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### Machu Picchu



**MACHU PICCHU, PERU**

**MIKE BALDWIN:** One of Roger Van Cleef's favorite places on earth was Machu Picchu in Peru. 7,000 feet above sea level and nestled on a small hilltop between the Andean Mountain Range, this majestic city soars above the Urubamba Valley below. The Incan built structure has been deemed the "Lost

Cities", unknown until its relatively recent discovery in 1911. Archaeologists estimate that approximately 1200 people could have lived in the area, though many theorize it was most likely a retreat for Incan rulers. Due to it's isolation from the rest of Peru, living in the area full time would have required traveling great distances just to reach the nearest village.

Separated into three areas - agricultural, urban, and religious - the structures were arranged so that the function of the buildings matched the form of their surroundings. The agricultural terracing and aqueducts took advantage of the natural slopes; the lower areas contained buildings occupied by farmers and teachers, and the most important religious areas were located at the crest of the hill, overlooking the lush Urubamba Valley thousands of feet below.

*>>see Machu Picchu on page nine>>*

### December MAGS events

01 6:30p MAGS Board Meeting • Blue Plate Café, 5469 Poplar Avenue

09 7:30p MAGS Holiday Party • Shady Grove Presbyterian Church  
5535 Shady Grove Road • Bring food, gifts, dues (no displays)

17 8:30a DMC Field Trip to Diamond Hill Mine, SC [see page 6]

We're having a party tonight and everybody's invited. Check out the details on page four.

No MAGS Field Trip in December

2006 dues are due on January 1, 2006 -- pay now and don't miss a thing!

# 2005-2006

## Officers and board of directors

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## President's corner: WC McDANIEL



2005 will end on a sad note for MAGS. We have lost several valuable and talented members this year. Horace Roane in February, Carolyn Hayes in March, John Jones in April, Al Klug in July, George Fulghum in October and Roger Van Cleef in November. Their contributions, participation and knowledge have helped MAGS remain a strong and viable club. Let's make a commitment to their legacy to continue those achievements.

The December meeting will be our annual Christmas party. Be sure to check out the party information in the newsletter. If you won a display contest during 2005 be sure to come to the Christmas party and claim your prize.

The end of the year is also the time to look ahead to 2006. The first task on the list is yours. Its time to renew your dues. Dues are the primary source of club income and it pays for the rental of the building, publishing and mailing our award winning newsletter and other expenses. Please renew NOW.

WC

## Welcome new members

**CORNELIA McDANIEL:** Please join me in welcoming the newest members to the MAGS family.

- 01 Ms. Jessie Bridges and Ryan  
4305 Stonebrook • Jonesboro, AR 72404  
xraygirl3232@hotmail.com • 870.926.7717
- 02 John, Marcy and Alexa Kaitlin Ouellette  
1790 Sea Isle Road • Memphis, TN 38117  
megroggan@memphis.edu • 901.690.6737
- 03 Kalki and Wendy Winter  
1979 Oliver • Memphis, TN 38104  
wwinter@midsouth.rr.com • 901.272.8657

## No MAGS field trip scheduled for December

# In Memory of Roger Van Cleef

MIKE BALDWIN

On Wednesday morning, November 16, MAGS lost a devoted member and a recognized authority on fossils. Roger Van Cleef was honored several years ago with the National Rockhound and Lapidary Rockhound Hall of Fame Award for his work in paleontology. Over the years, he won several awards for articles appearing in the MAGS Rockhound News, and for a time he was the editor of our newsletter. In June 2002, Roger started a Micromounters Group within MAGS that met at his house once a month. For more than two years, my family and several other MAGS members gathered there each month to look at minerals and fossils under the microscope and to learn how to prepare and display specimens. We were awed by the fantastic fossils Roger had collected and reconstructed over the years. He happily shared his knowledge with us as we looked at his treasures, all stored in boxes and cases and drawers in his paleo-lab. I don't know how many times we took our own finds to Roger for the "fossil test". "If your tongue sticks to it, it's a fossil," Roger would tell us. He could also tell us what we had found. He loved fossils. Perhaps his favorites were T-rex and mosasaurs. T-rex because of the enormity and ferocity of it and the mosasaur because it was once a resident of the Mid-South.

It's ironic, after knowing Roger since 1997, I feel that I didn't know him very well after all. I would have enjoyed being around him and learning from him in his younger days . . . during his time as a defensive tackle for the Minnesota Vikings, or during his weeks-long field trips out west in search of dinosaurs, or his travels to Machu Pichuu, Egypt and the Galapagos Islands, or his time at the Pink Palace Museum and Coon Creek. In the

early days of the Pink Palace Arts and Crafts Fair, little did my wife, Sherri, and I know that the friendly voice of the announcer belonged to Roger (the same voice that was the narrator for "Walrus Tales", an educational television program in Memphis). Little did we know that one of the founding fathers of "Friends of the Pink Palace" and the "Pink Palace Arts and Crafts Fair" was Roger. As the Education Curator at the Pink Palace Museum, Roger worked with high school students who became junior curators. Roger and his core of understudies turned the museum into an adventure for youth and school groups during sleep-over camps. He loved teaching children.

When my family and I joined MAGS in the late 90's, the very first person we saw when we came through the doors at the Botanical Gardens was Roger. He greeted my daughters with such a warm smile and a gentle kindness that they instantly became friends. Roger loved sharing his knowledge of dinosaurs with my girls and all the other children in the club. If every person, young and old alike, who has been influenced, inspired, and educated by Roger Van Cleef were to write a paragraph about their experience with him, I would venture to say that those words could fill a book that would rival a volume of "Harry Potter" in size.

I am saddened that Roger is no longer with us, but I know he lived a full, adventurous life. He shared his adventures with those around him. He dreamed of having more adventures, and as Robin Williams [Peter Pan] once said to Hook, "To die would be an awfully big adventure." My family and I have been enriched by knowing Roger, and I know his adventures continue. Thank you for sharing him with us, Katheryn. He will be greatly missed!

Dates to remember			
	Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Articles
Jan	5	13	December 18
Feb	3	10	January 27
Mar	3	10	February 24
Apr	6	14	March 24
May	4	12	April 28
Jun	1	9	May 26

## Website statistics for November

MIKE BALDWIN: Here's a brief look at our website [www.memphisgeology.org] 01.21.02 through 11.27.05:

Visits ..... 123,481  
 Hits ..... 525,133 Hits  
 Average visits per day in past 30 days ..... 341  
 Top pages in the past 30 days:  
 argon2003.pdf ..... 918 hits  
 Home page ..... 745 hits  
 Explorer0203.pdf ..... 604 hits  
 rocknews1005.pdf ..... 435 hits  
 explorer0604.pdf ..... 409 hits

*A visit is every time someone comes to our website. A hit is every page viewed once a user enters our website.*

## MAGS Holiday Party

Friday • December 9, 2005 • 7:30PM

Shady Grove Presbyterian Church • 5535 Shady Grove Road • Memphis, Tennessee

BRING FAMILY, BRING FRIENDS, BRING FOOD, BRING GIFTS, BRING YOUR HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Mark your calendar now for the Annual MAGS Holiday Party. If you would like to help decorate and prepare the fellowship hall for our party, come early. If you can help clean up after the party, plan to stay late. Board members and officers, don't forget to bring canned soft drinks.

- [1] You and your family are invited to the party. You are welcome to bring a friend or two with you. Attire for the evening will be casual to semiformal.
- [2] Please bring a potluck dish big enough to share. Turkey, ham, drinks, condiments and dinnerware [plates, cups, utensils, and napkins] will be provided by MAGS. The dish that you bring can be an appetizer, salad, side dish, bread, or dessert.
- [3] For the gift exchange, there will not be a distinction between women's, men's, or children's gifts. Please bring a gift that can be enjoyed or used by anyone, no matter what age they are. All gifts will be placed on one table, so when it is your turn to choose a gift, there will only be one place to choose from. Please bring a gift that you would be happy receiving if it came from someone else. The minimum value of your gift should be \$10.00. Bring one gift from each person in your group. If there are four of you, bring four gifts. If you bring guests, please bring a gift for your guest to exchange. The gifts will be collected and numbers will be assigned to each person in attendance. These numbers will be used to draw names for gift exchange and to draw names for door prizes. If you bring "extra" gifts, please make sure that those gifts are also valued at least \$10.00. All gifts should be related to our hobby. Examples include: rock hammer, chisel, collecting bag, buckets, spray bottle, gloves, books about rocks or fossils, mineral specimen, water bottles, insulated lunch bags, beverage cooler, gift card to Borders or Home Depot. Participation in the gift exchange is optional. If you would rather not participate in the exchange, you do not need to bring a gift.
- [4] The names of the monthly display winners [adults and youth] will be placed in a drawing for display winner gifts, provided by MAGS.
- [5] A holiday fireplace and mantle will make a nice backdrop for pictures of family and friends, so bring your camera.

Come to the party on December 9, and let's enjoy food, fun, and fellowship together.

## Dues are due before January 2006

CORNELIA McDANIEL: 2006 dues are due before January 1, 2006. The December Holiday Party would be an excellent time to go ahead and pay your dues to ensure that you don't miss out on any of the fun in the coming year. Make your check out to MAGS. Thanks for paying your dues on time.

Family	\$20.00
Single	\$16.00
Junior	\$ 8.00

## December Birthdays

MELBA COLE: Birthstone for December is Turquoise.

- 2 - Sharon Muir
- 5 - Kim Prudhomme
- 6 - David McAlister
- 6 - Horace Roane
- 6 - Lynn Spencer
- 8 - Wendy Winter
- 9 - Marilyn Free
- 10 - Docia Lenz
- 10 - Robbie Powell
- 14 - J. Barry Gilmore
- 15 - Jerry Seamans
- 17 - Natalie Horowitz
- 17 - Susan Thom
- 18 - Marvin Nutt
- 18 - David Prudhomme
- 18 - Charlie Thomas
- 19 - Paula Gunter
- 20 - Benjamin Shankman
- 21 - Joel Huber
- 23 - Jimmy McNeil
- 27 - Linda Wilson
- 29 - Danielle Burns
- 30 - Rick Bethune
- 30 - Maureen Walther

*Bold type indicates lifetime members.*

## December Turquoise

People of the United States are quite familiar with turquoise, since it is a favorite of many Native American Jewelry makers. The source of most turquoise is the desert lands of the southwestern US, Iran, Egypt, Australia and Tibet. The Turks of the Middle East first brought turquoise into Europe. The French gave the gem the name turquoise, which means "from Turkey."

Reference: Laurie Steding; *Birthstones*; Nancy Hall, Inc.; 1995. Information used for educational purposes under the provisions of the Fair Use Act of 1976.



WC McDANIEL: The December Roadcut is dedicated to Roger Van Cleef. In 2000 Roger was selected to the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame for his contributions and work with fossils. Within the past few days three fossil related stories came across the news. I am sure that Roger would have enjoyed and marveled at the ongoing research and new finds. A summary is presented from the CNN.com web site:

- **Marine crocodile** – Scientists say they have discovered the intact fossilized skull of a marine crocodile with a dinosaur-like head and a fish-like tail that likely terrorized the Pacific Ocean 135 million years ago. The head of the expedition that found the specimen has dubbed it “Godzilla “. The fossil was discovered in 1996 in the Patagonia region of Argentina.
- **Fossilized dino dung shows traces grass** – A new discovery debunks the theory that grasses didn’t emerge until long after the dinosaurs died. The most prominent plant-eating dinosaurs were digesting different varieties of grass between 65 million and 71 million years ago, researchers reported Friday in the journal. Science. The earliest grass fossils ever found were about 55 million years old -- from the post-dinosaur era.
- **First well-preserved early mosasaur found in North America (Texas)** – Amateur fossil hunter Van Turner felt certain he found something important as he combed through turned-up earth at a construction site 16 years ago. Now, scientists finally confirmed that Turner found a prehistoric lizard that lived 92 million years ago and evolved into what some call the “T. Rex of the ocean.” The lizard is an important link in the evolution of mosasaurs, which lived in the age of dinosaurs and evolved fin-like limbs, is unusual because it shows an earlier version of the mosasaur with tiny feet and hands.

Information from <http://www.cnn.com>

NANCY FOLDEN: For 2006, registration for all sessions at Wild Acres and William Holland will be accepted on or after January 17th. The \$50 non-refundable administrative fee will start the registration process and secure your priority in class selection. We have initiated a single date for all workshops to help with overall workshop planning. The initial deposit has been set at \$50 so that students will not have significant money tied up for a long time for sessions late in the summer and fall.

The balance of the registration fee will be due one month prior to the respective workshop session although full payment will be accepted with the initial registration form. If the full payment is submitted with the registration form, the \$50 administrative fee still applies should cancellation later become necessary.

The postmark date is important so have your registration letter hand-stamped if you want to be sure of being accepted for your first class choice. The postmark date should be no earlier than January 17, 2006. As before, your priority in securing a particular class is based on the postmark date of your registration letter, plus other factors such as whether you are a first-time attendee at the SFMS workshops.

### Wildacres at Little Switzerland, NC

- April ..... Thu., April 13 - Thu., April 20, 2006
- August ..... Mon., Aug. 21 - Sun., Aug. 27, 2006
- Sept ..... Mon., Sept. 18 - Sun., Sept. 24, 2006

### William Holland at Young Harris, GA

- June .....Sun., June 11 - Sat., June 17, 2006
- October ..... Sun., Oct. 8 - Sat. Oct. 14, 2006

Lodge accommodations: \$310 per person (double occupancy), including meals. A limited number of single rooms are available at \$470 per person. Wildacres has no facilities for camping or recreational vehicles. William Holland has campground facilities: \$120 hookup (including 2 persons; \$25 per additional person), \$140 per person for classes. No meals are included but are available from the retreat. Meals: Breakfast \$5, lunch \$6, dinner \$7.

For more information, contact Nancy Folden or visit the SFMS website at <http://www.amfed.org/sfms> or email [sfms@amfed.org](mailto:sfms@amfed.org)



### **DMC program of the SFMS field trip committee An official field trip of Athens Rock and Gem Club 8:30am • Saturday, December 17, 2005 • Diamond Hill Mine, SC**

Assembly Point: Diamond Hill Mine. The Diamond Hill Mine is located near the small town of Antreville, Abbeville County in northwestern South Carolina.

From the north: Exit I-85 at US 178 at Anderson, SC (exit # 21). Drive south on US 178 for approx. 1 mile and then bear right onto SR 28. Follow SR 28 south approx. 20 miles to Antreville. Upon entering Antreville you will see Crawford's Store on the left. Drive past the store and then watch on the right for Emmanuel Baptist Church. Turn right at the church onto SR 284. Drive west on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road ( on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

From the south: Exit I-20 at US 221 (exit # 183) just east of Augusta, Georgia. Drive north on US 221 to McCormick, SC. In McCormick turn north onto SR 28. Continue north on SR 28 toward Antreville (approx. 50 miles). About 2 miles south of Antreville, SR 184 enters SR 28 from the left (west). When you pass SR 184 start watching carefully on the left for Emmanuel Baptist Church. Turn left at the church onto SR 284. Drive west on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road ( on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

Fees: Adults—\$10/day; Children under 16 year of age—\$5/day

Also, upon arrival, each participant will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

Other Essentials: Pick and shovel, rock hammer, chisels, and scratching tools. There is ample water on site for screening and washing specimens. Bring a lunch, plenty of fluids, hat, gloves, and sturdy shoes. Bring rubber boots and a change of cloths if it is going to be a rainy or wet day.

Trip Chairman: Jim Maudsley Phone: (706) 353-1792  
e-mail: jamesm24@charter.net

*Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!*

*MC Program / SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose: To collect field trip information from it's member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.*

## 2006 SFMS Workshop Information Available in the MAGS Library

If you are considering attending one of the 2006 SFMS Workshops at either William Holland or Wild Acres, you can get information and registration forms from the MAGS Library.

## Southeast Federation shows and other events

December 2-4, 2005, Montgomery, AL • Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society • 35th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show • Garrett Coliseum on Federal Drive • Hours, 2nd, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 3rd, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 4th, 11:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. • Contact Jane Barkley at 334.277.2722 or Iris McGehee at 334.262.7275.

December 2-4, 2005, Spring Hill, FL • Withlacoochee Rockhound Gem and Mineral Society • 31st Annual Rockhound Gem and Mineral Show • Solvene American Club, County Line Road • Hours: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. • Contact Jerry Johnson at 352.688.7810. Dealers needed.

December 3, 2005, Auburndale, FL • Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral AND Fossil Society • One Day Rock Gem and Fossil Tailgate Sale and Swap • North Carroll Road, just off US Hwy 92 • Hours: 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. • Contact Marte Dantzman, 863.428.1214 or Jane Davis 813 754-1584 or email stonepainter@gmail.com.

December 9-11, 2005, Norcross, GA • The Georgia Mineral Society • 12th Annual Holiday Show • North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Court • Hours: 9th and 10th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 11th, 12:00 Noon - 5:00 P.M. • Contact Kim Cochran, 770.979.8331; email decembershow@gamineral.org; website <http://www.gamineral.org/december-show.htm>.

December 10-11, 2005, Nashville, TN • Mid-Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society • 25th Annual Earth Treasures Jewelry, Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show • Tennessee State Fairgrounds • Hours: 10th, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.; 11th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. • Contact Mary Sparks, 615.485.0718.

January 20-22, 2006, Largo, FL • Pinellas Geological Society and The Tumblers Youth Club • Largo Cultural Center, Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive • Hours: 20th and 21st, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 A.M.; 22nd, 12:00 Noon - 6:00 P.M.; 22nd, 12:00 Noon - 5:00 P.M. • Contact Hugh Scheffield, 727.894.2440.

February 4-5, 2006, Panama City, FL • Panama City Gem and Mineral Society • 15th Annual Show • 15th Street and Sherman Avenue, Bay County Fairgrounds, American Legion Building • Hours: 4th, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.; 5TH, 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. • Contact Al Zar, 850.763.0109 or email Aquezpie@aol.com.

### A Report on the Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society, Gulfport, Mississippi

BILLY E WRIGHT, NOVEMBER ISSUE OF LODESTAR: We are all alive, many are displaced at this time, due to the total loss of their homes and I do mean total loss . . .

At our last meeting, we only had 10 members that could attend and they were all suffering from the dreaded "lack of rock dust syndrome" caused by the loss of the society's two Genies, 2 Graves faceters, two dop wax pots, 2 saws (4-inch and 7-inch), a flat lap, and all of the many accessories used to conduct our monthly workshop (which is open to the public and is free of charge).

As it that wasn't enough, the individual membership lost nine Genies, three Pixies, two Lortone 8 units, five faceting machines (two Graves, one Fac-ett, once Ultra Tec and one Ray Tech), three foredom machines, one vacuum casting machine, one centrifugal caster, once complete wax mold making setup and wax injector, eight 7-inch saws, three 4-inch saws, one 10-inch combination saw, three burn out ovens, and an unknown number of accessories.

One has only to look around their own workshop and think how they would feel if they lost it all. It is totally devastating. Yet we are alive and will rebuild.

If any of our rockhound friend or if you know someone that could help us out with used, rebuilt, or even new equipment and accessories, please call me at 1.228.863.6312 or ship to: Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society, c/o Billy E. Wood, Co-Founder and Current President, 616 N. Wright Avenue, Long Beach, MS 39560.

### October 2005 board meeting notes

**Susan Thom, MAGS Secretary:** The MAGS board of directors meeting met on October 6, 2005 at the Blue Plate Cafe, 5469 Poplar Avenue, presided by W.C. McDaniel who opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Mike Baldwin, James Butchko, Melba Cole, Nancy Folden, Idajean Jordan, W.C. and Cornelia McDaniel, Terri and Park Noyes, Raynee Randolph, Susan Thom, and Lou White. (1) Treasurer - treasurer's report; (2) Field Trips - October--Vulcan Quarry. Meet near Parsons, sign waiver form, and must be out by noon; it's a working mine. (3) Adult Program - October--gemstones and minerals of the Bible by Dr. Joe Young. November--Tennessee state geologist, Dr. Marvin Berwin. December--Christmas party. (4) Youth Program - In September, Charlie Thomas, Serena Enzerink and Katey Jo Henry received apache tears as contest winners. October--Park Noyes will present a pre-history program. November--youth Christmas party. December--youth will join adults at Christmas party potluck. (5) Library - Nancy will be out of town for meeting. She needs someone to assist in library. Doris Jones donated books to club. (6) Web/Editor - Southeast Federation Field trip--Oct. 8 in Graves Mountain. (7) Sunshine Report - Long time member George Fulghum passed away. Roger Van Cleef is getting around. He visited Pink Palace Crafts Fair. (8) Membership - One new application was presented and approved--Rita M. Lander. (9) Rock swap/Fish Fry--October 15th, Alan & Alishia Parks' home in Collierville, 10 am-2 pm, bring a box of rocks for gem dig. (10) Show -First committee meeting was September 8th, next meeting October 13. Only a few remaining financial records to be reconciled. Two contracts have come in for upcoming show. (11) Old Business - On last Field trip, members walked down Mississippi River south of Richardson Landing. It was hot! Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

### October 2005 membership meeting notes

**Susan Thom:** The MAGS membership meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on October 14, 2005, presided by W.C. McDaniel. There were 49 members and 19 visitors--Marcy and Alexa Ouellette; Glenn Cleveland; David, Mary Ann and Murrell Weaver; Anne, Zoe and Simon Laulederkind; Kathleen Riley; Virginia Graham; Johnny Dilliard; Cherry, Zack, Hannah and Emily Molinaro; Parker Bradford; David Carter; and Patricia Allen. (1) October 15--Rock Swap and Fish Fry at the Parks' home. Last rock swap of the year. (2) November 13--Sunday afternoon-Field trip to Memphis Stone and Gravel (3) December 9--Christmas Party! 4) No Field trip to Black Rock this year. (5) Two new events in 1st quarter 2006--Membership auction and Display contest (6) Field trip--Parsons, TN in Vulcan Quarry (400 million year old ocean environment). Meet 8 am at Hardee's, sign waiver (7) Library closed--no key for cabinets (8) Program--Dr. Joe Young program included specimens and maps to illustrate Gemstones and Minerals of the Bible. (9) There were several displays. (10) Theme Display--Geodes (Geode door prizes given to Dana Griffin and Sherri Baldwin). Meeting adjourned @ 8:35 p.m.

## MAGS youth notes

### Youth Resources

LEONA AND HUGH SHEFFIELD, SFMS YOUTH RESOURCES CHAIRMEN, NOVEMBER 2006 LODESTAR: Now is the time for our youth to begin to consider participating in the Junior of the Year contest for 2006. The application and cover sheet together with explanations, proofs, letters, etc. must be returned to us by November 10, 2006.

The points are tallied and a winner is declared before the end of the year. The winner will receive a plaque and a very nice mineral or fossil specimen as a prize. This is a very prestigious individual award and we hope that many youth will consider it a challenge and enjoy acquiring points in order to win. Adult help is

acceptable and encouraged. Any junior member (ages 8-18) of MAGS is eligible to participate. The activities listed in the application must take place between November 1, 2005 and October 31, 2006. This time period has been established in order for the award to be given in the same year in which it has been achieved at the SFMS Annual Banquet.

MAGS youth, if you need an application and tally sheets, please contact Raynee Randolph, Sherida Helms, Mike Baldwin or WC McDaniel. Nancy Folden also has the forms in the MAGS Library.

# Machu Picchu <<continued from page one<<

Hikers, tourists, and the early explorers describe similar emotions as they climb their way through the Inca Trail. Many call the experience magical. Glancing out from the Funerary Rock Hut on all the temples, fields, terraces, and baths seems to take you to another time. Blending in with the hillside itself, many say the area creates a seamless and elegant green paradise.

## Funerary Rock Hut



One of the most photogenic spots at Machu Picchu can be experienced by hiking to the Funerary Rock Hut. Believed to be the place where Incan nobility were mummified, this vantage point offers a dramatic view of the whole complex.

At the end of the day a small herd of llamas and alpacas enter Machu Picchu from the terraces near the Funerary Rock Hut and graze on the grass, keeping it efficiently mowed. From here you can also see the start of the Inca Trail, a well developed road that connects Cusco with Machu Picchu.

The hike up the long rigid stairs that lead to the Funerary Rock Hut is tiresome but well worth the effort. Many people choose to hike this arduous trail to the hut and are rewarded by spectacular views that will not soon be forgotten.

From here you can trek back down the stairs and enter the Royal Tomb, where Incan Kings were mummified.

## Sacred Rock



Across the Central Plaza and at the far end of Machu Picchu is the Sacred Rock, an object common to most every Inca village. Before a village could be erected, a sacred stone must be dedicated to the site. The Sacred Stone of Machu Picchu sits at the base of Huayna Picchu (little peak), from where you can take a one-hour climb to the top for another excellent view of the entire valley. Hikers can sign in at the Gatekeeper's shack as proof they tackled the steep climb up Huayna Picchu.

If visiting Machu Picchu for only a day most likely there won't be enough time to explore the ancient grounds and hike this awe-inspiring mountain (a common postcard picture). Therefore it's a great idea to plan on



absorbing the majestic beauty of the ruins for at least a couple of days. Many visitors make hiking Huayna Picchu their final activity of exploration, leaving them with an unforgettable image and life-long memories. A perfect way to end an unforgettable journey.

REFERENCE: "Destination: Machu Picchu"; <http://www.peru-machu-picchu.com/>; 18 November 2005. Information in this article and pictures on page one are used under the provisions of the Fair Use Act of 1976 for educational purposes.

# MAGS 2005 Display Winners

January ..... Sherri Baldwin (Adult Winner).....Renee South (Youth Winner)  
 February. .... No displays for the adults.....Sabrina Enzerink (Youth Winner)  
 March ..... Gerald May (Adult Winner).....Karen Schaeffer (Youth Winner)  
 April..... Steve Hajdu (Adult Winner) .....Renee South (Youth Winner)  
 May..... Sherri Baldwin (Adult Winner).....Renee South (Youth Winner)  
 June..... Mike Cannito (Adult Winner) .....Hunter Hill (Youth Winner)  
 July..... Lou White (Adult Winner) .....No displays for the youth  
 August ..... Rock swap – no displays  
 September ..... Winners not recorded. Did you win or know who won? If so, let W.C. know.  
 October..... Steve Hajdu (Adult Winner) .....No displays for the youth  
 November ..... Carolyn Lebanon (Adult Winner) .....Danielle Schaeffer and Lauren Schaeffer (Youth Winners)  
 December ..... Christmas party – no displays

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AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor 7th–95 • Small Bulletin Honorable Mention–04  
 Adult Article 10th–04 • Junior Article 3rd–98; 8th–03 • Special Pub 4th–03

DUES:  
 Family–\$20.00  
 Single–\$16.00  
 Junior–\$8.00



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

MAGS Rockhound News  
 367 North Main Street  
 Collierville, TN 38017

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meeting  
**December 1**

Membership Meeting  
**December 9**

DMC Field Trip  
**December 17**

No MAGS Field Trip  
**in December**

Dues Are Due  
**January 1**

