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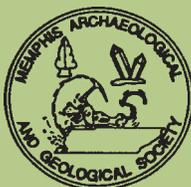
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ROAD TRIP I-40

THE LAND BETWEEN EXIT 126 AND EXIT 116



Crinoid, sea lilies, are a complex and beautiful group of stalked echinoderms. Most fossil crinoids were stemmed. The stem was attached by roots to the sea floor or to other animals or plants. The stem bore a crown consisting of a theca [calyx] covered with plates and 5 or more arms [brachia]. Most beds of crinoidal limestone consist mainly of broken stems and few calyxes, which may mean that mature crinoids broke loose from their stems and drifted away.¹

MIKE BALDWIN: Since our November field trip will encompass three sites along the I-40 Benton County-Decatur County section of West Tennessee, I thought it might be fun to take a look at the land between exits 126 and 116, so grab a cup of coffee, buckle up, and let's hit the road. Since we'll be traveling really early Saturday morning, November 22, you won't see much until after daybreak, so let's look at the land on our way home Saturday afternoon.

We've just spent the day at Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, Tennessee [looking for crinoids, trilobites, brachiopods and other Lower Devonian marine fossils] and then a nice side trip to Melba Cole's property [to collect selenite], so now it's time to get back on I-40 and head west. We're at Exit 126 [mile marker 126.1]. That's the US 641, Camden/Parsons interchange. At this point the landscape we are seeing is underlain primarily by the Cretaceous Coffee Sand. Some exposures of weathered Mississippian, Devonian, and Silurian rocks [mostly shale and limestone] can be found south of I-40 along US 641 [such as the Devonian Birdsong Shale of Vulcan Quarry].

At mile marker 126.0 we leave Benton County behind and enter Decatur County. One mile further along on our journey, we cross a small, isolated exposure of the Fort Payne Formation, which you can see along both sides of I-40. This exposure marks the approximate location of where the Cretaceous age sediments of the Coffee Sand and
(see *Road Trip I-40* on page five)

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Nov 06	6:30p	Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue
Nov 14	7:30p	General Meeting: Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Rd., Memphis [bring displays and refreshments] Program: TBA
Nov 15	7:30a	DMC Field Trip: Smith Co., MS [page 6]
Nov 20	7:00p	M ³ Micromounters Meeting @ Roger Van Cleef's home
Nov 22	7:00a	MAGS Field Trip: Parsons, TN [page 3]
Nov 28-30		SFMS Annual Convention: Roanoke, VA [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

MAGS is not allowing the arrival of cool weather to slow us down. We will complete the year with a full slate of activities.

November will bring about our last field trip of the year to Vulcan Quarry near Parsons, Tennessee. Abundant fossils, easy collecting and about a 2-1/2 hour trip east on I-40 makes this collecting site worth your while. It will also be a good time to help the show by collecting fossils for the gem dig. I will be there with my bucket extended. Let's make this a well-attended field trip.

At our November meeting we will have another live and silent auction. We also need a little help sorting registration slips from the 2003 show. We use this information to generate our postcard mailings for the show. It's our best and most productive form of advertising.

Our October display winner was James and Doris Parsons with a mineral collection acquired on their recent trip to Las Vegas. The November membership meeting will be your last chance to get your name in for display prizes at our December meeting. How about some juniors bringing a display.

December 12 is our last meeting of the year. In place of a formal meeting we will have our Christmas party. Look for details in the December newsletter.

In October, MAGS lost one of our life members, Ruth Young. Our thoughts are with Dr. Young at this time.

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

W.C. McDaniel

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

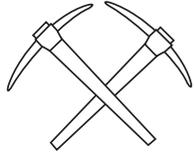
BILL SCHEFFER: The address for Sherida Helms, which appeared in the newsletter two issues ago, is incorrect. The correct address is: Sherida Helms, 5555 Park Ave., Memphis, TN 38119.

Welcome these new members to MAGS. Please add this information to your directory.

- [1] Gerald May--3745 Woodland, Memphis, TN 38111, 901-374-1972
- [2] Lee, Mary, Luke, and Shelley Ramsey--1763 Autumn Avenue, Memphis, TN 38112, 901-726-4466, mldramsey@yahoo.com
- [3] David and Lenora Murray--rr Box 16, Hazen, AR 72064, 870-255-3679, davidmur99@hotmail.com

DUES ARE DUE

BILL SCHEFFER: Dues are due now. Please take a minute to renew your membership in MAGS for 2004. Bill Scheffer will be glad to take your check at the November MAGS meeting on November 14. Make your check payable to MAGS. Family membership is \$20.00, single membership is \$16.00, associate membership is \$13.00, and junior membership is \$8.00. Bill will not be collecting dues at the December Party, so please take care of it now, before you forget. If you'd like, you can mail your check to Bill Scheffer, 2959 Sky Way Drive, Memphis, TN 38127. Thank you.



MAGS FIELD TRIP PARSONS, TN

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2003 • 7:00AM
FIELD TRIP LEADER, DAVID McILWAIN, 901-456-7388

Collecting sites: The Vulcan Materials Company–Parsons Facility at Parsons, TN; property owned by Melba Cole on Holiday Road near Parsons, TN; and a road-cut on TN-114 near the intersection of Old Ferry Road. Collecting is free at these sites. *The Vulcan Materials Company requires each person to sign a Release, Wavier and Indemnity Agreement form before entering the facility. These forms will available at our meeting place.*

Specimens: [1] Marine invertebrate fossils such as corals, crinoids, brachiopods, sponges and trilobites--specimens may be found in the limestone rock matrix. [2] Selenite crystals--specimens are found only on the surface of the gray soil.

Meeting Time/Place: 7:00 a.m., Sugar Tree Truck Stop Restaurant, located at Exit #126 on I-40. Go left off the ramp; the restaurant is on the right. Come earlier if you plan to eat breakfast. We will convoy to the Vulcan facility promptly at 7:30 a.m. Follow AFMS Field Trip Convoy Guidelines [see MAGS website].

Driving Directions: [1] From Memphis take I-40 East towards Nashville, and then take TN-69/US-641 East exit 126, towards Camden/Paris/Parsons. Turn left onto TN-69/US-641 and travel 1/4 miles to Sugar Tree Truck Stop Restaurant. Allow 2 to 2-1/2 hours driving time. [2] From Nashville take I-40 West towards Memphis, and then take TN-69/US-641 East exit 126, towards Camden/Paris/Parsons. Turn right onto TN-69/US-641 and travel 1/4 miles to Sugar Tree Truck Stop Restaurant. Allow 1 to 1-1/2 hours driving time.

Tools: Bring rock pick, hammer, chisel, pry bar, screwdriver, leather gloves, safety glasses, newspapers for wrapping specimens, and collecting containers such as buckets or cloth bags.

Safety Note: While at these sites, 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. Sorry, no pets please. Follow AFMS safety rules, code of ethics and collect courtesy code [see MAGS website].

Difficulty Level: 5 to 7 on a scale of 1 (easy) to 10 (hard).

Field Trip Agenda: [1] **First site:** We will enter the Vulcan facility at 8:00 a.m. and we will be escorted to the collecting site. Time will be limited since we will only be allowed in during weekend working hours and you will not be allowed to re-enter the facility once you leave. We will be leaving the facility promptly at noon. [2] **Lunch Break:** We will have approximately 1 hour for lunch at a local restaurant. [3] **Second site:** At approximately 1:30 p.m. we will convoy to property owned Melba Cole. At 3:00 p.m. we will conclude our field trip. [4] **Third site (Optional--For the serious rockhound).** At approximately 3:00 p.m. we will convoy to a road-cut on TN-114 near the intersection of Old Ferry Road.

If you want to go, please sign the list. If you sign up and decide not to go, please contact David McIlwain ASAP. David McIlwain, MAGS Field Trip Coordinator, 305 Caitlin Drive, Oakland, Tennessee 38060-4259 • (901) 465-7388 • Cell (901) 266-1446 • E-mail: davidmcilwain@netscape.net

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



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November Birthstone is TOPAZ

- 1 - W. C. McDaniel
- 10 - Andrew Boucher
- 10 - Docia Lenz
- 15 - Megan Givens
- 15 - Erin Parker
- 16 - Carol Ann Devine
- 16 - Abbey Randolph
- 18 - Laura Lee Ethridge
- 18 - Cathie Jacob
- 18 - David McIlwain
- 19 - Chris Chrisman
- 19 - Nina Riding
- 21 - Celeste Long
- 22 - Melba Cole
- 22 - Ron Patton
- 23 - Shirley Ruth Chrisman
- 23 - Jimmy Holiday
- 24 - Rena Everett
- 24 - John Jones
- 28 - Alan Parks
- 30 - Robert Neill



SUNSHINE REPORT

CORNELIA McDANIEL—It was good to see John Jones at the Arkansas Show and at Melba Cole's Rock Sale. Our condolences to Dr. Young [lifetime MAGS member] at the passing of his wife, Ruth and to Sandy Ward at the loss of her father. Best wishes go to Carl Warren, Breezy Levitch, George Fulghum and W.C.'s sister. We're thinkin' of ya.

Remember, rockhounds are not immune . . . if you need a flu shot, now is the time to get it. Stay healthy! Keep rocking!

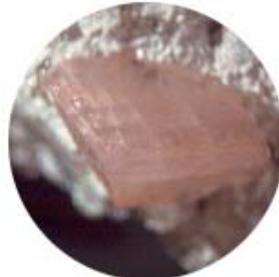
If you, or a MAGS member you know, becomes ill, please call Cornelia McDaniel at 274-7706 and let her know.

M³ MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

JENNIFER BALDWIN: At the October 16th M³ meeting Roger Van Cleef showed us his brand new cotton dispenser. It actually turned out to be a pretzel container, but it works great for cotton too. We had a very busy evening in Roger's lab. Members present were: Roger Van Cleef, Idajean Jordan, Nancy Folden, W.C. and Cornelia McDaniel, and Mike, Sherri, Jennifer and Kelly Baldwin.

We took a look at specimens of mica on pegmatite and gypsum from Gloss Mountain, Woodward Co., OK. Each family received an hourglass selenite specimen from Jet, OK and a barite rose, also from Jet [thanks Roger]. Thank you to Nancy Folden for donating sharks' teeth from Frankstown, MS, to be used as one month's specimen-of-the-month for Mini-MAGS. From Roger's collection, we looked at: [1] Fossil alligator jaw bone from Frankstown; [2] LeBrea, CA tar vugs with beetles; [3] Alluvium Pleistocene spruce, pine cone, and blue spruce specimens found in Nonconnah Creek. We also looked at Sherri's Nonconnah specimens: a turtle shell; a crinoid, which looked like an exploded ear of corn; a slice of petrified wood; and walnut-sized fossil nuts. Other specimens on view for the night were W.C.'s fire agates; sponges from the Tennessee River; Permean Age [before dinosaurs] petrified wood from Manitou, OK; sponges, favosites, and corals from Lobelville, TN; crinoids from Lesley, AR; Nautilus, cephalopod, barnacles, coral and tar from middle TN; and obsidian, marcasite, and pyrite from Starkville, MS. Sounds like a lot of stuff for one two hour meeting! It was. We had a great time.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY M³ PHOTOGRAPHING MICROS



MIKE BALDWIN: One of the least expensive ways to collect minerals is by collecting miniature mineral specimens, called micromounts. In the October issue of *MAGS Rockhound News*, we introduced you to micromounts and explained a little bit about how to mount and display your specimens. Of course, this hobby can become expensive if you invest in a microscope and digital still camera or video camera. This month let's take a look at photographing your specimens.

The first ingredient for photographing micromounts is a microscope. A trinocular "zoom microscope with a powerful light source at the base, such as halogen, would be a good choice. If your microscope does not have a bright enough light source for photographing, try adding a halogen desk lamp with a swivel neck so you can position the light to get the best illumination and the least shadow. A trinocular scope is great for microphotography because it allows you to add a photo tube to the third head, so you can observe your specimen through the binocular eyepieces and attach your camera to the third.

When attaching your digital camera to your microscope, use a camera mount which screws into the filter screw threads of your camera. Make sure your camera has threads before you attempt to secure the camera to the microscope. Once you have your camera in place, use the power cord that came with your camera, rather than using batteries, unless you are using a rechargeable battery pack. Turn off your built-in camera flash and use only the light from the halogen lamps which you have spotlighting the specimen you are photographing.

Once you are finished photographing, download your pictures to your computer, enhance and manipulate them using photo software and save them for viewing, either on screen, as an email attachment, or on a website. Personally, I use a Compact Flash card for downloading, and Adobe Photoshop for manipulating the pictures.

If you have a question about digital photography or if you have a technique that works for you, email rockclub@earthlink.net .

Micromounts

From the top:[1] Barite; [2] Pyrite on Feldspar; [3] Chalcopyrite; [4] Sphalerite; and [5] Smithsonite. Images courtesy of Kentucky Micromounters at <http://kymicros.topcities.com>

ROAD TRIP I-40

(continued from page one)

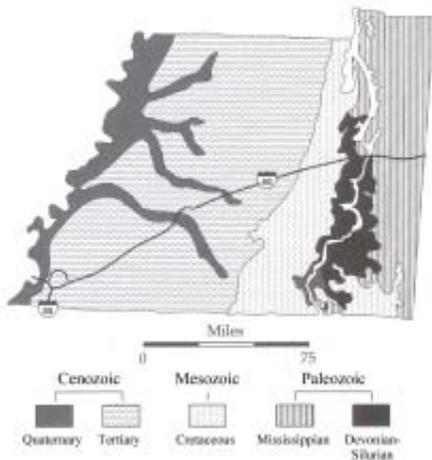
the Mississippian age limestone of the Fort Payne Formation meet. The Coffee Formation, consisting of light reddish-brown sand, can be seen along the gravel county road adjacent and running parallel to the right side of I-40.

Near mile marker 122.0 we will begin to encounter the Coon Creek Formation, a greenish-gray, sandy, micaceous marl that caps the highest hills for the next 2.5 miles. As we continue westward, the Coon Creek Formation, dipping to the west, gradually floors the valleys. As we approach mile marker 116.5, the highest hills are capped with McNairy Sand, a reddish-orange, sandy soil, while the lower slopes of the hills as well as the valley floors are underlain by the Coon Creek Formation. We will leave Decatur County at mile marker 120.3, enter Carroll County briefly, and then enter Henderson County at mile marker 119.6.

OK, here we are. This is our exit. We'll get off the interstate at Exit 116 [located at mile marker 116.6]. Here we find S.R. 114. We will be checking out a roadcut along this highway Saturday afternoon, November 22 [looking for marine invertebrate fossils]. You might also be interested in Natchez Trace State Park at Exit 116. The park was named for the famous Native American and American Pioneer trail running from Nashville, Tennessee to Natchez, Mississippi. Natchez Trace is the largest Tennessee State Park, covering over 43,000 acres. Not only does it have a nice museum, resort inn and restaurant, but it is also a prime area for backpacking, camping, and fishing.

The hill at Exit 116 and other hills westward for several miles are underlain by McNairy Sand. At this point exposures of the Coon Creek Formation end as we go west, and an area underlain primarily by the McNairy Formation begins. Although exposures of McNairy Sand are not very common along I-40, we can occasionally see them in fields and some eroded banks and cut slopes. In this area almost all land surfaces that are not forested are seeded in grass to prevent erosion of the sandy soil.

Let's catch up with the rest of our crew and check out that roadcut at the intersection of SR 114 and old Ferry Road. See you there!



Geologic map of West Tennessee
Generalized geologica map of West Tennessee based on the Geologic Map of Tennessee, Tennessee Division of Geology, 1966.

References:

- 1 Ida Thompson; *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Fossils*; Alfred A Knopf, Inc.; New York; 1996
- 2 Harry L. Moore; *A Geologic Trip Across Tennessee by Interstate 40*; The University of Tennessee Press; Knoxville, TN; 1994.

Crinoid image on page one from *The Fossil Book: A Record of Prehistoric Life*, Patricia Rich, Thomas Rich, Mildred Fenton, and Carroll Fenton. Geologic map image on page five from *A Geologic Trip Across Tennessee by Interstate 40*, Harry L. Moore.

Information gathered for educational purposes under the provisions of the "Fair Use Act of 1976".

WEB NEWS

MIKE BALDWIN: Sep. 27–Oct. 26 was the best 30-day period since our trackable website became active in January, 2001. We have had a website since 1998, but in 2001 we received our www.memphisgeology.org unique domain name and started tracking visits to the site. Over 12,000 people visited our site in the past thirty days.



New features planned for the January 2004 MAGS web update include: [1] MAGS Bulletin Board where club members and visitors can leave messages on the website, or join in discussions about topics concerning our hobby, such as best practices for cleaning and displaying specimens or methods of mounting micro-specimens; and [2] a hit counter at the bottom of the home page, so you can see what number visitor you are to the website.

Here's a brief look at our website statistics from 01.21.02 through 10.26.03:

Visits*	93,567
Hits**	410,612

Top pages in the past 30 days:

Explorer0203.pdf	731 hits
RockNews0203.pdf	698 hits
Explorer0903.pdf	455 hits
Geology	403 hits
RockNews1003.pdf	369 hits

Visits in past 30 days 12,038

Hits in past 30 days 46,030

Avg. visits/day this month 388

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

SFMS CLUBS SHOWS/EVENTS

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. Contact
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.

NOVEMBER 15-16
Melbourne, FL—Canaveral Mineral
& Gem Society. Show at
Melbourne Auditorium,
Hibiscus Avenue. Contact Anita
Lane, 321-723-0742.

NOVEMBER 15-16
West Palm Beach, FL—West Palm
Beach Gem & Mineral Society.
Show at the South Florida
Fairgrounds Expo Center,
9067 SR 98 & 80, Southern
Blvd. Contact Jack Stamper at
www.gemandmineral.cc .

NOVEMBER 21-22 • 10am-6pm
NOVEMBER 23 • 10am-5pm
Cobb County Gem & Mineral
Society. 18th Annual Show at
Cobb County Civic Center, 548
Marietta Parkway. Contact Becky
Patellis, 770-973-7483, email
mbpatellis@mindspring.com .

NOVEMBER 28-30
Roanoke, VA—Roanoke Valley Gem
& Mineral Society. Show and
SFMS Annual Meeting.

*Visit the Southeast Federation
website for more shows/events
information. The web address is:
<http://www.amfed.org/sfms> .*

SFMS FEDERATION NEWS



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip:
Hosted by the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society
7:30am [CDST], Saturday, November 15, 2003
Smith County Lime Quarry, Smith County, MS

COLLECTING: The finds are fossils from the Oligocene period: sand dollars, sea urchins, shark teeth, gastropods, and abundant clams. Occasionally we find some calcite (not crystals) and pyrite.

WHAT TO BRING: You will need a small shovel or spade, bags or bucket for your finds (you may want to bring some assorted sizes of plastic bags for small and fragile specimens), and a chisel and hammer. There are no restaurants nearby, so bring food, water and drinks. Wear layered clothing. November is a cool time of the year, but it may warm up during the day, and you can remove outer layers.

WHERE TO STAY: There is one motel in Bay Springs, the Western, which is just north of the intersection of State Hwys SR 15 and SR 18, on the west side of SR 15.

MEETING PLACE: We will meet at Hardy's in Bay Springs, which is just south of the intersection of State Hwys SR 15 and SR 18, on the west side of SR 15. We will meet at Hardy's at 7:30 am.

DIRECTIONS: From east Memphis, take I-240 W toward Jackson, MS, 10 miles to I-55 S. Take I-55 S toward Jackson, MS for just over 200 miles. At Jackson, merge onto I-20 E at exit 94 toward Meridian/ Hattiesburg. After about 63 miles, take the MS-15 exit [exit 109] toward Newton/ Philadelphia. Turn right onto MS-15 for 28 miles. Hardy's will be on left side of SR15 at SR 18. Total distance from east Memphis is approximately 310 miles. Driving time is approximately 5 hours.

CONTACT: For further information call Janie Hand at 601-825-3989 or email fossilfinder2@aol.com . Janie Hand, Field Trips Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (Jackson, MS) .

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!

2003 SFMS ANNUAL CONVENTION

LODESTAR: The SFMS Annual Convention, November 28-30, 2003, is being hosted by Roanoke Valley Mineral & Gem Society. The convention will be at the Wyndham Hotel—Roanoke Airport, 2801 Hershberger Road NW, Roanoke, VA 24017 [I-581 at Hershberger Road, Exit 3-E]. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Wyndham with a nightly cost of \$69.00. If you are planning to attend, please call 1-800-996-3426 ASAP and mention that you are with the SE Federation. The show and exhibits will be at the Salem Civic Center. The Annual Business Meeting will be on Saturday, 1:00p–6:00p. The Annual Banquet will be Saturday night at 8:00p. The Editors Breakfast will be Sunday morning at 8:30. Reservations are required for the Banquet and the Editors Breakfast. Please contact Kitty Katt for more information: 540-483-0823 or dkittkatt@direcway.com .

MAGS REVIEW

BOARD MEETING September 4, 2003; 6:30pm

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: The MAGS board of directors met September 4, 2003 at The Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The following were present: Mike Baldwin, Nancy Folden, Idajean Jordan, Cornelia and W.C. McDaniel, Park Noyes, David McIlwain, Kim Prudhomme, Raynee Randolph, Bill Scheffer, Roger Van Cleef, and Lou White. The following reports were given: **(1) FIELD TRIPS:** September 20, 2003 will be MAGS field trip to Richardson's Landing. October takes us to the Ledbetter Farm for geodes and to Dale hollow Lake for fossils. We will have the use of a boat to get us across the lake for the best collecting site for fossils. The Frankstown trip was very good! We had 18 members attend. Many shark teeth and even a few arrowheads were found. **(2) EDITOR:** We are proud to announce that our newsletter has won two awards in the AFMS Bulletin Contest. This was a national competition, and we placed very well. We don't have the results from the SFMS Bulletin Contest, but we should have more awards coming our way. Our *Junior Articles—Author Ages 12-17 Category* won 8th Place. That was Kelly Baldwin and her article, "A Visit With Sue." Your editor, Mike Baldwin, won 4th Place in the *Special Publications Category* with his article for "MAGS Rockhound News Extra: Birdsong Shale.". Take note this month that all the articles have been written by MAGS members. This has been a great contribution! Keep those articles coming. We are receiving 6-10 emails per week from readers asking for help or advise of some kind. It was suggested that we reciprocate and some time seek info back from our readers. **(3) LIBRARY:** The library has missing books and the club has a vague procedure as to how to replace what is missing. The only recourse we have at the present time is to send the member a "please return" letter. Nancy will put together an explicit procedure of how to proceed with delinquent and missing publications by the next board meeting. **(4) YOUTH:** We will be learning state minerals, gemstones, and fossils. Some states have these designations and some don't **(5) MEMBERSHIP:** Martha Rannels is recovering from her recent illness with exercises to restore her walking strength. She has moved to a new retirement community. Breezy has broken her other wrist during the recent windstorm. We have received our first electronic application from Chris Cozart. The application was downloaded, filled out, and mailed in. He wishes to join with an associate membership because he enjoys our newsletter so much. Chris lives in Illinois. Thanks for the great compliment. Anyone else joining this late in the year will also find his or her membership carrying through 2004. **(6) SHOW WC** has graciously accepted the position of show chair again this year. The new committee will meet Monday evening at the McDaniel's at 7:00pm. **(7) DIRECTORS:** We have had a few accidents on our field trips this year. Our first aid kit needs to have a few items replaced. Kim Prudhomme has volunteered to help David McIlwain take care of that task. **(8) ROCK SWAPS:** October 11 will be at Alan and Alishia Parks'. Admission to the swap will be one shoebox full of rocks for the gem dig. It's never too early to collect material for next year's show. **(9) NEW BUSINESS:** [a] Technical Update Committee and been appointed. Roger Van Cleef is the Chair. Members are Mike and Sherri Baldwin, and Park and Terry Noyes. The function of the committee will be to research where funds set aside from the Rock Show will be allocated each year. Motion made to purchase a new TV/VCR/DVD for use by the Juniors and for viewing club videos during refreshments. [b] October meeting, we will decide what to do with our old 25" TV. [c] November board meeting will be the 2004 planning meeting. Be thinking of programs, field trips, etc. Board meetings are always open to the entire MAGS membership. If you have ideas or suggestions, bring them to the board meeting. **(10) SUGGESTIONS:** [a] Year you first joined MAGS be added to the directory; [b] Mid-south "Rockhound Gemboree" be held each year, to include neighboring states TN, MS, AR, KY, and AL; [c] Recognition system for people outside MAGS who help us in any way—certificate, gift certificate, gift basket, thank you letter, etc. **(11) ANNOUNCEMENTS:** [a] Mewborns to have garage sale; [b] Melba Cole rock sale set for Oct 25-26. Sale to include much of Dr. Cole's collection and some equipment; [c] Specimens of the month are needed.

GENERAL MEETING September 12, 2003; 7:35pm

RAYNEE RANDOLPH: MAGS September General Membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, presided by President W.C. McDaniel. There were 66 members and 9 visitors present. They were David Polan, Jean Rittmueller, Gerald May, Tala and Marshall Starr, Mary Leslie and Luke Ramsey, and Mike and Michael McNellis. **(PRESIDENT):** Tonight we have a live and a silent auction of material donated from the Mewborn collection. Bid high and bid often. Magazine giveaway at one of the tables. Take what you want. Library is here for your benefit. It will be open for most of the meetings so please enjoy the privilege. Three door prizes to be awarded. There will be a mini-board meeting just before refreshments. **(1) FIRST VP:** Field trip to Richardson's Landing has been cancelled due to high water level of the Mississippi River. Instead we will be collecting in Nonconnah Creek near Mall of Memphis at 9:00am. Meet at the old JC Penney parking lot. October field trip will be to Ledbetter Farm and Dale Hollow Lake in middle Tennessee. November will be the last field trip of the year—to Vulcan Quarry. **(2) EDITOR:** Please check your newsletter for awards that our newsletter has won recently. **(3) PROGRAM:** Dr. Nina Baghai-Riding, Delta State University—"Upper Cretaceous pollen from North Mississippi and Ice-Age fossil bones from the Mississippi Delta. **(4) DISPLAYS:** Junior—Jennifer Baldwin [shark teeth]; Adults—Lydia Haff [quartz from Coon Creek]; Melinda Warren [Double Terminated Quartz from Coleman Mine]; Tula Starr [rock with diamonds]; M.O. Starr [rock]; Jennifer and Melinda won.

BRIGHT PLANETS AND AURORAS

BRIGHT PLANETS: For months Mars has been the brightest planet in the night sky. It's still bright, but right now Jupiter is even brighter. Jupiter is easy to find on any morning you might wake up early to get ready for work or school. Look east around 6 a.m.; you'll see the giant planet almost halfway up the sky shining like a -1.8th magnitude star. Even a small telescope will reveal Jupiter's cloud belts and its four largest satellites: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.

AURORA WATCH: October was an unusually good month for Northern Lights in some parts of the country. There have been several very large geomagnetic storms over the past few days. As Earth slips in and out of solar wind streams flowing from coronal holes on the Sun, sky watchers in places like Alaska, Canada and US northern border states from Washington to Maine should be alert for auroras [northern lights]. Some of the solar storms have been intense enough to cause auroras to be seen in areas as far south as Arizona. The best time to look for auroras in our part of the country is just about midnight. I have scanned the sky for auroras for as long as I can remember, and I have not seen one yet. Maybe this will be the year.

If you would like to find out more about space weather visit Spaceweather.com for details and updates.

MAGS LIBRARY RULES

- (1) With your MAGS library card, you can borrow from the collection of books and videos that provide information regarding club members' interests.
- (2) Each individual MAGS single/family is entitled to a free library card. Any member of the family may use the card but a parent or guardian must sign for anyone seventeen (17) years of age or under. Library cards are renewed annually after MAGS membership fees are paid.
- (3) You may check out and return books each month while attending the MAGS monthly meeting. You may check out as many as five (5) items. You will be asked to leave your card with the librarian until the item/s are returned.
- (4) You are responsible for all materials checked out on your card. When you accept your card, you agree to follow library policies, including the payment of fines. If you lose your card, replacement cards are one dollar (\$1).
- (5) If checked out materials are not returned at the next monthly meeting, a fine of five dollars (\$5) per month, per item will be collected.
- (6) Lost or damaged library material requires the payment of replacement or repair costs. Additional items cannot be checked out while replacement/repair costs are owed.



WEBELOS GEOLOGIST BADGE

Here are the requirements for the Boy Scout Webelos Geologist Activity Badge.

DO FIVE OF THESE

1. Collect five geologic specimens that have important uses
2. Rocks and minerals are used in metals, glass, jewelry, road-building products, and fertilizer. Give examples of minerals used in these products.
3. Make a scale of mineral hardness for objects found at home. Show how to use the scale by finding the relative hardness of three samples.
4. List some of the geologic materials used in building your home.
5. Make a drawing that shows the cause of a volcano, a geyser, or an earthquake.
6. Explain one way in which mountains are formed.
7. Describe what a fossil is. How is it used to tell how old a formation is? Find two examples of fossils in your area.

MINI MAGS

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP TO VULCAN COME HOME WITH LOTS OF FOSSILS

Kids, the last MAGS field trip of the year will be November 22 to Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, TN. You can find crinoids, shells, corals, sponges, and maybe even trilobites.

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

WEBELOS AND MAGS TEAM UP TO WORK ON THE GEOLOGIST ACTIVITY BADGE: On November 18, MAGS members W.C. McDaniels, and Mike Baldwin, and MAGS junior members Jennifer and Kelly Baldwin will be making a geology presentation to 16 or so Second-Year Webelos [9-10 year-old Boy Scouts] and their leaders in Collierville. These scouts are working on the Geologist Activity Badge and they just need a little bit of help figuring out some of the requirements. If you would like to help with this presentation, email *Explorer* co-editor Jennifer Baldwin [fireopal@memphisgeology.org] or *Explorer* co-editor Kelly Baldwin [paleorocks@memphisgeology.org] and they will fill you in on the details.

The requirements for the Webelos Geologist Activity Badge, the Boy Scout Geology Merit Badge, and the Boy Scout Archaeology Merit Badge can all be found on the MAGS website. Here are the addresses:

- [1] Webelos Geologist Activity Badge
www.memphisgeology.org/bsa_geologist.html
- [2] Geology Merit Badge
www.memphisgeology.org/bsa_geology.html
- [3] Archaeology Merit Badge
www.memphisgeology.org/bsa_archaeology.html

If your troop would like assistance with any of these badges, contact MAGS at rockclub@earthlink.net.

Pick up a copy of the *November MAGS Explorer* at the November meeting or online at <http://www.memphisgeology.org/images/explorer1103.pdf>.

Did You Know . . .	Quantassaurus
<p>Qantassaurus is the only dinosaur named after an airline. It was a relatively small member of the family named after Hypsilophodon. It was a plant-eater that ran about on its hind legs, and it had large eyes and a fairly large brain for a dinosaur.</p> <p>Qantassaurus is known from a fairly complete skeleton. Found in the southern reaches of what was then Gondwana, its large eyes may have been an adaptation to long winter nights.</p> <p>Corporate sponsorship was taken to new levels with the naming of Qantassaurus. Qantas Airlines says it has flown more dinosaur fossils than any other airline, and has long been a sponsor of dinosaur exhibits and research. The airline funded the dig that unearthed this creature it now bears the corporate name.</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="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>Qantassaurus intrepidus</i> Pronounced: Quan-ta-Sore-us Diet: Herbivore (plant eater) Name Means: "Qantas Lizard" Length: 6 feet (2 m) Height: 2 feet (.7 m) Weight: unknown Time: Late Cretaceous -110 MYA</p> </div>

Did You Know . . .	Leaf Fossil
<p>This Eocene leaf fossil was collected from a road cut on the north side of Somerville, Tennessee.</p> <p>During the Eocene Period plate tectonics and volcanic activity formed the Rockies in the western North America. Erosion filled basins, laying bauxite deposits in western North America. Continental collisions between India and Asia culminated in the Alpine-Himalayan mountain system. Antarctica and Australia separated and drifted apart. The climate was subtropical and moist throughout North America and Europe.</p> <p>November specimen donated by MAGS member, Roger Van Cleef.</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="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Plant fossil Era: Cenozoic Epoch: Tertiary Period: Eocene Age: 58 myo Distribution: worldwide Location: roadcut, Somerville, TN Collected by: Roger Van Cleef</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 901-683-6425. *EDITOR'S NOTE: Phone number was incorrect in October Rockhound News. This one is correct.*

NAME TAGS AVAILABLE

BILL SCHEFFER: Acrylic MAGS name tags [in the shape of the state of Tennessee] are available for you to purchase through the MAGS Treasurer, Bill Scheffer. The name tags are \$5.00 each. If you are interested, please contact Bill Scheffer to place your order. Bill will accept cash or a check made out to MAGS.



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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

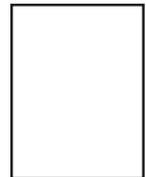
DUES:

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
November 6

General Meeting
November 14

DMC Field Trip
November 15

M³ Meeting
November 20

MAGS Field Trip
November 22

SFMS Convention
November 28-30

DUES ARE DUE!

