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## MAGS Acquires a Mineral Collection

### And You're Invited To Its Premier!

*Friday, November 9, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.*

**W.C. MCDANIEL:** What is located in:

- Box #22 — Item 773?
- Box #33 — Item 1173?
- Box #35 — Item 563?

To find out, be sure to attend the MAGS membership meeting on Friday, November 9 as members will uncrate, unpack, unwrap and premier a collection of about 1,150 mineral specimens stored in sixty boxes for almost 25 years. MAGS acquired the collection this past summer and it represents a unique opportunity for the club and its members. To begin that opportunity by answering several questions:

#### *How did MAGS acquire the collection?*

This past spring MAGS President, Sandy Ward, received a letter from a representative of a Memphis institution seeking advice on disposing of the collection. They have requested no publicity regarding the collection. The following are selected quotes from the letter:

- "In 1982, a member of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society of Memphis, donated his large (1,150 piece) mineral collection."
- "The collection eventually made its way to archives as it is no longer in use by the science departments."
- "I am interested in disposing of the collection."
- "I would be interested in selling the collection to someone who "wants it" and would appreciate its value."
- "I thought at first I would just attend the show in April and offer it to a



dealer for whatever price they might offer but then thought perhaps I should seek some professional advice from MAGS before I do that. Any help or advice you can give would be appreciated."

Upon receipt of the letter, the MAGS board initially decided to review the collection and determine if it was something the club would be interested in pursuing. Over the course of the next few weeks several MAGS members visited the collection and did a random viewing and assessment of the collection. Plus, we had a complete list of each specimen by name and origin

## 2007 – 2008 Officers and Board of Directors

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Whiteway Drive, Memphis, TN 38117 or via email at magsnewslet-  
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## President's Corner



*As I mentioned recently, the show committee is gearing up and making plans for the 2008 show. We held a meeting tonight and we batted around lots of ideas and no, it's not too late for you to join in to contribute your ideas and help with show plans at the next meeting, December 3rd. One of the most difficult decisions we have had to make early on is what to do about the location of the show in 2009 and beyond. With the future of the Fairgrounds uncertain and the city's inability to guaranty the availability of the Pipkin Building in 2009, we began a search for other available venues that were comparable in size, available parking facilities etc. It was not without some trepidation that we arrived at the decision to move the show to the Agri-Center in 2009. This will be a difficult move emotionally for many of us for whom the MAGS "Rock Show" and the Pipkin Building have become synonymous, myself included, but it is what it is and we are optimistic that this location will open the door for much larger attendance numbers and expose many more people to the joyful addiction that is our hobby.*

*Sandy*

# NEW MAGS CLUB ROOM UPDATE

**W.C. McDaniel:** I am searching for a good excuse for my tardiness in following through with some tasks for the club room. While I am looking, I ask that you please note the following:

1. We are in need of a six foot folding banquet type table, as well as 6-8 folding chairs.
2. In the next few weeks the following classes will be scheduled:

Wire wrapping  
 Beading  
 Drilling stones with a Dremel Tool  
 Introduction to tumbling.

The lapidary equipment is still under review. Donations of equipment for the clubroom are encouraged and would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in donating items or equipment, teaching a class, or have suggestions for



a class you think would be interesting, please contact me at (901) 274-7706 or by email at [w.c.mcd@worldnet.att.net](mailto:w.c.mcd@worldnet.att.net).



## Announcements & Tidbits

### MEMBERSHIP MEETING SETUP & CLEANUP

Sometimes we all take for granted that the meeting room will be set up and ready for us when we arrive at the monthly meetings. However, it's important to remember that the club members are responsible for setting up the chairs/tables we use, as well as cleaning up after ourselves after each meeting. Thanks to those that always help and everyone is encouraged to take turns helping out with this chore.



### DON'T FORGET YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS AND MATERIALS!

A gentle reminder....there are books that have been checked out of the MAGS library by members and have not been returned. Please check to make sure that all books or videos you may have checked out have been returned if they are due. If you still have any materials that are past due, we ask that you please return them to Ron Brister, our club librarian, at the next meeting.



## MAGS ACQUIRES MINERAL COLLECTION *(cont'd from page 1)*

and the insurance appraisal from 1988. Upon completion of the assessment the MAGS board authorized an offer to the institution. They accepted our offer and the collection was moved to the MAGS' storage room. In addition, we got a really nice storage shelf unit.

### *Why are we having a premier?*

The collection, for the most part, has been in storage for almost 25 years. During the initial assessment only about 10% of the collection was physically viewed. Also, several years ago MAGS member, Idajean Jordan, helped the institution identify and catalog the collection. However, the collection has not been fully displayed and viewed in its entirety. So at our November 9 premier event a MAGS' member will take one of those sixty boxes and carefully begin unwrapping specimens hidden away for about 25 years. When all sixty boxes are completed, we will be able to step back and take a look at the complete collection. It is at this time we can begin to assess the scope and content of the collection. When we are all done looking we will pack them back up and return it to storage. But not for long.

### *What will MAGS do with the collection?*

One of the primary purposes of the premier at the membership meeting is to give the club an opportunity to begin developing a systematic plan for the collection. Some of the ideas and possible usages include:

1. Use part of the collection for a "fixed" public display (MAGS maintains ownership and control of material).



2. Use part of the collection for a roving display for use in education programs, public events and the show.
3. Use part of the collection for the developing of a fluorescence display.
4. Use part of the collection for monthly display (winners) prizes or door prizes.
5. Use part of the collection as "Surplus" to be sold in a format that generates maximum return for club with a minimum goal of recuperating the original purchase price and any miscellaneous expenses.

So on November 9 be sure to attend the monthly membership meeting of MAGS to see and participate in the premier of our collection. A word of caution, the red carpet will not be out and the only paparazzi will be MAGS members taking photographs. Also don't wear your tux or gowns, just your working clothes. You may want to bring some gloves as some of the pieces may be sharp, fragile, or both.

Oh by the way, a hint of what to see in Box 47, item #19. Its green and comes from the Copper Creek Mine in Bisbee, Arizona.

# November Birthdays



**November's birthstone is citrine.**

Citrine is a member of the large quartz family. The name "citrine" originates from

the color of the stone—often a lemon yellow, although the most sought after stones are clear radiant yellow to brownish red. Like all crystal quartzes, citrine is a 7 on the Mohs Scale so it is quite resilient against scratches.

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 W. C. McDaniel        | 18 David McIlwain          |
| 2 Caitlin Douglas       | 19 Chris Chrisman          |
| 6 Gwen Lum              | 19 Nina Riding             |
| 9 Michael Herren        | 20 Simon Laulederkind      |
| 10 Rachel Sejas         | 20 Lane Tutor              |
| 10 Leisa Law            | 21 Alex Sejas              |
| 10 Docia Lenz           | 22 Celeste Long            |
| 12 Petrice Gembala      | 22 Melba Cole              |
| 15 Megan Givens         | 23 Shirley Ruth Chrisman   |
| 16 Briana Burns         | 24 Jan W. Williams         |
| 16 Abbey Randolph       | 24 Rena Everett            |
| 17 Cody Gembala         | 26 David Shankman          |
| 17 Logan Pulley         | 28 Alan Parks              |
| 17 Edward Lindsey Rucks | 30 Robert Neill            |
| 17 Ed Wagner            | 30 Alexa Kaitlin Ouellette |
| 18 Cathie Jacobs        |                            |

## Web Site Statistics for October 2007

a brief look at our website  
(www.memphisgeology.org) from 1/21/02-10/21/07

### Total Visits & Hits

Total visits to web site	264,410
Total hits to web site	964,457 <i>Almost a million!</i>
Visits in past 30 days	9,299
Hits in past 30 days	41,003
Average daily visits (past 30 days)	290

### Top page views past 30 days

homepage	657 hits
rocknews0907	534 hits
explorernews0604	530 hits
space geology eris article	525 hits
rocknews1005	492 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.

## JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

The November youth meeting will be all about Chucalissa Indian Village and Native Americans. Kids, if you have arrowheads or other Native American artifacts that you (or your family) have collected, bring them to the November meeting and tell us about them. Look for the November issue of the MAGS Explorer Youth Newsletter on the MAGS website. It will tell you a little bit about Chucalissa Indian Village. You can locate the newsletter by typing this address in the address line of your browser:

<http://www.memphisgeology.org/images/explorer1107.pdf>

If you have articles, pictures, games, jokes, or anything else that you would like to put in the MAGS Explorer Youth Newsletter, contact the youth newsletter editor, Karen Schaeffer.

## 2007 Dates to Remember

	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date For Newsletter Submissions
November	01	09	Oct 17
December	06	14	Nov 21

**DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee  
An Official Field Trip of The Western South Carolina Gem and Mineral Society  
(Greenville, SC)(HOST)  
An Official Field Trip of the  
Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society**

**December 1, 2007  
Amos Cunningham Farm  
Due West/Antreville Area, South Carolina  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**FEE SITE**

**What:** Mineral Collecting Trip- good sized beryl crystals, amethyst and smokey quartz. This site has the best South Carolina beryl specimens of any site that I know how to get access to. The crystals are well shaped hexagons with flat ends. The color is green though most have a blue cast. The beryl ranges from translucent to opaque. Most crystals are specimen quality though some gem quality is present.

**Where:** The Amos Cunningham Farm is between Antreville and Due West, SC. From Anderson, SC drive 18 miles down route 28 East (really south) to Antreville. Turn left on route 184 East heading toward the town of Due West. Travel for 4 miles and turn left on the George Alewine Road. Drive for less than 1 mile. You will pass a trash/recycling site on the right, cross a bridge over a small creek and turn into the first land on the right. If you pass the Cunningham Backhoe Service on the left you have gone too far.

**Digging Conditions:** The site is flat to rolling land of South Carolina red clay. The digging areas have been machine trenched down to white kaolite veins that have the beryl and quartz crystals. Dirt and rock removed from the trenches and piled up, also contain beryl and are good places to search especially after a rain.

**What to Bring:** Bring picks, shovels, rock hammers and scratching tools. Large hammers will not be very useful. Also bring plenty of drinks and a picnic lunch unless you want to drive a few miles for lunch.

**Cost: \$15.00 per person.** Children 12 years old and under are free. Children and pets must be supervised by an adult. Everybody attending the dig must be a member of a Southeast Federation Club and must sign a Release Form. Mr. Cunningham will also have good specimens for sale at his Cunningham Backhoe and Bushhogging Service building.

**Lodging:** There are many motels in and around Anderson, SC. There is no lodging in Antreville or Due West.

**Contact Person:** Any questions call Bill Wetzel at 864-306-6749 or email [williamperkri@bellsouth.net](mailto:williamperkri@bellsouth.net). On the day of the field trip call 864-569-5404.

**"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!"**

**DMC 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.**

Please reply by e-mail to: [dmc@gaminerall.org](mailto:dmc@gaminerall.org)  
World Wide Web site for the DMC is: <http://www.gaminerall.org/dmc.htm>

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. Copyright © All rights reserved.

## MAGS OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

### Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, Tennessee

On **Saturday, November 17** interested club members will be meeting at six to leave promptly at six-thirty from the Hardees in Parsons to collect Devonian Fossils at Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, Tennessee.

The mine opens at six but closes **promptly at noon**, thus the very early meeting time in order to take full advantage of this always highly anticipated collecting opportunity. We **must** be out by 12 (no excuses) to insure our club is welcome by the quarry in the future. More detailed information will be available at the Friday, November 9 membership meeting or by email.

Please bring your favorite finds from previous Parsons trips to share with the group and educate new members about the fossils from this mine. Also make sure you bring examples from our October's field trip to Dale Hollow Lake and collecting geodes. Both the displays and examples are an invaluable educational tool and enticement for membership participation within our widely varied and growing club.

## 2007-08 Adult Presentations

### November

“Exploring a Mineral Collection”

MAGS members will uncrate, unpack, unwrap, and marvel at a 1,100 piece mineral collection purchased by MAGS. The first viewing in decades!

### December

Christmas Party  
No program

### January 2008

Ashley Allen  
Union Chapel Mine near Jasper, Alabama

### February 8, 2008

Dr. Michael Gibson  
University of Tennessee at Martin  
“Stromatolites: Microbes that Ruled the Earth”  
Also bring your fossils for identification

## September 2007 Board of Directors Meeting Notes : CAROL LYBANON

The MAGS Board of Directors met September 6, 2007, at the Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. Those present were: Sandy Ward, W.C. McDaniel, Mike Cannito, Mike Baldwin, David Day, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Barry Burns, Cathie Jacobs, James Butchko, Shelby Hartman, Park Noyes, Terri Noyes, and Lou White. The minutes from the August Board and General Meetings were reviewed and approved as corrected. W.C. McDaniel noted that one name was not capitalized. **Treasurer's Report :** The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted, subject to audit. **Field Trips:** The September field trip will be to Richardson's Landing, on September 22. Barry Burns commented that if the water level is too high, they may switch the field trip to Nonconah Creek. Barry will add his phone number to the maps that will be available at our Membership Meeting. Any changes will be posted on the web site; this will be announced at the meeting. **Adult Programs:** W.C. McDaniel reported that Dr. Gibson, the scheduled speaker for September, had to cancel because he got a last-minute work assignment. Alan Parks was asked to do the program in Dr. Gibson's place. Programs for the following months are: October—fluorescent minerals; November—CBU collection exhibited; December—party, no program; January—Ashley Allen, Union Chapel Mine; and February—Dr. Gibson rescheduled. **Youth Programs:** Melissa Johnston has accepted a new job, so will not be available for many meetings. Sandy Ward will ask Melissa if she intends to resign, and ask Idajeane Jordan if she will become the youth program leader. James Butchko said he will help Idajeane. The Board accepted Mike Baldwin's offer to present the September program. The Board feels that the youth group needs a program to do more than just occupy time. Cathie Jacobs suggested and will chair the first meeting of a committee to develop a program. W.C. McDaniel said he would contact other clubs to find out about their youth programs. At the Membership Meeting we will ask for volunteers to join this committee. **Library:** Ron Brister is not present. The newsletter will publish a reminder for people to return library materials.

**Webmaster:** No report. **Newsletter:** Shelby Hartman received an e-mail that asked if the newsletter could be published earlier each month. After discussion, the Board decided not to change the publication date. W.C. McDaniel suggested making the deadline for newsletter submissions a week earlier than at present, to allow Shelby more time. Committee heads are asked to e-mail Shelby even if they have nothing to report, so she will know she didn't miss something. The Board thought field trips should be announced in the newsletter 2-3 months ahead of time, especially for weekend trips, to help Members plan. **Membership:** The Board accepted one application, from

Michael and Sonya Wheeler and family. **Rock Swap:** Cathie Jacobs listed upcoming Rock Swaps: September 16—2:00-6:00 at Lou White's house October—tentatively at Alan Parks's house. November—Normally we don't have a Nov. rock swap. **Show:** Sandy Ward said she would like to help James Butchko by setting up a committee for next year's show. Alan Parks has volunteered to be on the committee. Sandy will ask others to join. It is time to start setting up contracts for the 2008 show. **Old Business:** Nonconah Greenbelt Trail report—The committee had a very positive meeting with Ted Fox, Shelby County Public Works Division Director. He asked us to prepare a brochure about MAGS, and to write to Mayor Wharton about our proposed participation. The Board approved the draft letter. Mike Baldwin said he will begin work on the brochure. Ted Fox asked MAGS to participate in the ribbon cutting, but so far we do not have the date or other details. A/V System—Barry Burns brought two proposals for computers and projectors to the Board, a Macintosh system for \$2,227.94, and a PC system for \$1,609.85. After some discussion W.C. moved that we buy the PC system, with half the money from the Club account and half from the Show account. The motion was carried. A few questions then came up concerning who would use the unit and where it would be housed. James Butchko and Mike Baldwin offered to house the unit. Mike Cannito asked whether we could obtain theft insurance. W.C. McDaniel moved that we delay the purchase until these questions can be answered. This motion passed. Lease—W.C. McDaniel now has the lease for the place on Cox. He and his committee plan to meet on Monday and discuss how to proceed. Alan Jacobs, David McAlister, and Barry Gilmore are on the committee. **New Business:** Mike Cannito said there is a CD maturing soon. After some discussion the Board decided to let the CD renew where it is.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

## September 2007 Membership Meeting Notes : CAROL LYBANON

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on September 14. The meeting was called to order by W.C. McDaniel, in the absence of President Sandy Ward, at 7:40 P.M., with 45 members and 4 visitors in attendance. The visitors were: Marc Mueller; Jeff and Cathy Oswald; Michala Demo. Pam Gurley welcomed visitors and new Members. Field Trip:

The September trip will be to Richardson's Landing on September 22. Meeting time is 8:00 A.M. Maps and information are

available on the table in the back. If the river is too high the field trip may be postponed or the site changed. Check the web site for the latest information. In October we will have a weekend trip to Livingston, Tennessee, where we will collect crinoid stems and geodes. The club usually stays at the Overton Motel in Livingston.

W.C. McDaniel announced that the club has leased the property at 777 S. Cox, in Midtown. There will be a meeting of the committee on Monday night. Others who are interested are invited to come. Let W.C. know if you are interested. Our youth program is in need of a leader. We are in the process of getting a committee together to revamp the youth program. Let W.C. know if you would like to serve on this committee. Lou White announced the September rock swap. It will be at his house on Sunday, September 16, 2:00-6:00 P.M. He will cook out hamburgers and hot dogs. Bring side dishes and desserts. A map to his house can be found in the newsletter. Ron Brister needs an associate librarian, primarily for circulation. Talk to Ron if you are interested. Upcoming Programs:

October—fluorescent minerals, Mike Cannito and Mike Baldwin

November—uncrate and unpack CBC minerals

December—annual party

January—Union Chapel Mine, Ashley Allen

February—fossil identification along with program by Dr. Gibson

Tonight's program is on mining, presented by Alan Parks. He reported the workings and operations of Memphis Stone and Gravel. Very well received.

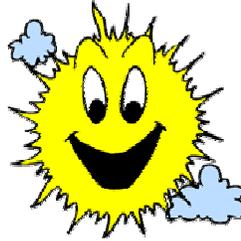
Rhena South and Karen Schaeffer celebrated their birthdays with us by bringing in a birthday cake.

W.C. McDaniel announced the Cooper-Young Festival this weekend. Several members have booths.

We had no adult displays. There were two youth displays. Lauren Schaeffer was the winner (specimens from Union Chapel Mine). Rachel Griffin's display showed varied fossils and minerals she collected on a vacation in the West.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

# Sunshine Report



We've had no reports of illness or injury from any of our club members or their families. That's great news! Everyone stay healthy and enjoy this wonderful Fall weather!

*If you have any announcements to include in the sunshine report, please contact Pam Gurley at 324-7235*

*Pam Gurley*



*Happy Thanksgiving!*

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 • Special Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st—03 • Adult Article 1<sup>st</sup>—06, 2nd—89, 90, 04, 06; 3rd—92; 4th—85, 04; 5th—91, 03; 6th—87; 8th—04; Honorable Mention—03, 04

DUES: \$20 (Family); \$16 (Single); \$8 (Junior)

## November/December 2007

5Sun	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	Dec 1

- November 1**      **6:30 p.m.**      **Board Meeting: Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue**
- November 9**      **7:30 p.m.**      **Membership Mtg. at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road**
- November 17**      **6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**      **MAGS Field Trip to Vulcan Quarry, Parsons, Tennessee**
- December 1**      **9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**      **DMC Field Trip to Amos Cunningham Farm, South Carolina**



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