of this year.

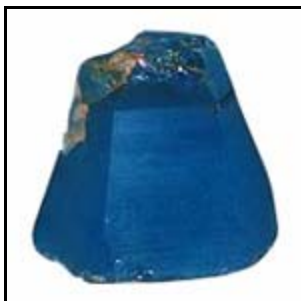
The Southwind Garden Club created an arboretum at Chucalissa that is now fully certified by the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs and the Forestry Commission. We are very excited that this coming October 3, at 3:30 PM, University of Memphis President Dr. Shirley Raines, Dr. Kenneth York of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw along with others will gather at Chucalissa for the formal dedication of the Chucalissa Arboretum. You are invited to join us for the festivities or take a walk along the arboretum trail the next time you visit Chucalissa.

Finally, September 5<sup>th</sup> marks the opening of three new Chucalissa exhibits that feature the Chickasaw Nation. First, the Nation has generously provided materials for a case display that will feature the traditional material culture of the Chickasaw. Second, we will install six photographic and text panels that highlight different aspects of the Chickasaw culture such as traditional foods, storytelling, and clothing. Finally a temporary exhibit that traces Chickasaw history from its origin to the present will also be on display in the Museum Theater. We are fortunate that on September 5, both Regina Berna and Ann Fink of the Chickasaw Nation will be giving presentations at 7:00 PM at the C.H. Nash Museum.

As you can see, we have quite a bit of activity going on of late at the .H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa. There are two common themes that enable these events to take place. First, the University of Memphis has continued its over 40 year tradition of providing support to the operation of the Museum. Through the Museum Studies program and the Graduate Assistants, the lion's share of the new and expanded exhibits have been put in place. Second, the very volunteer tradition that was set forth long ago by the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society continues to this day enabling the C.H. Nash Museum to draw on the wealth of time, talent, and resources available throughout the Memphis community in living into our mission of service and education.

Please be certain to stop out and see all the new and exciting programming we have to offer!

# September Birthdays



**SHELBY HARTMAN:** The birthstone for September is sapphire. Sapphire is a variety of the mineral "corundum." it occurs in all colors of the rainbow with the exception of red, which is ruby, although they are chemically and structurally the same.

Sapphires are extremely durable (9 on the Mohs scale), with only moissanite and diamond being harder. Artificial sapphires are used in the crystal face of Rolex watches, as they are extremely scratch resistant.

Because of the way sapphire crystals are formed, large specimens are extremely rare and valuable. The 563 carat Star of India is probably the most famous of the "star sapphires." Star sapphires are cut to reflect light from the inclusions in the stone to reveal a bright six-legged star pattern.

Sapphires have an esteemed history. The Persians believed that the world rested on a giant sapphire and its reflection colored the sky blue.

- |    |                        |    |                     |
|----|------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1  | Ethan Ferguson         | 17 | Ivon Clark          |
| 3  | <b>Lenette Mewborn</b> | 18 | Natalie Prodanovich |
| 5  | Emily Fox-Hill         | 19 | Karen Schaeffer     |
| 5  | Barry Walther          | 20 | Mark Cooper         |
| 5  | Anderson Fields        | 21 | Rachel Griffin      |
| 6  | Lloyd Marler           | 22 | Linda Hendrix       |
| 7  | William Huettel        | 23 | Park Noyes          |
| 10 | Alishia Parks          | 24 | Cecil Perkins       |
| 11 | Deborah Penyak         | 25 | Terri DeVoe         |
| 11 | Amelia Tummalapalli    | 25 | William Randolph    |
| 13 | Fred Anderson          | 28 | Jon Thompson        |
| 14 | Michael Wheeler        | 28 | Bonnie Cooper       |
| 14 | Rhena South            | 29 | Alan Peterson       |
| 16 | Barry McCalla          |    |                     |
| 17 | Flint Loveland         |    |                     |

## 2008 Dates to Remember

Month	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Submissions
September	Sep 04	Sep 12	Aug 24
October	Oct 02	Oct 10	Sep 21
November	Nov 06	Nov 14	Oct 26
December	Dec 04	Dec 12	Nov 23

## Web Site Statistics for August 2008

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

Total Visits & Hits	
Total visits to web site since 1/21/02	332,868
Total hits to web site since 1/21/02	1,273,228
Visits in past 30 days	3,697
Hits in past 30 days	27,109
Top page views past 30 days	
homepage	588 hits
rocknews1005	354 hits
eris	321 hits
rocknews0808	262 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.

# The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee  
An Official Field Trip of the Gem and Mineral Society of  
Franklin, NC, Inc. (Franklin, NC) (HOST)  
An Official Field Trip of the Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society

**10 a.m. until 6 p.m. – Saturday, September 27, 2008**  
**(Rain date will be Sunday, September 28, 2008)**

## BUCK CREEK AREA OF CHUNKY GAL MOUNTAIN RANGE

### NO FEE AREA

**Where:** Buck Creek Prospect Field and Creek in Clay County, NC

**When:** 10 a.m. at the Westgate Plaza, K-Mart and Ingles Shopping lot, to car pool to dig site.

**Collecting:** Various minerals, corundum (sapphire/ruby), sillimanite, rutile, kyanite, mica, garnet, moonstone, soapstone, and best of all new friends

**Fee:** No Fee Area

**What to bring:** food and water, bucket, knee boots, or old shoes; water is about 10 inches deep, gloves are suggested, one shovel for each three people, screens and other tools you would use to dig into the ground and sift material at the creek, ¼ mesh screen works best, a wide mouth bottle for your finds. Some corundum pieces can be as big as golf balls. Please do not use glass containers. You will have to walk about ¼ mile into creek collecting area from where you park. Bring food and water with you. There are no places to purchase food or drink near the mining collecting areas and no bathrooms. Remember, this time of year, snakes may be present. Also suggested is a change of clothes, shoes, boots, since you will be working in dirt and in and near water. This is Forest Service land so you must fill all holes when done, pick up all trash and debris and carry out with you when you leave. You will have to sign an entrance form, which will free the Franklin Gem and Mineral Society of any mining liability as you normally do at most other mining sites.

**Direction:** From Hwy 64 and 441 intersections at the Franklin Westgate Plaza (K-Mart)... From the Westgate Plaza, Franklin, NC, K-Mart and Ingles Shopping lot, take US 64 West 16.3 miles to Buck Creek Road. Turn right. Watch for the DMC signs. Go 2.0 miles north on the Buck Creek Road. Park out of the road!!! Walk about ¼ mile to the west along the path to the mine dump. Please carpool if possible. The mine dump is on National Forest Land.

**Note:** Park well off the road to leave room for private individuals who live beyond parking areas. There will be signs posted for turn off and parking areas will be marked with "DMC."

For more information contact: Tom or Linda Sterrett, [lstterrett@rosecreekmine.com](mailto:lstterrett@rosecreekmine.com) or Rose Creek Mine at 828-349-3774.

"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!"

MC Program / SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose: To collect field trip information from it's 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.

## July 2008 Board of Directors Meeting Notes : CAROL LYBANON

The MAGS Board of Directors met July 3 at the Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present: Sandy Ward, Barry Burns, Mike Cannito, W.C. McDaniel, Ron Brister, Pam Gurley, Mike Baldwin, Carl Warren, Alan Parks, & Neville Mayfield.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was approved with minor corrections. **Field Trips:** Several field trips are scheduled, including the Pink Palace in July, the Ornamental Metal Museum on Aug. 17 and nearby locations in September and October. **Adult Programs:** The July membership meeting will include an auction of some of our recently acquired mineral collection and the Aug 12 membership meeting will be the rock swap. **Youth Programs:** Last month's youth's program was a big success, and programs for the rest of this year have been arranged. **Library:** There is no new information about our library. Quite a few books remain unaccounted for and must be located. The board must decide on some form of penalty to recoup the value of the missing books from those who misplaced them. **Membership:** Several new members joined in June, including Jim, Rose Ann and Lydia Askeland; John and Mary Ann Covert; Jennifer, Kyle, Andrew and Austin Eubank; and Robert, Tammy and Amanda Gray. **Show:** The first committee meeting for the 2009 show was held June 9 at the Agricenter. The next meeting will be July 7 at the Agricenter. The Show now has a blog at [memphisshowblogspot.com](http://memphisshowblogspot.com). We have begun conferring with Ronald McDonald House about the possibility and strategy for acquiring commercial sponsorship for our annual Show. **Old Business:** Alan Parks company has bought 100 copies of the *Rocks Minerals and Fossils Found in Mississippi Gravel* book and can make 50 available to the club at cost. **New Business:** The board approved the purchase of 50 copies of the *Rocks Minerals and Fossils Found in Mississippi Gravel* book from Alan Parks. The Collierville Library is willing to host a display of some of the club's minerals and fossil collection, and the librarian has requested the club's help in identifying some of her personal rock collection, which we have agreed to do, but without providing any estimate of value. A local Cub Scout Troop has requested a short program between July 10th and 12th. And we will attempt to do so in spite of the short notice. The board approved the Show Committee recommendation to change the name of the show to the Memphis Mineral and Fossil Show. Rhodes College has requested that we help identify the samples in its rock collection. We may do this as a public relations opportunity. The board agreed with the suggestion to make membership cards a different color for different years to make lapsed memberships easier to identify. It appears that our newsletter printer will close and we will have to find another printer. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

## July 2008 Membership Meeting Notes : CAROL LYBANON

The MAGS membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on July 11. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. There were 57 members and 6 visitors. The visitors were Susan and Abe Plough, Robert Gray, Wendy Green, Sandra Trammell, and Dan Perreault. Pam Gurley welcomed the visitors; she had four new member packets. Sandy Ward asked members to check the library for a list of overdue books. Barry Burns reported that the July 26 field trip will be a behind the scenes tour of the Pink Palace and the August field trip will go to the Ornamental Metal Museum. Ashley Allen is trying to get a group together to go to the Union Chapel Min next weekend. Talk to the Lybanons for more information. Everyone has paid up for their Show tickets, and there will be a book sale to thin out the library tonight. **Old Business:** Idajeon Jordan asked people to save pull tabs from soda cans for Ronald McDonald house. There will be a rock swap tomorrow at 10:00 am at Jim and Hasami McNeil's home. The August rock swap will be the program at the Membership Meeting. W.C. McDaniel conducted the program, which consisted of the silent and live auctions of materials from the MAGS collection. He asked people not to remove the items before paying for them. The auction raised \$486, which will be used to offset the cost of purchasing the collection. If you want cotton boxes, contact Melba Cole. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.



# MAGS Field Trip



Thanks to Alan Parks, MAGS will have a **September 27th** field trip to the Memphis Stone & Gravel Company Perry Plant in Mississippi. Everyone should meet at the collecting site at 9:00 a.m. We will be collecting chert gravels with fossils (Mississippian, Devonian, Silurian), petrified wood, agate, conglomerate, quartz and other rocks and minerals associated with regional alluvial terrace deposits of Pleistocene/Pliocene age (Upland Complex).

The gravel will be collected from stockpiles.

The difficulty level of this field trip is a 2 out of 10. It will all be surface collecting. The field trip will be open to anyone but children must be supervised by an adult at all times.

You will need to bring a bucket and rock hammer. A spray bottle with water is very helpful. As this will be all surface collecting there is no need for digging.

**IMPORTANT: All safety rules must be followed. Remember, anytime eye hazards exist, such as hammering or prying, safety glasses must be worn. This is an active mine with dangerous areas. All young children must be under CONSTANT ADULT SUPERVISION and NOBODY will be allowed to roam away from the group. Long pants and closed toe shoes are required.**

Bring plenty of water and sunscreen!

## DIRECTONS:

- ⇒ Make your way on Interstate 55 to the Senatobia, MS exit (265) **[approx 30 miles]**
- ⇒ Exit and go WEST on Highway 4 (E MAIN ST) toward downtown Senatobia. Cross railroad tracks, road will deadend into Highway 51 (3 way stop) **[1 mile]**
- ⇒ Turn LEFT onto Highway 51, go just a short drive to stop sign. **[less than .1 mile]**
- ⇒ Turn RIGHT onto Highway 4 (W. TATE ST). Continue to follow Highway 4 (going west). After about 5 miles you will see signs that caution about trucks entering. **[5.1 miles]**
- ⇒ Turn RIGHT onto JJ RANCH ROAD (you will notice some new road construction taking place here). **[2.1 miles]**
- ⇒ Turn LEFT at fork onto HOGFOOT RD and proceed up the hill until you see the plant on your right (north). **[1.9 miles]**
- ⇒ The plant entrance is all the way on the west side of the property on the right (north) side of the road. You should see the scale house from the road and the group will be to the right.

The field trip leader will be Alan Parks. He can be reached on his cell phone at (901) 481-9730, or by email at [alan.parks@msg gravel.com](mailto:alan.parks@msg gravel.com).

## EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOU WILL BE LOOKING FOR:



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: Shelby Hartman, 5116 Whiteway Drive, Memphis, TN 38117

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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, 2<sup>nd</sup>—06, 4th—03, 3rd—07 • Special Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st—03, 07 • Adult Article 1<sup>st</sup>—06, 2<sup>nd</sup>—89, 90, 04, 06; 3<sup>rd</sup>—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)

## SEPTEMBER 2008

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				

- September 4**      **6:30 p.m.**      **Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue**
- September 12**    **7:30 p.m.**      **Membership Meeting, at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road**
- September 20**    **TBA**            **MAGS field trip to Alabama**
- September 27**    **10:00 a.m.**    **DMC Field Trip - Buck Creek, Clay County, NC**
- September 27**                            **MAGS Field Trip—Memphis Stone & Gravel Company**



MAGS Rockhound News  
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Memphis, TN 38117