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MID-TENN GEMERS

Newsletter of The

Middle Tennessee
Gem and Mineral
Society, Inc

P.O.Box 1256
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37133-1256

Affiliated with:
SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL
SOCIETIES, INC.
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES , INC.

VOLUME 24 NUMBER 6
June 2002

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

SOCIETY DIRECTORY 2002

OFFICERS

President	Lewis Elrod	615 893-8270
1st Vice President	Bob King	615 754-0095
2nd Vice President/Editor	Steve Henegar	615 896-1472
Secretary	Paula Vance	931 393-2491
Treasurer	Will Smith	615 366-1022

DIRECTORS

Past President	Marty Hart	615 331-2690
One Year	Anna Elrod	615 893-8270
Two Year	Max Grimes	931 393-2491
Three Year		

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Show	Will Smith	615 366-1022
Dealer	Steve Henegar	615 896-1472
	Alf Futtrell	615 333-6205
Club Booth	French Gothard	615 872-0476
Show Publicity	Will Smith	615 366-1022
	LaVelle Smith	615 597-4571
Educational Displays	Paula Vance	931 393-2491
Facilities	Max Grimes	615 393-2491
Silent Auction	Joe Powell	615 883-4260
Ticket Booth	Barbara Ellis	615 893-2061
Library	Steve Henegar	615 896-1472
Education	Tina King	615 754-0095
Hospitality	Ann Buckner	931 358-3970
	Ruth Gothard	615 872-0476

MEETINGS

Third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Farm Bureau Building at 818 S. Church St. in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, except for the June picnic. Meeting dates are on the inside back cover.

E-Mail Address: steve.henegar@nashville.com

Internet Web Page: <http://www.mtgms.org>

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

REGULAR MEETING DATES 2001

January 17, 2002	July 18, 2002
February 21, 2002	August 15, 2002
March 21, 2002	September 19, 2002
April 18, 2002	October 17, 2002
May 16, 2002	November 21, 2002
June 20, 2002	December 19, 2002

SPECIAL EVENTS 2002

Annual Picnic	June 20, 2002
Annual Earth Treasures Show	December 13-14, 2002
Christmas Party	December 19, 2002

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will be scheduled and announced in the bulletin and at meetings. See or call a member for further information.

MEMBERSHIP

The MTG&MS, Inc. is a non-profit educational society dedicated to the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences. We are open to the public for the education of all who wish to attend. Society membership is open to persons interested in the earth sciences. Applications are available on request from members.

DUES

Dues are \$12.00 for the first person of each household and \$2.00 for each additional family member. Dues are payable January 1st and are prorated in April, July and October.

Send dues to : **Will H. Smith**
5304 Bellecrest Drive
Antioch, TN 37013

SOCIETY MAILING ADDRESS

Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1256
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37133-1256

A SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
INC. & AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL
SOCIETIES Affiliate



Swap and Shop

For Sale: Rock Rascal Model P 6" Lapidary Arbor, New, \$100. Alumina Polish, \$3/lb, June Miller (931) 598-9740.

For Sale: Lapidary equipment and supplies available. George Jones, (615) 333-3781.

For Sale: Raytech-Shaw faceting machine, 11 laps and several dops - \$750. Kenneth Swann, (931) 857-3435.

Swap and Shop is for Club members and friends of the Club to advertise goods and services for sale or swap. Want ads are also accepted.

History Lesson 101

When the white man discovered this country, Indians were running it...there were no taxes. No debts, and the women did most of the work. All the men did was hunt and fish as much as they wanted, whenever they wanted!

Now the real kicker. The white man was dumb enough to think he could improve on a system like that!!!!

From *Golden Spike News* 11/01
via *Strata Gem* 6/02

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 24 Number 6

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MTG&MS

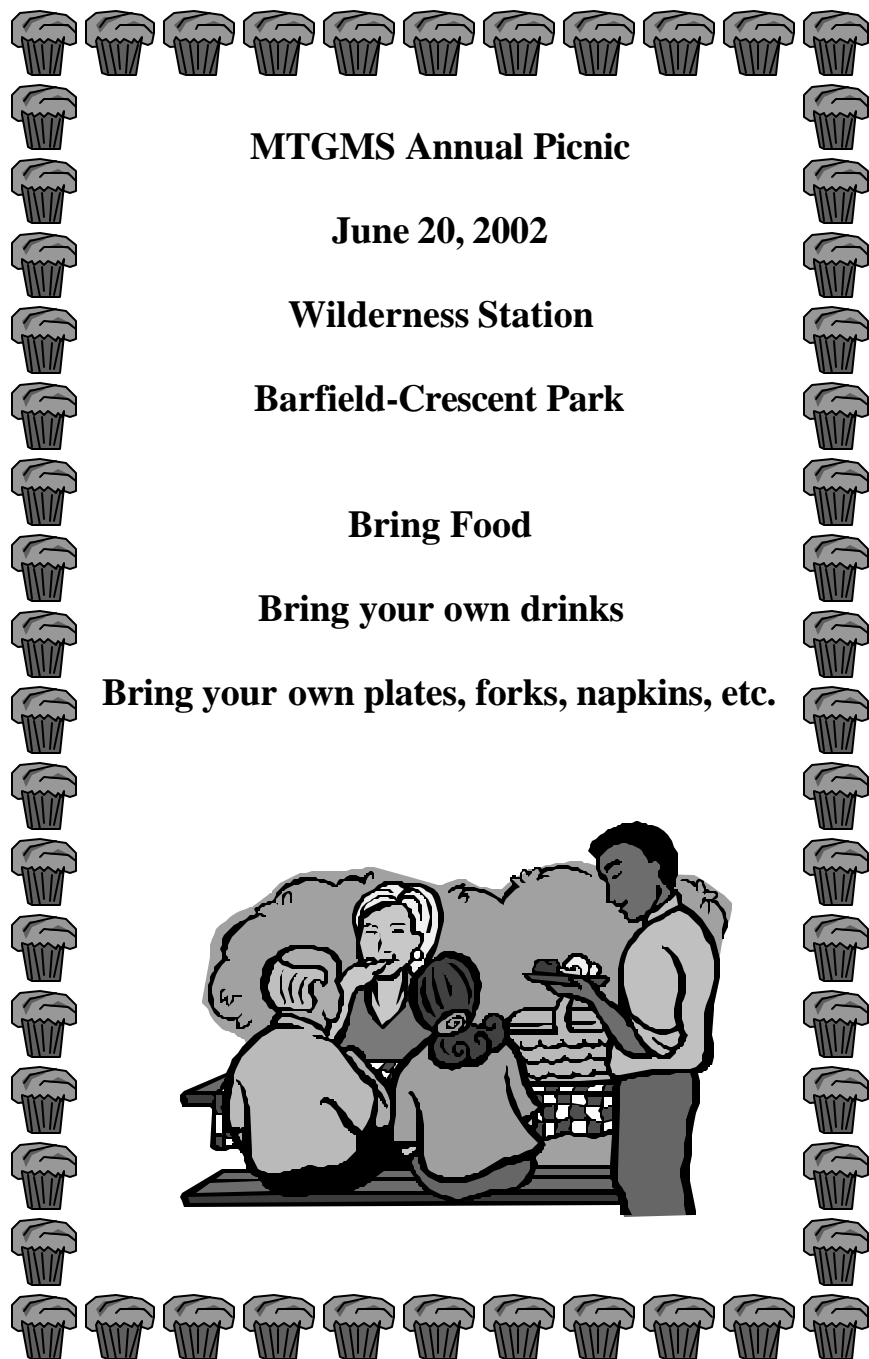
NEXT MEETING: JUNE 20, 2002

PLACE: BARFIELD-CRESENT PARK
WILDERNESS STATION
MURFREESBORO, TN

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PROGRAM: PICNIC
BRING FOOD!!!
BRING SHOW AND TELL
ITEMS

BOARD MEETING: NO BOARD MEETING



MTGMS Annual Picnic

June 20, 2002

Wilderness Station

Barfield-Crescent Park

Bring Food

Bring your own drinks

Bring your own plates, forks, napkins, etc.

Upcoming Events

- June 12-15 Southern Appalachian Mineral Society
Second SFMS Board Meeting
Asheville, NC
- July 18-21 AFMS/NFMS Convention and Show**
Host: Port Townsend Rock Club
Port Townsend, WA
Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Port Townsend, WA
- August 1-4 Bancroft Rockhound Gemboree
North Hastings Community Center, Bancroft, Ontario
- August 9-11 Colorado Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies
Rodeo Grounds, Buena Vista, CO
- August 16-18 Greater St Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs
Greensfelder Recreation Complex, St Louis, MO
- August 30-September 2
Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society
Whitmire Activity Building, Hendersonville, NC
- August 31 Hendersonville Gem & Mineral Society
Annual Micromount Symposium
Salvation Army Building, Hendersonville, NC
- September 7 Hellgate Mineral Society
Ruby's Inn & Convention Center, Missoula, MT
- September 13-15 Greater Denver Area Gem & Mineral Council
Denver Merchandise Mart, Denver, CO
- October 18-20 Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society
Kerbela Temple, Knoxville, TN
- December 14-15 Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society**
Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville, TN

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polished. Some rocks (for example Fairburns and Superiors) are often left natural, and may bring the best price if kept in that condition.

by **Erik Myging**; from *CHIPS*, 9/01 via *The Rock Collector*, 5/02

To Cut or Not to Cut?

Many pieces of rock will tell you how to prepare them for display or sale. Some should be tumbled, others sliced up or cut once, and still others domed or left untouched. Making the right decision will increase the rock's beauty and value.

Most rocks have been chipped by nature or people and these windows often indicate what's inside. I usually cut off the largest or most promising window and then keep cutting until a face (the surface left on the rock by the last cut) remains that is attractive, the whole pattern and unfractured. If the chipped-off area is good enough, grinding it to a smooth, shiny surface will also leave you with a fine specimen. My philosophy is to do as little to the rock as possible, as there is no going back after. The next person can cut it up if they want. Another philosophy is to slice up rocks because more surfaces are exposed and the buyer can see what they're getting for cabs or display.

Unchipped rocks are handled in different ways, but you should always begin by checking for fractures with a close surface inspection and candling. Some cutters like to expose as big a surface as possible, but these long, broad cuts often reveal fractures and the rock's value could decrease significantly. Fractures usually travel the shortest distance through a whole nodule, so cutting them like a loaf of bread often exposes less fractures. Botryoidal (bubbly or grape-like) agate sometimes indicates underlying plumes, sagenite, aragonite, etc. and should be cut with the bubbles at the top of the rock, as it is put into the vice. Orienting, before slicing plumes and sagenites, can be helped by magnification, test cuts and handling. Many inclusions are best displayed back-lit, so slicing up these rocks is recommended.

River, beach or glacial rocks are well rounded and are perfect for tumbling, although larger ones can be sliced or have a small area

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Picnic Location for June Meeting

The picnic this year will be held at the new Murfreesboro Barfield-Crescent City Park. It will be in the Wilderness Station. This is a lighted, air conditioned building with rest rooms

Directions to the park are as follows:

Traveling East on I24 take exit 81 south toward Shelbyville. Continue for 1.7 miles to the fourth red light and turn right on Barfield-Crescent Road. (There is a Phillips 66 station on the right at the light at the corner). Drive 0.8 miles on Barfield-Crescent Road. Turn left into the Barfield-Crescent Park. Continue 0.3 mile to the first street on the right and turn right. Continue for approximately 75 feet to a stop sign. Turn left at the stop sign and continue 0.5 mile to the Wilderness Center, which is a building on the right. Enter the parking lot, which has adequate spaces, and come in the front door of the building. The Wilderness Station is at the rear of the park behind the Frisbee golf course and past the picnic pavilions.

For anyone who goes to the Farm Bureau building as a reference point: Continue south towards Shelbyville for 1.9 miles to the overpass above Interstate 24. The above directions then apply.

Be sure to bring a table cover if desired, table ware, plates, drinks, etc. You will also need to bring a covered dish (food) sufficient to supply your family and some to share with others and plenty of extra for the newsletter editor. There are many good cooks in our group and we always have a feast at our summer picnic. Bring hobby items you have been working on for show and tell.



Now The News!!!

BOARD MEETING - Thursday, May 16, 2002

Meeting was called to order by Lewis at 6:40 p.m. Seven board members were in attendance. Lewis first announced the Grimes Scholarship recipient for 2002, to Diane A. Rogers. Tom Malone has an inoperable brain tumor - he is one of our earliest members. Linda Swann is having surgery tomorrow.

New member Bonnie Waggoner of Alexandria, TN was approved. Welcome, Bonnie. Lewis then told us of a display trailer of sorts that he saw at his last show. Possibilities for a permanent type traveling display trailer were discussed.. Lewis stated that our club should be in competition for the All American Club award due to all the work we do.

Max brought up the subject mentioned in the March meeting about possibly changing meeting days/times. Lewis clarified the discussion as meetings were meant to be additional, not in place of the regular meeting. Bill Buckner stated the need for some tumbled stones, as he gives away many of them at each demonstration he conducts. Anna moved and Will seconded that the club should be providing all the stones used in talks/lectures/demonstrations etc. Motion passed unanimously. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on unfamiliar computer so please forgive any booboos, Paula Vance, Secretary

GENERAL MEETING - Thursday, May 16, 2002

Lewis opened the meeting at 7:35 by announcing the club will be purchasing stones in large batches to cover demonstrations etc as

carry buckets of rocks.

Tools are important. Take what you will need on the particular dig. A good pair of safety goggles is a good addition to your tool kit. Remember the weight of extra tools limits how much we can bring home.

When collecting on uneven terrain a good staff or walking stick makes sense for us older folks.

Let's use good sense. Keep safe and leave the site as clean or cleaner than we found it. It is also a good idea to have some first aid materials along. You may get a scratch or two and it may be a while before you get back to your vehicle. Be careful and safe and have a great time.

From *Lodestar* 5/02

Malachite Lovers Beware

To those of you who have heard of soaking your polished cab in vinegar to remove epoxy, take heed. You could end up with a pretty pile of powder. Having recently polished two cabs of malachite, I put them in vinegar to remove a little epoxy, noticing a couple of hours later that the stones didn't look as bright (and they weren't). So I took a gander at ye olde rock book and sure enough, Malachite is copper carbonate ($\text{CuCO}_3(\text{OH}_2)$), which, as any self-respecting rockhound knows, is subject to a corrosive effect, caused by the acid (vinegar) even though it is weak. Carbonate minerals, such as dolomite ($\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)$) or calcite (CaCO_3) are attacked by acids and the carbonate (CO_3) is eaten away leaving a pile of mud where your gem was hours before. So, before you clean that stone, check to see if it's attacked by what you're soaking it in, or you may not get to wear it.

From *Canadian Rockhound*, 10/78 via *The Rock Collector*, 5/02



Field Trip Safety

By Bill Buckner, SFMS Safety Chair

The first safety concern on field trips is to make sure we have permission to look for and collect rocks on the land where we are going. We also need to know if there are limitations on what we can legally collect. We may look deeper into this at another time.

There are many other safety concerns that we will look at briefly. They are varied but all are important.

We need to be sure to carry sufficient water. Water is needed to keep our bodies healthy and stave off the danger of dehydration. Especially think about the midday temperature and the need for extra water if it will be hot.

If the site requires walking a great distance we will probably need to take along some food to keep our strength up. Even on short trips healthy snacks can help to keep our energy up.

Shoes are a concern. Good high top walking shoes with steel toes are a requirement at several sites where I have dug. Even if not required it makes good sense to protect our feet.

Clothes are also a safety concern. We do not need to get too hot or too cold. Dress for the weather conditions. Consider layers to take into account the possibility of unexpected changes. A good pair of jeans can be helpful in briars and brush and among snakes, ticks and mosquitoes. A light weight rain slicker is a good investment.

What we use to transport our keepers back to our cars is also a safety concern. A good backpack makes sense because it helps with our balance and is much easier on our bodies than trying to

Bill Buckner does. Visitors Norman and Eloise Kendrick from Winchester were introduced. Lewis told the group of a fossil collection showing from May to September at the Falls of Ohio Park in Clarksville, Indiana. It is about 150 miles each way.

Steve White explained the directions provided for the field trip to his place this Saturday. Lewis then announced Tom Malone's illness. He resides in Jamestown. Cameron Byler was going to Tom Kurras' sale this weekend. Marty was not present this evening as he has been working on crisis situations at work.

Stamp Fund was conducted, with items donated by the following generous persons: Bill Buckner, Paula to the Max, Joe Powell, Steve White, and Mary Clyde Sparks. Thank you all. Will Smith then gave a very interesting short talk on agates and how the various formations come to be, as Man on the Rockpile. He had several beautiful specimens to demonstrate the types. He passed the crystal to Mark Greenbaum for the July meeting. Bob King program chair then took over the floor to coordinate demonstrations to be done by Bill, Mary Clyde, and Woody.

DON'T FORGET THE JUNE MEETING IS OUR PICNIC AT BARFIELD PARK!

Respectfully submitted, Paula Vance - Secretary with a borrowed computer

* * * * *

What is the Simplest Gem & What is the Most Complex?

The Diamond is the simplest gem - the chemical composition being all of carbon and crystallized isometrically. Tourmaline is the most complex. It is said that tourmaline's chemistry is more like a doctor's prescription than the makings of a respectable material.

From Rockhound Rumbings 9/00 via Strata Gem 6/02

Remembering by Will Smith, CM

In life we have certain people who impact our life at work, church, community or clubs. For me three brothers like so many of our club members impacted what has become a wonderful hobby.

About 15 years ago I was told by someone at a Franklin N.C. Ruby Mine that some beautiful agate cutting material existed in Tennessee and that a Gem Club would hold a December show in Murfreesboro where I could find more information.

I found that show in a Murfreesboro stock bar, paid my entrance fee, and walked into a room with many display boxes full of beautiful agate cabs.

One display was interesting since it had slices of agate with light coming from behind showing beautiful colors. So beautiful, I could not believe this could be in Tennessee. Nothing I had read indicated Tennessee had anything like what I was seeing.

Three men were standing around the display and explained it was Tennessee Agate that had a rainbow effect. I had never seen anything like it. I learned the three men were the Owens Brothers, Virgil, Bill, and Chunky. Each seemed to be so interesting and willing to share their knowledge and experiences with me, a newcomer.

Over the years of being a member of MTGMS, this was always true. Virgil was good at cutting and carving and even did some articles in *Rock & Gem*. Bill was a great faceter and liked to use the old methods of cutting/polishing. Chunky was just god, or maybe he was great, always friendly and ready to talk about any subject. All were Tennessee Tech engineers who were at Tech with my Father.

Chunky was the last of the brothers and he too had to go to that better place where Paint Rock Agate is found laying on top of the ground with perfect color, shape, and polish. All three were very important to our club, and the search and discovery of Paint Rock. They helped promote, locate and cut this wonderful agate for many years.

For all these reasons our Club for years has provided a scholarship each year to Motlow College in their name.

Many of us are at a loss, but we have some great memories, knowledge, and most important good examples shared with us by the Owens Brothers. God has blessed our Club through these three individuals and I know they are now being rewarded for their good will on earth. What can be better than to remember?

* * * * *

Water

Approximately 70% of the earth's surface is covered with water. However, only 1% is available for drinking water. Oceans 97.24%, Polar Ice, Glaciers 2.15%, Ground Water 0.615%, Lakes 0.017%, Atmosphere 0.0001%, Rivers 0.00001%

How much Water is Used:

Taking a bath or shower, 15-25 gallons per day; Washing dishes, 15-50 gallons per day; Cooking, 10 gallons per day; Drinking, 0.5 gallons per day; Washing the car, 100 gallons per time; Flushing the toilet, 4-7 gallons per day;

Information from Central Utah Water Conservancy District. Utah, the second driest state, having only 13 inches average precipitation.

From *THE LITHNICS* 4/00 via *Strata Gem* 6/02