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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 9
September 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: New glass display case. 20.5" X 28.5" X 2.5". Never been used. \$25. Rock for sale—Outside rock except petrified wood and quartz \$.50/lb. Petrified wood and quartz—\$1/lb. Call Frances Mangrum to set up a time to visit. (615) 228-8577.

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 9

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MTG&MS

NEXT MEETING: **SEPTEMBER 19, 2002**

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

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

PROGRAM: **RICHARD GROSS**
 MINERALS—
 NATURE'S 3-D ART

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

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The meeting in August was most entertaining to all that attended. We enjoyed the program and look forward to September when we will again have a professional to inform and entertain us. We will have our new, large, screen mounted that will enable us to view the slides better than ever before.

We did get bad news at the meeting. Steve has given notice that he is resigning, as editor, effective with the December issue. We really regret losing him in this post but have plans for him as of that date. We have a "possible" as a replacement editor and if he will accept it then we can look forward to a continuing, outstanding, monthly newsletter in the future.

This month we are offering two new columns. "On The Web", a feature of items to be found on the World Wide Web and "Around the Rockpile" that will be a story of a mineral, a new piece of equipment, cutting material or some other item of interest to many persons each month. This month introduces these two columns. Let us know how you like the idea and what you would like to see featured in the future.

Lewis F. Elrod, President

ON THE WEB

Many of us have access to the World Wide Web and also feel sorry for those of you who have not yet entered into this area. You are really missing a lot that is of interest to persons involved in our hobby. This column will attempt to bring each of you a little of that which is located on the web each month.

Upcoming Events

- 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 5-6 Southeast Federation Meeting
Jacksonville, FL**
- October 11-13 Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society
Von Braun Center, Huntsville, AL
- October 11-13 Big Sur Jade Festival
Pacific Valley School, Big Sur, CA
- October 18-20 Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society
Kerbela Temple, Knoxville, TN
- October 19-20 Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley, CA
- October 19-20 Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society
Springfield, MO
- October 26-27 Tulsa Rock & Mineral Club
Expo Square-Exchange Center, Tulsa, OK
- November 1-3 Rockingham County Mineral Club
Wentworth Recreational Center Reidsville, NC
- November 9-10 DeRidder Gem & Mineral Society
Beauregard Parish Fair Exhibit Hall, DeRidder, LA
- November 16-17 Dallas Gem & Mineral Society
Bigtown Exhibition Hall, Mesquite, TX

**December 14-15 Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society
Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville, TN**

depositing iron on it, which accounts for the greens in the stone.

Ammolite is recovered through pit mining. Most Ammolite comes from the badlands of Alberta. By law, intact fossils cannot be broken for specimens, and each pit mine must be filled and reclaimed before another pit mine can be opened.

Ammolite has a hardness of 4.5 to 5.5. It is also known as korite and calentine. It has a chemical composition of calcium carbonate and its crystal structure is Orthorhombic.

The thin aragonite layer of the ammonite shell is often assembled into triplets with a protective quartz top and a shale backing. Ammolite is far rarer than diamonds.

Reference: ammonite.com from The Nisqually Rockhounder,
5/02 via *The Rock Collector* 06/02

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Stone Age Technology

Magnified ten thousand times, the finest scalpel looks like a saw. Obsidian blades, however, which are made of black volcanic glass, are perfectly smooth, harder than metal, and their edges poised at a molecular level of thickness. This gives them the edge, literally, in allowing minimal tissue damage during surgery. Due to the effort of a few diehard stone toolmakers like archeologist John Rick, obsidian blades are now being used in brain surgery, and the technology has never been improved.

Gemi-n-i Newsletter via *The Rockcollector* 02/02

To introduce this feature we will tell you of "Bob's Rock Shop". Bob is really Bob Keller, a resident of Tucson, Arizona. Bob is a professional in the computer-programming field. He is also an avid rockhound.

Some few years ago Bob began his web site to attempt to help fellow rockhounds in the pursuit of their hobby. As many of us know, this hobby can get out of hand in a hurry. This is true with the web site. It is now, to many of us, the Premier Web Site for rockhounds. The amount of information for rockhounds located on this site is phenomenal! To see for yourself go to www.rockhounds.com. Be prepared to spend a lot of time, as there is so much to see.

Now, since Bob has so much spare time on his hands, he has started something else. We now have a large variety of discussion groups on line. If you go to www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/llist5.html you will find a listing of several such groups. These include lists for: sphere making, jewelry casting, lapidary, faceting, minerals and rough for sale. The above alone will hold you spell bound for some time.

I am proud to count Bob as a friend. Have only been able to meet with him two times but have had numerous emails and phone calls to and from him. He is a great fellow and, as you will soon see, a dedicated rockhound.

Lewis F. Elrod, CFE

* * * * *

AROUND THE ROCKPILE

For our first article for this new column I have chosen a site that is not very far from our home. This is the Crater of Diamonds State Park at Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

A hog farmer, John Huddleston, found two diamonds on his property in 1906. The diamonds were a three carat white and a one point five carat yellow diamond. A bank cashier offered him fifty cents for the stones but was refused by Huddleston. The farmer then sold the property for \$36,000.00. Several mining operations were attempted but none have ever succeeded. In 1972 the State of Arkansas purchased 888 acres to form the current park. There is a visitor's center, gift shop, picnic area, restaurant, 1.3 mile hiking trail and 60 campsites with water and electricity.

Persons searching for diamonds get to "keep what they find" and many have been found. The parks assistant superintendent says that about two stones are found each day. Most are about the size of a match head, or smaller, and they are usually kept as souvenirs.

Not all of the finds have been small. The largest was the 40.23 carat "Uncle Sam" discovered in 1924. Others are 15.33, 8.82, 4.25, 5.23 and 4.36 carats.

Methods used are dry sifting, wet sifting and surface hunting. In 1975 the 16.37 carat "Amarillo Starlite" was found by surface hunting.

If you desire to own a diamond then perhaps a trip to Arkansas is in order for you. Who knows? Perhaps you will be lucky enough to locate a diamond in one of the two diamond mines in the US and the only one in the world that is open to collectors.

Lewis F. Elrod, CFE

This on the night I'd polished off
Thanksgiving treats galore,
Never knowing the turkey on my plate
Was cousin to the dinosaur!"

Enjoy!

Via Strata Gem 7/02

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Ammonite & Ammolite

By Carla Howard

The name "ammonite" is derived from the ancient Egyptian god Ammon who considered them to be divine. Ammonites were hard shelled marine animals related to squid, octopus, and the chambered nautilus. They were abundant and lived about 70 to 135 million years ago in all the oceans and in a subtropical sea that bordered the Rocky Mountains.

They were able to swim, thanks to the unique construction of their shell, which was divided into a series of air chambers. The air in the chambers provided buoyancy for the animal to float, and they probably moved through the water using jet propulsion.

As the seas receded, the ammonites were crushed by tons of vegetation and silt, and many were fossilized. They are usually preserved in chalky clay, limestone or limey shale.

Rare trace elements in some areas caused radiant iridescent blue, green, red and gold to appear on the fossil surface. When the fossilized shell shows this rainbow of shifting interference colors in beautiful mosaic type patterns it is then known as Ammolite.

The gem Ammolite was created when the ammonite died close to the shoreline of the Bearpaw Sea, near an inflow of fresh water. The water somehow changed the chemistry of the shell, possibly

Stuffed Dinosaur for Dinner

by Judy Washburn in Loess Bulletin
via Tumbler 11/12/1991

AFMS Poetry Contest First Place Winner 1993

I've often read about them
in books and magazines,
I've seen their bones and teeth displayed
On wide-angle movie screens.

The dinosaurs I came to know
Were lizards huge and mean;
With pea-sized brains and loping gait,
They weren't very keen.

These notions seem no more to be
The latest things to know;
Bob Bakker told it like it is,
On the late night Leno show.

I popped out of my bed to hear,
It's very rare, at best
To see a noted scientist
As a TV talk-show guest.

Old pictures melted in my mind
With every word he'd utter,
I didn't know just what to think,
My brain was all a flutter.

"Think of the dinosaurs," he said,
"More like the bird" - do tell!
"Like two-ton lively roadrunners,
Directly out of hell."

MTGMS BOARD MEETING

Thursday, August 15, 2002

Meeting was opened by Lewis at 6:35 pm, with a quorum present. Lewis announced that the stones/bell caps etc ordered should arrive any day now. The Murfreesboro Children's Museum is now open, and have approached us with ideas for a possible educational session. They are having a "Show and Tell" session 9/16/02 which Lewis will participate in.

Will Smith announced a show committee meeting for the 1st Thursday in September, 6:30 p.m. at the Southern Bell Cafeteria in LaVergne. He will send confirmation and directions when arranged. The Boys & Girls Club is being made available for a possible midyear show in the future, and want to talk to us about possible classes.

Bob confirmed that Richard Gross will be our featured speaker for September. Steve contributed the fact that our own June Miller won an SFMS contest for newsletter articles. He then dropped the bombshell on us with a resignation letter as newsletter editor as of the December 2002 issue. Bill stated he and Anne may be moving back to the Nashville area soon, and would need some help. We all offered to help cart off his rocks. There being no further business, board meeting adjourned 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted - Paula Vance, Secretary

MTGMS GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, August 15, 2002

President Lewis Elrod called the general meeting to order at 7:30, with the bad news of Steve Henegar's resignation as newsletter editor, and asking the group to think about stepping into Steve's

shoes. Will Smith briefly explained what it entails. Lewis then informed the group of June Miller's win in the SFMS newsletter article competition. Will announced the show committee meeting 1st Thursday of September.

We had one visitor with us, Jim Payne from Missouri. Mark Greenbaum notified us that Larry Benefield had passed on recently, a longtime member and apparently quite a character.

Bill Jackson (affectionately known as "Woody") gave us a bio of himself as Man on the Rockpile. He has worked extensively with the John C. Campbell Folk Art School, which is very near William Holland. He now specializes in just about anything, and showed off some extremely interesting original work. Beautiful stuff, Woody. He then passed the crystal on to David Galloway for next month's Rockpile.

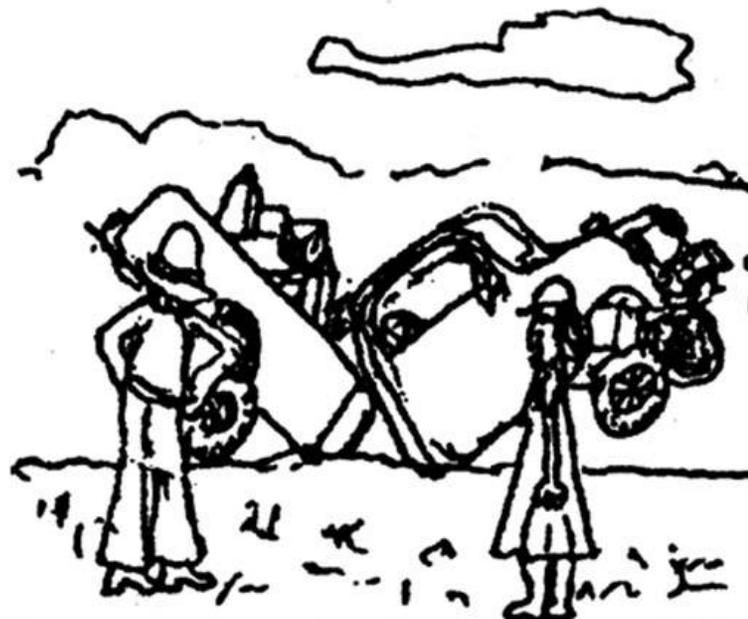
Steve Henegar then conducted the stamp fund drawing, with BUNCHES of beautiful stuff donated by: Cameron Byler, George Jones, Johnny Hilliard, Joe Powel, Mary Fishburn, Bill Buckner, and Paula to the Max. Thank you all for your generosity and desire to keep the newsletter coming.

It was then announced that Ken Swann was to have a sale this Saturday at his home, of the items belonging to Chunky Owens' estate. (I went, lots of TN paint rock and lots of good stuff! Ed.) Lewis reminded our group of the ongoing need for stamps of all kinds, which raises money for scholarships - displaying two box tops with close to 30 stamps on them given up by Paula and Max as examples of what is always needed. Bob and Tina announced that the rock boxes are about finished, and are going to teachers who take a class in earth sciences teaching.

Bob and Tina then presented the evening's program, a tour of Australia via the Fiji Islands and New Zealand they had just returned from. Lots of beautiful pictures.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:55 for socializing.

Respectfully, Paula Vance - Secretary



**"Just one more piece", you said, well I knew
this was gonna happen sooner or latter.**

**by Skelton 'Dug' Dugger
Ft Lewis Rock Club News
via Beehive Buzzer 6 & 7/ 02 & others**

Thanks to Dennis Chapman, Strata Gem Editor for sharing the cartoons you have seen the last few months. Thanks Dennis.

Ken Swann: Has this ever happened to you? Ed.