

## THE SINKING OF THE SULTANA



**The Sultan** before its unfortunate departure. Photograph from the United States Library of Congress. Reprinted for educational purposes under the provisions of the "Fair Use Act of 1976".

**MIKE BALDWIN:** Our guest speaker for the October MAGS General Meeting will be Jerry Potter. In 1992, Mr. Potter, a Memphis attorney, wrote a 300-page book about America's greatest maritime disaster called *The Sultana Tragedy*. His book is the most in-depth study ever written about the Sultana. It is an

accurate and compelling account of the disaster, featuring a detailed list of most of the crew members, civilian passengers, and 2,317 of the soldiers aboard that evening. The state of Ohio lost the most men that night [791], while Tennessee lost 514, Indiana 459, Michigan 310 and Kentucky 194.<sup>1</sup>

On April 27, 1865, the Steamship *Sultana* exploded, burned and sank on the Mississippi River about seven miles north of Memphis, Tennessee. Although the 260-foot wooden ship was much smaller than the *Titanic*, many more passengers were lost. It was a civilian steamship carrying mostly military passengers.<sup>1</sup>

On that fateful day, the Mississippi stood at flood stage. Four years of war had ruined many levees and dikes, and in the lower reaches of the river the foaming water was over the banks for miles.<sup>2</sup>

(see The Sinking of the Sultana on page five)

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### OCTOBER EVENTS

Oct 02	6:30p	Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
Oct 10	7:30p	General Meeting: Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Rd., Memphis [bring displays and refreshments] Program: "The Sultana" presented by Jerry Potter
Oct 11	10:00a	Rock Swap @ Alishia and Alan Parks' home [page 2]
Oct 16	7:00p	M <sup>3</sup> Micromounters Meeting @ Roger Van Cleef's home
Oct 18	8:00a	MAGS Field Trip: Livingston, TN [page 3]
Oct 25	8:00a	Rock and Mineral Sale @ Melba Cole's [page 8]
Oct 25	8:00a	DMC Field Trip: Harleyville, SC [page 6]

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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 N. Main St., Collierville, TN 38017 or email them to rockclub@earthlink.net .

## From the President

I know a secret about Alan Parks. Back in his high school days he went to his guidance counselor with a dilemma. Should I become a geologist or a catfish fry cook? Pausing and looking him directly in the eye the counselor could see he wanted to do both and most likely succeed at either career. So the counselor came up with a Solomon like recommendation. Be a geologist all but one day a year and on that day cook up a mess of catfish. That one day is upon us and it's Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Alan and Alishia, along with their budding rockhounds, Harrison and Noa, will host MAGS' last rockswap of the year. Alan will be cooking catfish and hushpuppies and a rock tumbler full of activities will include:

- Catfish , hushpuppies and cutlery supplied
- Bring a side dish, dessert, drinks- hope to have about fifty (50) people
- Rock swapping, buying and selling- bring your own tables and chairs
- If you plan on selling please bring a specimen to donate for a door prize
- Door prizes ( the first MAGS' member [ joined in 2003] who comes up to me at the rockswap and identifies themselves as a new member and is attending your first outdoor rockswap will get the first door prize of the day)
- Roger Van Cleef will demonstrate fossil cleaning and provide preservation tips
- Geode cracking by the Baldwins (bring a geode, must be hollow) some geodes available for purchase.
- Agate table (bring an agate and try some oil or paste on your agate, some agates will be supplied)
- Juniors activity to be announced
- Members are requested to bring a shoebox of material for the show's gem dig and/or grab bags. Just started collecting and you don't have enough, that's ok come and enjoy the day.
- If you are planning on attending, let Alan or myself know so as to insure enough catfish for all rockhounds.

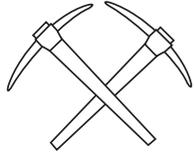
Old Man River didn't cooperate with our field trip to Richardson's Landing so Nonconna Creek was visited in two spots, first the Mall of Memphis and the second off Brooks Road. In between we did a research visit to Harbor Freight to check out some tools and goodies. MAGS' members just about wiped out their supply of rock tumblers.

Our last two scheduled field trips of the year are to Middle Tennessee in October for geodes and fossils and to Vulcan Quarry for fossils in November. Vulcan is about 2 1/2 hours east of Memphis and is a good collecting site for fossils. New members who like fossils are encouraged to come on this trip. If the river stage holds we will reschedule a trip to Richardson Landing sometime this fall.

Our September display winners for the adults were Melinda Warren, displaying a very fine crystal point found on the MAGS' June field trip to Arkansas and for the juniors, Jennifer Baldwin displaying a collection of fossils and coral from her family's summer vacation to the Venice, Florida area. Only two months remain to get your displays in for a chance to win prizes at the Christmas party drawing.

Members who have gone on MAGS' sponsored field trips in 2003 are ask to start preparing a display of you finds for the January meeting. Details to follow.

W.C. McDaniel



## MAGS FIELD TRIP LIVINGSTON, TN

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18, 2003 • 8:30AM

FIELD TRIP LEADER, DAVID McILWAIN, 901-456-7388

**Collecting site:** The Ledbetter farm in Overton County near Livingston, Tennessee, Dale Hollow Lake at the Cove Creek Landing in Pickett County near Fairview, Tennessee, and the Pharris farm in Jackson County near Nameless, Tennessee.

**Fossils and/or Minerals:** We will be collecting quartz crystal geodes at the Ledbetter farm. Also, quartz crystal geodes at the Pharris farm with colors ranging from clear to reddish to smokey. And fossils (crinoids and brachiopods) at the Dale Hollow Lake site.

**Motel Accommodation:** Overton Motel, 1035 East Main Street, Livingston, TN 38570, (931) 823-2075. Room rates are as follows: Based on double occupancy \$41.61 tax included for 3 or 4 persons. Please make your reservation ASAP.

**Driving Directions:** From Memphis take I-40 East towards Jackson and Nashville. Continue through Nashville on I-40 East towards Lebanon and Cookeville. Take exit number 288, TN-111 North towards Algood and Livingston. Go straight onto TN-52 North, through downtown Livingston to the intersection of TN-52 and TN-294. The Overton Motel and restaurant is on the left. This trip is approximately 313 miles; please allow approximately 5 to 5-1/2 hours driving time.

**Meeting Time/Place:** 8:30 a.m., at Overton Restaurant located next to the Overton Motel. . Come earlier if you plan to have breakfast. We will be leaving promptly at 9:00 a.m., for the collecting sites each day.

**Tools:** We will be surface collecting and materials are abundant. Bring leather gloves and buckets. If desired, rock hammer and chisel, also small pry bar. Small wagon or two-wheel cart for transporting heavy buckets.

**Special Note:** Please bring a sack and/or picnic lunch for the Saturday field trip, as we will be leaving from Ledbetter farm and going to the Cove Creek site at Dale Hollow Lake.

**Difficulty Level:** 2 to 3 on a scale of 1 (easy) to 10 (hard). Please be advised that there is always a possibility for injury at these sites, so any young members must be supervised at all times.

**Saturday's Agenda:** We will be driving to the Ledbetter farm to collect geodes. Around noon, we will drive to Cove Creek Landing to collect fossils at Dale Hollow Lake. For the late arrivals, go North on TN-111 towards Byrdstown, and follow the signs to Cove Creek Landing.

**Sunday's Agenda:** We will be driving to the Pharris farm for more geodes. This is a site where we must pay \$5.00 per 5-gallon bucket-full. From there, we will return to Memphis.

Contact: David McIlwain, MAGS Field trip Coordinator, 305 Caitlin Drive Oakland, Tennessee 38060-4259

Residence: (901) 465-7388

Cellular: (901) 266-1446

Office: (901) 867-4303

E-mail: <davidmcilwain@netscape.net>

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



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October Birthstone is ROSE ZIRCON

- 1 - Susan Hailey
- 5 - Matthew Lybanon
- 6 - Dick McKittrick
- 7 - Alan Jacob
- 7 - Chris Vaughn
- 9 - Charles Hill
- 11 - Barry Burns
- 11 - George Everett
- 11 - Alex Stevenson
- 12 - Haley Bethune
- 12 - Michael Devine
- 13 - Mike Baldwin
- 13 - Don Blalock
- 16 - Dr. Joe Young
- 18 - Ashley Boucher
- 18 - Parker Ehrlich
- 18 - Emily Randolph
- 21 - Joel McKinnon
- 21 - David Sanders
- 24 - Raynee Randolph
- 24 - Keith Riding
- 30 - Pamela Aycock

## DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

BILL SCHEFFER: Welcome new members, David & Lenora Murray • RR 2, Box 16 • Hazen, AR 72064 • 870-255-3679 • davidmur99@hotmail.com.



## SUNSHINE REPORT

CORNELIA McDANIEL—No reports of illness or injury this month. I hope that means that all is well with the MAGS family.

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

## DIAMOND HILL REOPENED

**Diamond Hill Quartz Mine, Antreville, SC [Skeletal quartz - Amethyst] has reopened.**

### What you can expect to find:

Milky quartz crystal plates, Skeletal (secondary growth) quartz crystal plates, Amethyst crystals (hard to find), Smoky quartz crystals (more abundant than Amethyst) Recent micro mineral find. Cacoxenite: Bright yellow to golden radiating fibrous masses. Forms to download or copy and information on how to obtain permission to collect are to be found on the Georgia Mineral website [<http://www.gamineral.org/commercial-diamondhill.htm>]

This is a fee site To get permission to visit this Property, you should contact the Manager of the DH LLC (Chester Karwoski), or his wife Gail.

Chester Karwoski  
1040 Sweet Gum Way  
Watkinsville, GA 30677  
706-769-8163  
gailkarwoski@hotmail.com

If you cannot reach either Chester or Gail, then you may contact Jim Haege to make arrangements for your visit.

James Haege  
37 Poplar Lane  
Jasper, GA 30143  
706-253-5920;  
jimhaege@mindspring.com

BROUGHT TO YOU BY M<sup>3</sup>

## MICROMOUNTING 101

MIKE BALDWIN: Micromounts are very small mineral specimens up to approximately the size of a fingernail. The term micromount is only used by collectors. A micromounter is a collector of very small specimens. This method of collecting has become popular around the world in recent years.

Most of the time, Micromineral specimens are very well crystallized, and in better shape than larger size specimens. The chances of damaging a larger crystal when collecting is great..

Therefore, microminerals are usually better crystallized, better preserved, and more interesting than larger crystals of the same species. If you are into quantity, micromounting affords you the opportunity to collect and store hundreds of specimens in a relatively small space.

Microminerals are usually trimmed to fit an appropriate sized box or the specimen. You do not have to fit a specimen in a tiny box to create a micromount. If you cannot trim a specimen to fit a micro box without ruining the specimen, find a bigger box. Every micromounter will inevitably develop a style of his/her own for mounting specimens.

### An "easy" way to mount micro specimens

1. Get a small box, preferably with a lid. See above for a good source of boxes. To avoid glare, paint the boxes black on the insides
2. Make a small ball of "tack" or mounting putty and stick it in the center of each box. Note: Some people like to use the lid of the box as the "base" and the base of the box as the "lid". Using the lid as the "base" allows for unobstructed view from all sides and is faster to mount.
3. Stick the specimen to the ball of "tack" or mounting putty on your "base".
4. Label the base of the box and catalog the specimen.



**Micromount** Franklinite specimen mounted with mounting putty; label attached to the front of the box lid for easy identification. Image courtesy of the [www.memphisgeology.org/micromounting.html](http://www.memphisgeology.org/micromounting.html) .

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

JENNIFER BALDWIN: MAGS Micro-mounters did not meet in September, due to summer vacation schedules. We will meet October 16. Hope to see you there.

# THE SINKING OF THE SULTANA (continued from page one)

The Civil War was over at last and the war-weary Union soldiers in the South had only one thought. They wanted to go home. Vicksburg had been turned into a great repatriation center, and here were gathered thousands of worn-out men in faded blue uniforms, Union Prisoners of War just released from prison, waiting in Vicksburg for transportation to their northern homes. A huge number of these men were slated to travel on the Sultana. The Sultana was a typical side-wheeler built in 1863 for the lower Mississippi cotton trade.

The Sultana left New Orleans on April 21, 1865, on what looked like a regular run. She had from 75 to 100 cabin passengers, and a cargo of sugar and a hundred head of assorted live-stock. By law, she could carry 376 persons including her crew of 85. She was commanded by Captain J.C. Mason of St. Louis, who had a reputation as a good, careful riverman. On the evening of April 24, the Sultana made her regular stop at Vicksburg to take on passengers and cargo. The boilers were leaking rather badly, so repairs were made before going up river to the scheduled stops at Memphis, Cairo, Evansville, Louisville and Cincinnati.

Meanwhile, the Sultana was taking on passengers... a regular stampede of passengers. A large number of repatriated Union prisoners of war were to go North on this steamer, and the men were so desperately eager to start that the authorities decided not to make out the muster rolls in advance, as usual. Instead the rolls would be made out onboard, after the vessel had left Vicksburg. They came in almost unmanageable numbers, far beyond the Sultana's rated capacity. Army reports do not give the exact number, but apparently it was somewhere between 1,800 and 2,000. In addition, two companies of soldiers under

arms came aboard. Altogether, there were probably some 2,300 persons on the steamer. The soldiers were marching onto the hurricane deck, until all available space was filled. They packed the steamer from top to bottom hull, cabins, Texas deck, even the Pilothouse.

The Sultana puffed away upstream, breasting a current made stronger than usual by the river's flood stage. Captain Mason seemed to be a bit worried, but the Sultana went on without trouble, and on the evening of April 26, 1865, docking at Memphis. While the Sultana was at Memphis, a leaky boiler gave more trouble. Again the repair gang was called in and the leak was repaired. Sometime after midnight the Sultana continued on up river, bound for Cairo. Most of the servicemen aboard were to disembark there. The current was strong and the Sultana was overloaded, with six times as many passengers as she had been designed to carry. The big paddle wheels thrashed the water, straining against the powerful current. By two in the morning, she was just a few miles north of Memphis. She was making slow progress, the current was powerful, the boilers were tired, the load was much greater than usual. The Sultana swung 'round a bend and began to labor her way past a cluster of islands known as the "Hen and Chickens."

Then it happened. The leaky boilers gave up. They quit holding the heavy pressure of steam and suddenly exploded with a tremendous crash that was heard all the way back to Memphis. The explosion sent an orange-colored flame boiling up into the black sky. A sudden stabbing pillar of fire that lit up the black, swirling river and was visible for miles. The U.S.S. Grosbeak, a river gunboat, and other steamers on the Memphis waterfront started up river,

hurrying against the strong current to give any help they could give.

It was a losing race. The Sultana had been half blown apart by the terrific force of the explosion. Hundreds of sleeping soldiers were blown bodily into the river... snugly asleep one moment, hurling through the air into the cold black water the next. With them went great chunks of twisted machinery, a shower of red-hot coals that hissed and spurted as they hit the river, and great fragments of wood, cabin furniture, railings, deck beams, half of the steamboat had simply disintegrated.

When the cold dawn light came, survivors dotted the river all the way to Memphis, clinging to anything that would float. All the rescue craft in Memphis put out to do what they could... hauling half-dead men out of the cold river. One former Confederate soldier in a small boat rescued fifteen Union soldiers single-handedly.

Hundreds of men were found on both shores of the Mississippi, many of them badly burned.

Altogether between 500 and 600 men were taken to the Memphis hospitals. Some 200 of these died soon afterward, either from burns or exposure. Estimates of the number killed ranged from 1,500 to 1,900. Probably a median figure of 1,700 would be about right. In any case, one of the most terrible steamship disasters in history had taken place.<sup>2</sup>

#### Reference:

- [1] Deone Pearcy; *The Sinking of the Steamship SULTANA near Memphis, Tennessee*; The Electric Cemetary [an American Civil War & Genealogy Website]; <http://www.ionet.net/~cousin/dale4.html>; 15 September 2003.
- [2] Joanne Todd Rabun; *Death on the Dark River: The Story of the Sultana Disaster in 1865*; <http://www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/sultana.htm>; 15 September 2003.

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## SFMS CLUBS SHOWS/EVENTS

OCTOBER 4, 2003 • 10am-6pm  
OCTOBER 5, 2003 • 12n-5pm  
Lexington, KY—The Central  
Kentucky Gem & Mineral Society.  
Central Kentucky Gem &  
Mineral Show. Kentucky  
National Guard Armory, Airport  
Road. Contact Karen Lindeman,  
859-273-2381, dlinde@excite.com.

OCTOBER 17-18 • 10am-6pm  
OCTOBER 19 • 12n-4pm  
Franklin, NC—Gem & Mineral  
Society of Franklin, NC. October  
Leaf Lookers Gemboree.  
Macon County Community  
Facilities Bldg., US 441 S. Contact  
Fred Plesner, 565 Riverview  
Heights Street, Franklin, NC  
28734. willa@dent.net

OCTOBER 24-26 • 10am-6pm  
Knoxville, TN—Knoxville Gem  
and Mineral Society. 13th  
Annual Show. Kerbela Temple,  
Mimosa Street. Contact Jim  
McCutcheon, 865-966-5468.

NOVEMBER 7-8 • 10am-6pm  
NOVEMBER 9 • 12n-6pm  
Reidsville, NC—Rockingham  
County Mineral Club. 11th  
Annual Show. Wentworth  
Recreational Facility, Hwy 87N &  
Gibbs Road. For information  
tommiejr@pernellenterprises.com

NOVEMBER 7-8 • 10am-7pm  
NOVEMBER 9 • 10am-6pm  
Louisville, KY—Kyana Geological  
Society. Gem and Fossil Show.  
Executive Inn. Contact Roberta  
Robinson, 125 Steedland Court,  
Louisville, KY 40299,  
502-957-5781.

## SFMS FEDERATION NEWS



**Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip:**  
**Hosted by Columbia Gem & Mineral Society**  
**7:30am [EST], Saturday, October 18, 2003**  
**LaFarge Cement Quarry, Harleyville, SC**

This is a fossil collecting trip to LaFarge Cement Quarry (formerly Blue Circle Cement Quarry) in the Harleyville/Holly Hill area, South Carolina. This mine is primarily noted for its Eocene marine fossils including scallops, oysters, brachiopods, echinoids, shark teeth, ray teeth, marine mammals, etc.

**COLLECTING HOURS:** Participants should start arriving at 7:30 AM to check-in, sign a release form, and receive a brief safety briefing. The dig will be from 8 AM to 1 PM. There is no fee for this dig.

**CHILDREN AND PETS:** Children **MUST** be in **CLOSE** proximity to their parent(s) at all times. The representative from the mine stated no young children are permitted in the mine. All young people under 18 must be with an adult/parent at all times. This is a working mine. No pets please.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Because this is a working mine, safety is most important. Hard hats and safety glasses are required and will be supplied by the Lafarge mine. It is also recommended that you wear safety shoes (sturdy shoes), gloves, and appropriate outer clothing. Everyone must sign a release form prior to going into the mine. We will meet at our LaFarge Cement Quarry hosts "work trailer" to sign release forms and get a safety briefing before entering the mine.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Bring something to collect into, picks, hammers, small shovels, a bag lunch, and plenty of drinking water. If the weather is nice, we may be able to drive into the mine, otherwise we walk (approximately a quarter mile or more).

**TRIP CONDITIONS:** We found out recently from LaFarge that we will be limited to the first 40 for this field trip. Because of this condition, club fieldtrip chairman Ron Ahle will be the point of contact for both the mine and the DMC participants. Ron's email address and phone are as follows: RonA@scdnr.state.sc.us, (803) 419-2923.

If you would like to attend this trip, please contact Ron by no later than October 14. If you send an email, please put "DMC October Trip" in the subject line, so he can expedite completion of the list of participants. We will have a registration area set up to check in everyone who signed up. The first 40 responders will be included on the sign-up list for the trip.

**WHERE TO STAY:** Contact Mike Baldwin, MAGS Editor, for a short list of hotels and prices for the area.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Interstate 26 (either direction) take exit 177 (Hwy. 453 Holly Hill / Harleyville). When you reach the top of the ramp, turn towards Harleyville. There is a road sign pointing the direction. The mine is less than a mile on the right. If you go past the mine, the motel is around the curve on the left. When entering the plant off of Hwy. 453 (Judge St.) proceed past the scales and the Administration offices and parking lot. Turn left at the first intersection. Follow that road and the trailer is down there near the end.

*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 31, 2003; 6:30pm

MIKE BALDWIN: The MAGS board of directors met July 31, 2003 at The Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The following were present: Mike Baldwin, Nancy Folden, Idajeen Jordan, Cornelia and W.C. McDaniel, Park Noyes, Kim Prudhomme, Bill Scheffer, Roger Van Cleef, and Lou White. The following reports were given: **(1) TREASURER:** Financial report for July was presented and approved. Treasurer commented that several members are getting hard copies of the newsletter, but they also have email addresses. Suggestion was made that we send only email copies of the newsletter to those members that have email capabilities. If they request hard copies, then we will send them hard copies. **(2) FIELD TRIPS:** September 20, 2003 will be MAGS field trip to Richardson's Landing. The July trip to Magnet Cove, Arkansas was a good one. 16 people made the trip. In addition to collecting, we stopped by Jimmy Matlock's house to see his collection. **(3) EDITOR:** Lodestar needs to fill several staff positions, including editor, if anyone from MAGS is interested. **(4) LIBRARY:** [1] 2 months ago, a new cabinet was ordered to replace the warped one in the MAGS library. The librarian called to check on the cabinet and was told a representative from the company would meet her at the church to access the problem. [2] Lapidary Journal subscription is due. Treasurer will pay soon. [3] Thanks to Sherri Baldwin for filling in as librarian in June for Nancy. [4] Several new books have recently been added to the library as memorials for Bill Sipes, Jim Cole, Lucille Cox, Joe Devine, and Walter Mewborn. **(4) YOUTH:** [1] We had a problem at the last meeting. The TV and VCR that were in the audio supply room were not compatible, so we did not have a program for the kids. The kids were good until they went back out into the main meeting room. They became restless and a little bit noisy. Parents need to make sure that they have their children under their supervision when they come into the main meeting room each week. Thanks to Abbey Randolph, Emily Randolph, Kelly Baldwin, and Jennifer Baldwin for helping to keep the younger children occupied during the adult program. [2] Idajeen has 2 boxes of rocks for the kids at the August meeting. The rocks have already been identified and the kids can set up their own tables for the indoor rock swap, using these rocks. They will also have collecting bags to use. [3] The speakers in the main meeting room need to use the microphone so everyone in the back can hear them **(5) MEMBERSHIP:** [1] Getwell card was sent to Nancy Boucher who recently underwent surgery. Condolences to Alan Thom whose father passed away. [2] Three new memberships approved were Stephen and Ann McMann; Randy, Patti, Kelsy, Christian, Caleb, Joshua, and Andrew Jelinek; Sharon and Iva Drungell. [3] Explanation of Associate Membership—can go on field trips, will receive newsletter, are insured under club insurance, cannot vote or hold elected office in the club. Associate members have not been issued Library Cards and cannot check out books. [4] Interpretation of Family Membership—1 or 2 adults and all children living in a household. Our constitution may need to have clarifications of membership types added. **(6) SHOW** Audit has not yet been performed. David McIlwain will appoint an auditor to report back to the President. A new Show Chairman has not yet been appointed. **(7) ROCK SWAPS** October 11 will be at the home of Alan and Alishia Parks. On August 8 there will be short business meeting, then rock swap, food, and good times. Board members should come early and stay late. President has a couple of events in the works for August 8. There will be a uniform floorplan for set up of tables. No library next week. Please bring a six-pack if you bring drinks. Board members please bring an entrée or an entrée and a desert, to ensure that we have enough food for everyone. **(8) NEW BUSINESS:** [1] W.C. and Cornelia will have a vacation report in the next MAGS Rockhound News. [2] VCR—3 person committee to be appointed to look at options; possibly bringing MAGS VCR form storage to use at meetings. [3] By-laws-committee to be appointed to look at the by-laws and clarifications. [4] TN Dept of Revenue—old tax exempt sheets need replaced by new ones before purchases can be made—see Bill. [5] Stuff in the youth room—the drinks are ours, the rock/mineral material is from Don Blalock to be used by the youth, rock swaps, etc.

## GENERAL MEETING August 8, 2003; 7:40pm

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: MAGS August General Membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, presided by President W.C. McDaniel. There were 60 members and 4 visitors present. They were Ann Warren, Mary Enders, Ed Underhill, and Gerald May. **(PRESIDENT):** The format of our meeting will be a little different tonight due to our Indoor rock swap and picnic. There will be no programs tonight for the adults and the juniors. Programs will resume next month as well as displays. We are going to start off with a door prize, and that goes to Allie VanCleaf for being without power for 14 days after the storm last month. Also, you will find a picture of a piece of agate that was sold at an auction. Guess how much the agate sold for and you will receive a scoop of material that will have some surprises in it. We will also be calling numbers out for a winning scoop, so please make sure you have a number. **(1) FIRST VP:** Field trip on August 23<sup>rd</sup> will be at Frankstown for shark's teeth/fossils. Roger says to collect on the upstream side of the boulders to find the best location for shark's teeth. Then on to Starkville Sunday for some stream wading and pyrite collecting. September trip will be to Richardson's Landing. We will keep you posted on the water level of the river for that trip. For all of you that are sky watchers there will be a meteor shower Wednesday and on the 27<sup>th</sup> the planet Mars will be the closest to Earth in 50,000 years. **(2) MEMBERSHIP:** A getwell card was sent to Martha Rannels. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 for refreshments and swapping.

## ROCK AND MINERAL SALE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2003, 8:00AM-4:00PM

*Collection of Dr. James and Melba Cole: 40 years of collecting*  
8280 BON LIN DRIVE, MEMPHIS, TN

### Yard Material (tons)

1. Brazilian agate
2. Miscellaneous agates/jasper
3. Miscellaneous quartz and crystals  
from Arkansas/Missouri
4. Tumbling and cutting material (large *variety*)
5. Petrified wood (small/*large sizes*)
6. Geodes
7. Fossils (limited)



### Pricing-yard material

- Geodes-\$5.00 per 5 gallon bucket- must provide own buckets
- \$.50 per pound for all other yard material

### Mineral/specimen sale (thousands)

1. Huge collection of Rush/Magnet Cove, AR minerals-many from sites closed to collecting
2. Arkansas Quartz -cleaned
3. Druse Quartz-cleaned
4. Jeffrey Quartz-cleaned
5. Wood-all kinds
6. Geodes, Agatized coral, garnets
7. Fossils
8. Lots of miscellaneous material-display/cutting/tumbling
9. Some equipment (two Highland Park saws, tumbler)

**Pricing Priced by the cotton specimen box (*will vary*) Some individual pieces**

Directions: Bon Lin Drive is off Germantown Road/Parkway about 1 mile north of the intersection of Germantown Road and Highway 64, near Wolfchase Galleria Mall. It can be reached from I-40, either exiting Highway 64 or Germantown Road. At Bon Lin Drive take a right (east). A barn is located at that intersection. 8280 Bon Lin is the 7th house on the left.

# MINI MAGS

## OCTOBER ROCK SWAP AND LOTS OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Kids, join us on October 11 for the last rock swap of the season. It will be at the home Harrison and Noa Parks, and there will be lots of great food and fun activities.

**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

**FOSSILS AND ROCKS:** There were several very nice fossils found during the Frankstown field trip last month. Everyone that went on that trip came home with sharks teeth but there were also ray teeth, turtle shells, worm burrows, small dinosaur bones, and even a few arrowheads found. Frankstown is always a fun place to go. Our next two field trips will also be good fossil collecting opportunities. In October we will be looking for crinoids near Livingston, TN and in November we will be going back to one of my favorite places, Vulcan Quarry near Parsons, TN. We will also be collecting geodes on the October trip to Livingston. If you come on that one, bring some big buckets, because there are plenty of geodes.

Pick up your copy of the *October MAGS Explorer* at the October meeting or online at <http://www.memphisgeology.org/images/explorer1003.pdf>.

## WEB STATISTICS

Here's a brief look at our website ([www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org)) from 01.21.02 through 09.23.03:

Visits\* ..... 84,374  
Hits\*\* ..... 381,163

Top pages in the past 30 days:

RockNews0203.pdf ..... 617 hits  
Explorer0203.pdf ..... 374 hits  
RockNews0903.pdf ..... 356 hits  
Geology ..... 296 hits  
RockNews1002.pdf ..... 251 hits

Average visits/day this month..... 264

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

Did You Know . . .	Megalosaurus
<p>Here it is, the very first dinosaur ever named. Megalosaurus was found in England in 1822 by a geologist named William Buckland. He found the teeth and knew it was from a really big animal. The word 'dinosaur' did not exist yet. In fact, this dinosaur was a typical two-legged meat-eater, but people back then knew so little about it that they thought it walked on four legs like a big lizard. It wasn't until 20 years later, in 1842, that Sir Richard Owen came up with the word 'dinosaur' to describe these spectacular fossil creatures which were being discovered.</p> <p style="font-size: small;">©2003 Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society</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="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: small;"> <p><i>Megalosaurus bucklandi</i> Pronounced: Meg-ah-lo-Saw-rus Diet: Carnivore (Meat-Eater) Name Means: "big lizard" Length: 30 feet (9m) Height: 10 feet (3m) Weight: 1.5 tons (1,300 kilos) Time: Jurassic</p> </div>

Did You Know . . .	Druse Quartz
<p>Quartz is the most common mineral on the face of the Earth. It is found in nearly every geological environment and is at least a component of almost every rock type. It frequently is the primary mineral, &gt;98%. It is also the most varied in terms of varieties, colors and forms. This variety comes about because of the abundance and widespread distribution of quartz. A collector could easily have hundreds of quartz specimens and not have two that are the same due to the many broad categories.</p> <p>Quartz is a fun mineral to collect. Its abundance on the Earth's surface is incredible and produces some wonderful varieties that don't even look like the same mineral.</p> <p style="font-size: small;">©2003 Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society</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="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: small;"> <p>Composition: SiO<sub>2</sub> Hardness: 7 Fracture: Conchoidal Crystal Form: Prismatic Luster: Vitreous (Glassy) Streak: White Color: clear Location: Potosi, MO</p> </div>

## FOR SALE BY LYDIA HAFF

MAGS member, Lydia Haff has several very nice pieces of equipment for sale.

- Diamond Demon water/oil cabbing tool
- Lortone 16" diamond saw
- Craftsman drill press
- Fargotstein's polishing mix

If you are interested in finding out more about these items, call Lydia at 901-683-6245.



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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

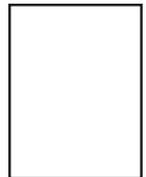
### DUES:

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  
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Collierville, TN 38017-2301



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meeting  
October 2

General Meeting  
October 10

Alan's Rock Swap  
October 11

M<sup>3</sup> Meeting  
October 16

MAGS Field Trip  
October 18

Rock/Mineral Sale  
October 25

DMC Field Trip  
October 25

