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Murfreesboro, TN 37129-1209

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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 8
August 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 14-15, 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: Rough Rock \$1.00/lb - 100 lbs. for \$85.00. Your pick, Jasper, Agates, Tampa Bay Coral etc. June Miller (931) 598-9740.

For Sale: 6" Saws \$175-\$225, 8" Saw \$250.00 (like new w/vise), 18 lb Tumbler \$75, Cab makers. Cab Mate, Folsom & Dremel tools, sanding belts & disk, tumbling grit & polish, sphere machines, grinding wheels, welding torches, buffers, flat lap machines, 10" & 15" vibrating lap and a whole lot more at low prices. Call for info. George Jones (615)333-3781) 5025 Franklin Rd, email georgejones@comcast.net

For Sale: 27" Vibrolap good for bookends, large geodes, slabs, etc. A-1 condition. George Jones (615)333-3781. Email georgejones@comcast.net

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.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 24 Number 8

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MTG&MS

NEXT MEETING: **AUGUST 15 2002**

PLACE: **FARM BUREAU**
818 SOUTH CHURCH STREET
MURFREESBORO, TN

TIME: **7:30 P.M.**

PROGRAM: **BOB'S CHOICE**

BOARD MEETING: **6:30 P.M.**

Presidents Article

This has been an eventful month. I was due to leave for Port Townsend, Washington on July 16th but was in the hospital having some surgery instead on that date. I was able to attend the MTG&MS meeting in July due to this.

I have always been proud of our group but never more than I was upon arrival at the meeting. I had gotten a call from our speaker informing me that he would not be able to give the July program. I got busy and put together a slide program for the night. When I got to the Farm Bureau building I found that Will Smith and Paula Vance had also gotten the word and each had a program ready for the night. I sat back and let these two dedicated rock-hounds "have at it" and a great job they did. The program was really good and you missed a great time if you were not there.

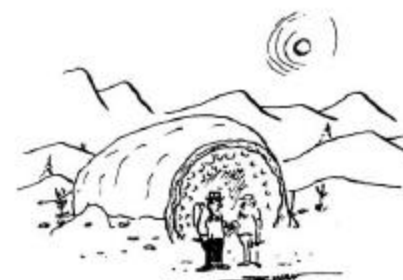
As I said, I have always been proud of all of you and never more than that night. To have so many people jump into the breach and get a program ready on such short notice was wonderful.

Now to other matters! In addition to the above we can be very proud of the job that is being done at the Donelson Senior Citizens Center. This program has enhanced the lives of a number of our seniors already and will do so for many more in the coming years. We are working toward doubling the space available in Donelson. We will need your help in finishing up the room and getting it ready for new shop. In addition we are looking into adding a program at the Tullahoma Senior Citizens Center in the near future.

I have just talked to the manager of the Boys and Girls Club in Murfreesboro. I told her of our group and what we do. She was impressed and invited me to come to the club to view their building and to discuss our club in more detail. We have a tentative invitation to use their space for a mid-summer gem show if we

Upcoming Events

- 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
- September 28-29 Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society
Hiddenite Center, Hiddenite, NC
- September 28-29 Oshkosh Earth Science Club
Winnebago County Fairgrounds, Oshkosh, WI
- October 5-6 Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society
Morocco Temple, Jacksonville, FL
- October 11-13 Big Sur Jade Festival
Pacific Valley School, Big Sur, CA
- October 18-20 Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society
Kerbela Temple, Knoxville, TN
- December 14-15 Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society
Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville, TN**



"This map says there's supposed to
be geodes around here."

via Gneiss Times 6/02

to our field of interest, one with which we can train our new members, and re-educate our established members in safety, in order to keep us all healthy and injury-free.

In the past 30 years, a great many excellent safety articles have been published in the various club and federation newsletters, many of the more recent of which are now available on the AFMS web site. In addition to reviewing these articles and National Safety Manuals and web sites for appropriate data to add to the AFMS Safety Manual, it is also important to obtain input from the members of the Clubs on things that they would like to be added to or improved in the Manual. The more input, the better the final product, and the better we can all do to keep our members healthy and safe. Please solicit input from your members, field trip chairmen, shop instructors and others who provide safety training in your club, and forward it to your Federation Safety Chairperson for consideration. (Editors Note: our SFMS Safety Chairperson is none other than our own Bill Buckner).

Some suggestions already submitted are to make the Manual loose leaf and 8-1/2 x 11 to make changes easier and to have small pocket versions with only the appropriate sections for field trips or shop safety, etc. How about adding some of those great cartoons that have appeared in the EFMLS newsletters over the years to spice up the Manual? Add safe practice lists as an appendix that can be laminated and placed in the shops? Perhaps the addition of lesson plans for the instructors would be helpful? What are your thoughts?

Have a safe and wonderful holiday and New Year's Season.

Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chair
EFMLS News via Arrowhead News, December 2001

wish and also possible space for a shop in this area. I will call on her within the next few days and give a report at the August meeting.

Again, I am really proud of all of you. You are a great group of people and I am glad to know you.

Lewis F. Elrod, CFE, President

Ask and Ye Shall Receive

A woman received a phone call that her daughter was very sick with a fever. She left work and stopped by the pharmacy for some medication for her daughter. She returned to her car to find she had locked her keys inside. She had to get home to her sick daughter, and didn't know what to do.

She called her home to the baby sitter, and was told her daughter was getting worse. She said, "You might find a coat hanger and use that to open the door." The woman found an old rusty coat hanger on the ground, as if someone else had locked their keys in their car. Then she looked at the hanger and said, "I don't know how to use this." She bowed her head and asked God for help.

An old rusty car pulled up, driven by a dirty, greasy, bearded man with a biker skull rag on his head. The woman thought, "Great God. This is what you sent to help me?" But she was desperate, and thankful. The man got out of his car and asked if he could help. She said, "Yes, my daughter is very sick. I must get home to her. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car." He said, "SURE." He walked over to the car and in seconds the car was opened. She hugged the man and through her tears she said, "THANK YOU SO MUCH...You are a very nice man." The man replied, "Lady, I ain't a nice man. I just got out of prison for car theft." The woman hugged the man again and cried out loud..."THANK YOU GOD FOR SENDING ME A PROFESSIONAL!"

Teds tidbits by Ted Robles, The Mountain Gem, May, 2002

**Rock and Tool Sale
Chunky Owens Estate**

Saturday August 17, 2002

**Ken Swann
430 Normandy-Tullahoma Highway
Normandy, Tennessee
(931) 857-3435**

8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Ken Swann will be conducting a rock and tool sale for the estate of former club member Chunky Owens. Included in the sale is about 950 pounds of Paint Rock Agate priced from \$5 to \$10 per pound, a Loritone 14" completely reworked drop saw with an almost new Black Panther blade, at 10" flat lap, three table top display cases, some casting materials, a small kiln, various hand tools and possibly a trim saw.

You may want to bring some rocks of your own to trade as Ken may have some rocks of his own he is willing to trade. This would also be a good opportunity to visit Ken's excellent museum.

Directions: From behind the Tullahoma K-Mart at the overpass with the railroad on the right, go 3.6 miles to the driveway on the left. Ken and Linda's house sits off the road across a creek.

From the 4-way stop in Normandy go toward Tullahoma 1.6 miles. The driveway will be on the right.

finding all those rocks in the first place. Also, remembering all the places we went to hunt rocks and the people we met in our travels. Those are joys to cherish and when someone asks where a rock came from, it is great to relive that time again.

Many come bearing gifts like fresh garden tomatoes, squash and corn this time of year, or they stop at the bakery enroute and bring me a goodie. The fellowship is wonderful and I am most appreciative of everyone's kindness. There are many more joys than perils for me while hunting rock in my backyard!!!

* * * * *

Safety First

The AFMS has been blessed by a SAFETY MANUAL that has stood the test of time for over 30 years, because it was so well written. Like all time tested documents, it needs to be brought into the twenty-first century by revision of existing chapters with new data and procedures, and by the addition of some new chapters that deal with items touched upon in many of the different chapters, but which should also be considered in their own right, like hand and power tools.

I have accepted the task of chairing an AFMS SAFETY MANUAL COMMITTEE, that includes the Safety Chairpersons of the other Federations, to investigate a Safety Manual Revision. Some discussion in the past on revising the manual, or even having a manual, considered the liability that the AFMS could shoulder if someone was hurt. It was suggested that maybe it would be wise to use a National Safety Manual, such as the Red Cross's. A preliminary investigation of some of the National Safety Manuals finds a lot of very good information, but many of the things we do as rock hounds are not included and much of the content is unrelated to our hobby. In order to provide proper training in field trip, shop, and rock show safety, we must have a manual tailored

Joys and Perils of Hunting Rocks In My Backyard

June Bonafield Miller, CM

Most of you know that Bob was an avid rockhound for over 55 years and our backyard bears witness to that fact. The joy of getting out with members of the rock clubs he belonged to was his main goal, but he also managed to acquire tons of material in his travels all over the US, Mexico, and Caribbean areas—plus Canada to boot.

When he passed away three years ago, I told the various rock clubs to plan on field trips to the backyard. Many took advantage of this, but there still remains tons of material out there. Having reduced the price now that many have “high-graded”, I find some of the more knowledgeable rockhounds are coming back to look some more.

I always warn them to look for snakes as we have killed some rattlers and copperheads—usually in August when they say snakes move. That is a peril that I warn everyone about. The other peril is that they will pick out more than they can carry home! People have left buckets marked with their name to “save” for later. Also—as all our eyes are bigger than our pocketbooks, they want to save until they can afford what they picked out.

One of the joys I get is having the companionship of rockhounds here on site and I don't have to get out to visit them. Many I have known for years and years and it is a joy to have them come. While they are hunting, I will spot a rock that I can't part with—like the Idaho opal specimen I found the other day—everyone had overlooked it and there it is shown for me to see once more. Needless to say, it went into my little stash of “keepers”.

It is always a fond memory to remember the joy Bob and I had

MTGMS Board Meeting July 18, 2002

Meeting was called to order by Lewis at 6:50 p.m. Quorum was present. Will stated Ken and he had met with the Coffee County Senior Citizen Center in Tullahoma, and the director there expressed interest in a Lapidary Class like that at Donelson. Will is writing a formal proposal to be approved by board members and sent to her as soon as possible. Bill Buckner moved that the project be officially initiated with a \$3000 cap for initial set-up. Anna and Max seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Will then stated that our accommodations at Donelson are quite cramped and we need larger space; a room previously unavailable will become available. Max moved and Bill seconded a motion to contact the Donelson director and officially request that space; motion was approved unanimously.

Marty announced that a knapper will be available for this year's show to demonstrate the art if space can be made available. Space will be made available and the knapper will be welcomed.

Bill brought in several items documenting his activities on behalf of the club, to begin an archive/scrapbook system. Lewis was approved to order up to \$400 worth of stones/bellcaps/coils/cords etc to be used in educational activities. Marty is making up a tri-fold type handout pamphlet for use in advertising.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Paula Vance - Secretary

MTGMS General Meeting - July 18, 2002

Lewis opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. by first announcing the possible change of rooms at Donelson for the lapidary classes - a room with WINDOWS!!. He then updated the general membership regarding the possibility of a similar lapidary class setup at Coffee County Sr. Citizen Center in Tullahoma, with Will Smith

and Ken Swann investigating the possibilities. Lewis requested that anyone going out into the communities to do educational programs let us know, and the club will be able to provide some supplies for demonstrations. He then presented the information provided by Bill Buckner for the group to see, as examples of archive material needed to set up our scrapbook/archive process. He then announced the promise of a knapper demonstrating his art at the December show, and Marty working on a trifold brochure for advertising/promotion.

As we were missing our editor/stamp fund presenter Steve, Will Smith conducted the stamp fund drawing with items donated by Bill Buckner, Cameron Byler, Paula to the Max, Marty Hart and Allen Wright. Thank you all for your generosity.

Guest (and now new member) Fred Koechlein of Murfreesboro was introduced to the group assembled; Fred likes to hunt sapphires, emeralds and rubies from Carolinas as well as staurolite from Minnesota. New member David Galloway of Murfreesboro was announced as well. Will Smith announced that yes, he will schedule a show committee meeting soon, but he thrives on crises and loves seeing how everyone else copes with his idiosyncrasies. Cameron announced plans for a fluorescent display for the December show.

Mark Greenbaum was our Person on the Rockpile this month, and described himself as a professional jeweler, silversmith, lapidary artist as well as an amateur paleontologist. He recently visited the Cranbrook Museum in the Detroit area, now a fabulous place to visit. He related a past dig he participated in where the infamous mazdasaurus was unearthed. Mark then passed on the Crystal to Woody for next month's Rockpile victim.

Well, our Program chairman was absent, and our featured speaker Richard Gross was unable to attend due to a mix up about dates; therefore Paula and Will got their puny heads together to present a program of sorts. Unbeknownst to them, Richard had also con-

tacted Lewis (supposedly in Port Townsend, WA for the annual big fete) who also scrambled a program up for all. As Lewis was NOT feeling well, Paula and Will convinced him to sit this one out. Paula talked about opals, specifically a relatively new finding of Peruvian Andean opal, showing various shades of green, blue, and pink in rough, tumble polished, freeform and finished pieces. Will then brought out a box of junk - tools of our trade, and discussed the similarities/differences in types of equipment, their functions in relation to the types of stone and desired finished product, and the writer thinks they both did a pretty good bang-up job considering the sources. With that, the meeting was adjourned around 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Paula Vance - Secretary and nonspeaker extraordinaire

* * * * *

It's Nearly Show Time

By Smitty

That's right, only 115 days to our 22nd Gem & Mineral Show. It takes a lot of help from members to pull it off. If you look in the front of this Newsletter you will see a list of the different Committee's and the Chairperson for each. Consider what area you would like to work in and contact the Chairperson or myself to let us know your interest. If we do not hear from you then we will have to send the Sheriff to fetch ya.

It is always a fun time provided a few do not have to do all the work so get in there and give us a hand. For those of you new to our club, it is the best place to learn more about the other members, make new friends, learn about our hobby, and a chance to work with some great dealers. Sometimes the dealers will show their appreciation by giving you a discount if they know you work in the show. What a deal?

We will be having a meeting the first of September to formulate our plans.