



# Mid-TENN Gem'ers

Next Meeting:  
**January 16th**  
 Place:  
 Farm Bureau  
 818 S Church St  
 Murfreesboro, TN  
 Time: 7:30 PM  
 Program:  
 Dr. Albert Ogden  
 of MTSU  
 Board Meeting:  
 6:30 PM

## OFFICERS

### President

Steve Henegar  
 615 896-1472

### 1st VP &

### Program Chair

Bob King  
 615 754-0095

### 2nd VP &

### Newsletter Editor

Ingrid Regen  
 615-463-2163

### Secretary

Paula Vance  
 931 393-2491

### Treasurer

Will Smith  
 615 366-1022

### Past President

Lewis Elrod  
 615 366-1022

## DIRECTORS

1 year: Max Grimes  
 931 393-2491  
 2 year: Bill Buckner  
 3 year: Ken Swann

## The Prez Rambles On...

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and wish each of you a great year of rock hounding. I got to ring in the new year from room 203C at the local hospital here in Murfreesboro. I had a nasty bout with pneumonia. Although I didn't have plans to do anything New Year's Eve, I certainly didn't plan to spend it in the hospital. I should be well for at least ten years considering the amount of antibiotics they pumped through my IV over the course of three days.

As your newly elected president, I'm still in the process of **defining some goals** I would like to see us accomplish over the coming year. One thing that stands out is **field trips**. Since I've been a member of the club we haven't had very many field trips. Most of those have been generously lead by one or two club members.

I'd like to appoint a committee of three or four people to see if we can stir up some activity in this area. It would be great to get some interested club members to take on this endeavor and seek out places we can go for minerals, fossils, or lapidary material. Field trips should help us attract more members and get more participation in club activities.

If anyone is interested, please let me know. My phone number is (615) 896-1472 and e-mail address is: [shenegar@net-serv.com](mailto:shenegar@net-serv.com)

I hope most of you were able to make it to our gem show last month. **Preliminary figures show our attendance to be up by a substantial percentage.** I hope we can continue the trend this year. Dealer surveys also indicate an increase in their sales dollars also. I think these two things speak volumes about this club in that we were able to increase attendance and our dealers were able to increase sales in a year that saw our economy decline. Good work people.

However... we can't rest on our laurels, planning will start for this years show this month. The show committee invites you to work with us on making our next show even better. - continued on page 2

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.

## Meeting Dates for 2003

January 16th  
 February 20th  
 March 20th  
 April 17th  
 May 15th  
 June 18th  
 July 17th  
 August 21st  
 September 18th  
 October 16th  
 November 20th  
 December 18th

## Dues Due!!!

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 Bellcrest Drive**  
**Antioch, TN 37013**

There are several show committee positions, all of which need at least one backup person. Please feel free to volunteer to become a part of the show committee or accept a position if you are asked. The bad news is that I'm not at all ashamed to ask for help, nor am I deterred by a no answer.

Our lapidary classes will be starting up in early January at the Donelson Senior Citizen Center and at the Senior Citizen Center in Tullahoma. While the classes have been on going in Donelson for several years, the opening of classes in Tullahoma is a new endeavor for the club.

Several members have put in a lot of work over the past three or four months to get a classroom built and stock it with equipment. I want to personally thank each of the workers involved in both of these classrooms. Someday I'll get a list of all who are working to keep these classes going, giving our club a lot of exposure in the community.

For those that are wondering, **you don't have to be a senior to participate in these classes.** The Donelson Senior Center will allow you to become a card carrying member even though you haven't reached your golden years. These classes are great to learn about cutting cabochons, silver smithing, and wire wrapping. I'll get more details on how you can become a part of one of these classes.

As your former newsletter editor I want to stress how important it is to give your support to our newsletter editor, Ingrid Regen. I expect Ingrid to do a top notch job producing the newsletter, and I expect our club members to do a top notch job of writing articles for the newslet-

ter. One of the hardest jobs I had as editor was to get members to write articles. The newsletter is so much more interesting if there is at least one article from a club member. Members **START YOUR PENS!!!** Get to writing your article. One article from each member every year would give Ingrid a lot of material to use. I'd even like to see a couple of members write a monthly column. Any volunteers? **Articles can be emailed to: [ingrid@dimp.com](mailto:ingrid@dimp.com)**

One side note to this is please don't send copyrighted material without permission from the original author and the original source. In other words if you have a newspaper or magazine article either get the authors permission to reprint or write a review of the article in your own words.

OK, enough rambling.

Steve,

[shenegar@net-serv.com](mailto:shenegar@net-serv.com)



### 11/21/02 Board Meeting

Lewis kicked off the last board meeting of 2002 at 6:45 p.m. by giving Joe Powell three boxes of rocks for the silent auction. The board then chose two pieces made by Bill Buckner to use as Grand Prizes at the 2002 Gem and Mineral Show. Barbara Ellis will get ribbons made for the various annual awards. Will Smith has been in negotiations with the Fairgrounds regarding storage of our educational display cases, and hopefully a resolution is eminent.

Will Smith brought in a grinding/polishing machine he had made, for approval to use at the new Coffee County Senior Citizen Center Lapidary shop. Discussion ensued regarding all the machines currently used by the various Lapidary projects. Max moved to fund 2 more machines in advance for Donelson, Bill seconded and motion passed unanimously. Max then moved to fund 4 machines for the new Coffee County shop, Bill seconded, and this motion also was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

### 11/21/02 General Meeting

President Lewis Elrod opened the last formal meeting of 2002 at 7:35 p.m., announcing several visitors: Jim Harris of Trousdale County, Normal and Eloise Kendrick of Winchester, and Harry Howling of Mt. Juliet.

Will Smith and Ken Swann gave us an update on progress of the Coffee County Sr. Citizen Center Lapidary Shop, describing the room as finished, as well as the machine that Will has built as a prototype. Lewis announced that all was ready for the show, as of 12:00 noon Friday December 13 the fun would begin. He showed us the grand prizes picked out and noted that Bill Buckner had also donated a faceter to the club for silent auction inclusion. Two old machines from the Donelson club will also be included in the silent auction.

Marty Hart then announced the slate of **officers proposed for the 2003 year:**

President: Steve Henegar  
1st VP/Program Chair:  
Bob King

- continued on page 5

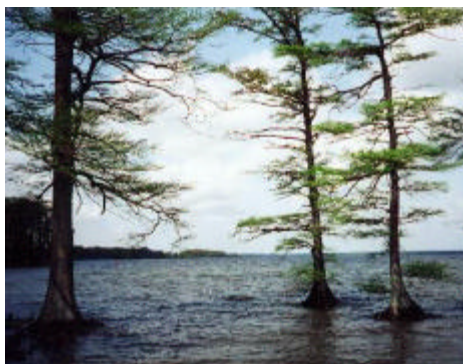
## MISSISSIPPI RIVER VALLEY Home of the new Madrid Seismic Zone

By Mike Baldwin, MAGS

The central Mississippi Valley has more earthquakes than any other part of the United States, east of the Rocky Mountains. Studies of surface geology offer few clues to the causes of quakes in the region. The clues are deeply buried beneath sedimentary deposits. Ongoing geophysical studies may reveal hazards which will enable residents of the region to better prepare for future earthquakes.

The winter of 1811-12 was extremely difficult for the European settlers of the Mississippi Valley. While Tecumseh, the Shawnee chief and visionary, was attempting to unite the tribes of the valley in an effort to drive out the settlers, the region was struck by **three of the most powerful earthquakes in United States history**. These magnitude 8 quakes, centered near the town of New Madrid (Missouri), devastated the surrounding region and rang church bells 1,000 miles away in Boston.

The 400 terrified residents in the town of New Madrid were abruptly awakened by violent shaking and a tremendous roar. It was December 16, 1811, and a powerful earthquake had just struck. This was the first of three magnitude-8 earthquakes and thousands of aftershocks to rock the region that winter. Survivors reported that the earthquakes caused cracks to open in the earth's surface, the ground to roll in visible waves, and large areas of land to sink or rise. The crew of the New Orleans (the first steamboat on the Mississippi, which was on her maiden voyage) reported



*Reelfoot Lake formed by the earthquakes of 1811 and 1812, covers an area of more than 10 square miles in northwestern Tennessee.*

mooring to an island only to awake in the morning and find that the island had disappeared below the waters of the Mississippi River.

The scars that those great earthquakes made on the landscape remain. The quakes changed the course of the Mississippi River in that area, and created Reelfoot Lake which covers an area of more than 10 square miles in northwestern Tennessee. In the past 25 years, earth scientists have collected evidence that strong earthquakes in the central Mississippi Valley have occurred repeatedly in the geologic past. Small earthquakes happen in the region often. The area in which most of these quakes occur is referred to by scientists as the New Madrid seismic zone (NMSZ).

In 1811, the central Mississippi Valley was sparsely populated and there were few man-made structures. Today, this region is home to millions of people, including large populations in St. Louis, Missouri, and Memphis, Tennessee. Memphis is built on a high bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. During the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-12, many landslides occurred along the river. The most devastating effects of the shocks, however, were

on the Mississippi itself, where river traffic and commerce were disrupted and boatmen were killed. **A repeat today of the earthquakes of 1811-12 would cause widespread loss of life and billions of dollars in damage.**

An earthquake as powerful as the quakes of 1811-12 may not occur for many years, but scientists estimate that there is a 9-in-10 chance of a magnitude 6 to 7 temblor occurring in the NMSZ within the next 50 years. In response to this threat, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is working to understand the causes of earthquakes in the Mississippi Valley. Begun in the 1980's, this cooperative effort among universities, state governments, and Federal agencies has two goals--to evaluate the level of the earthquake hazard and to help reduce the risk to lives and property from future quakes in the region.

Over hundreds of millions of years, faults and other geologic structures related to earthquakes in the NMSZ have been deeply buried by thick layers of sediment. Few clues to the causes of earthquakes in the NMSZ can be found at the Earth's surface. To unmask these hidden geologic structures related to earthquakes, scientists are using geophysical techniques, such as mapping variations in the strength of Earth's magnetic field. A magnetic map of the central Mississippi Valley region made by USGS geophysicists shows a major buried feature known as the Reelfoot Rift. A rift structure is created when powerful geologic forces begin to pull the Earth's crust apart. Most earthquakes in the central United States occur within this structure, which formed more than 500 million years ago.

- cont'd on page 4

Earthquakes occurring within the NMSZ appear to be strongly influenced by the presence of large bodies of igneous rock, which were formed by the cooling and solidification of molten rock beneath the Earth's surface. These igneous rock bodies show up as areas of high magnetic intensity on the magnetic map of the region. The southern part of the NMSZ is a narrow belt of quake activity that trends northeast, following a fault along the center of the Reelfoot Rift. This trend abruptly changes direction to north-northwest where it intersects and follows the major lobe of a large mass of igneous rock. The belt of quake activity here broadens to match the shape of the igneous body on the magnetic map. This pattern of earthquakes associated with igneous rock bodies may be an important clue to the causes of quakes in the NMSZ.

The knowledge earth scientists have gained is being applied by engineers to make new and existing structures in the Mississippi Valley more resistant to earthquakes. In these ways earth scientists and engineers are helping to protect residents of the central United States from loss of life and property in future quakes.

**Works Cited:**

1. Thomas G. Hildenbrand, Victoria E. Langenheim, Eugene Schweig, Peter H. Stauffer, and James W. Hendley II; Uncovering Hidden Hazards in the Mississippi Valley; U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 200-96 1996;

For more information, visit the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee at <http://www.ceri.memphis.edu>

<http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/prepare/factsheets/HiddenHaz/>

2. Eugene Schweig, Joan Gomberg, and James W. Hendley II; The Mississippi Valley—"Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On"; U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet-168-95 1995; <http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/prepare/factsheets/NewMadrid/>

*From MAGS Rockhound News, 1/03*

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

**Christmas Party Pics**

**Top Left:** Cameron Byler & Mary Clyde Sparks demonstrating how to start the food line

**Top Right:** Alyce Grimes is trying out how a 144 caret CZ would look like as a pendant.

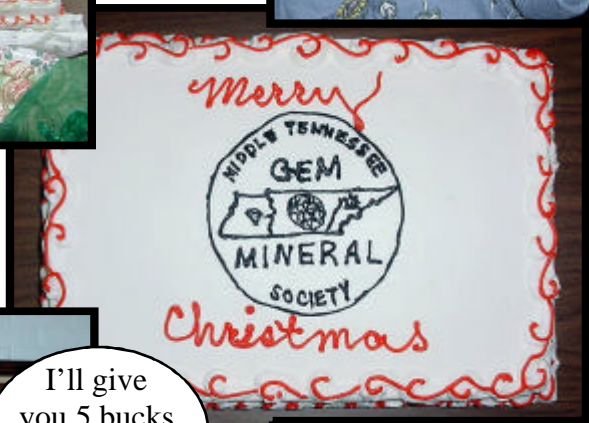
**Bottom Left:** Lewis Elrod and Will Smith looking at a rock... now that's a first!!!

**Bottom Right:** Bill & Ann Buckner opening exchange presents... Hmm, I wonder what could be so funny...

**It was a very Merry Christmas!!!**



BIG  
Diamonds are a girl's best friend!



I'll give you 5 bucks for it! Final offer!



**11/02 General Meeting cont'd:**

2nd VP/Newsletter Editor:

Ingrid Regen

Treasurer: Will Smith

Secretary: Paula Vance

**Board of Directors:**

Past President: Lewis Elrod

One Year: Max Grimes

Two Year: Bill Buckner

Three Year: Ken Swann

After repeated requests for nominations from the floor (and a few begging requests from the current secretary), no names were submitted. Bill Buckner then moved to close nominations, Mary Clyde Sparks seconded the motion, and **the slate as stated was unanimously elected.** (Sorry, folks, you are stuck with me for another year...)

Updates were then given regarding the show educational displays, discussions re gearing the educational focus towards children, themes for the displays; Reaching Out and Giving Back display. Mary Clyde asked for more volunteers to help staff the entry booth functions at the show. French Gothard reinforced this request.

The Stamp Fund melee then began, with some beautiful specimens donated by: Bill and Anne Buckner, Ken Swann, John Stanley, Cameron Byler, Ruth Gothard, and Allen Wright. Thank you all for your generosity.

Reminder was announced regarding the December meeting, our traditional potluck Christmas dinner in lieu of a regular meeting. As neither Bob nor Tina King were in attendance, we were not subjected to the monthly bad joke.

Ken Swann, a 23-year member of MTGMS, then gave a dazzling

talk about Tennessee Paint Rock, displaying several specimens indescribably gorgeous with burglar alarms attached. Darn. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 for a mutual drool over Ken's rocks.

*Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Paula Vance  
Secretary for another year*

**Great Show - Great Effort**

Just about everyone I talked to said this was the best show ever and I would have to agree. As shows go this one came off without too many problems, with great dealers and wonderful help by members. All the dealers I talked with indicated their business was up considerably and I think that is due to more attendees and good material to select from. I believe our ticket sales were up about 15% and everyone seemed to find what they were looking for.

I do not have the final accounting, but should complete by the next meeting. I think we will cover the cost of our projections for this past year, but could be a little under last year's profit due to the increased cost by the Fairgrounds.

Many thanks to those who worked on promoting both our show and our club. I can tell you that promoting what our Club does has opened the eyes of many and added to our programs. For example at Tullahoma we were expecting 4 for Tuesday and 5 for Thursday Classes, and we have 8 and 8 both days. That's 16 new individuals who are going to discover our hobby, our club, and our show.

You should be there in a class when a new student asks, "why would a little club like yours want

to come to a little town like Tullahoma, invest time and money in building and equipment, just to teach people you've never meet, your wonderful hobby"? My answer is that we may be small, but we have a passion for our hobby and want to share it with anyone willing to invest the time, and many are.

Donelson is another success story. Joe has a number of new students in the two morning classes, full in the Monday night silver-smithing class, full in the Tuesday night lapidary class, and had so many wanting in that Joe added another night lapidary class on Wednesday night and it is just about full.

It's so great to see all our hard work pay off.

As this past year's Show Chairperson and a member of this great club, I want to thank each of you that worked so hard in producing the show this year. For those of you who were unable to help this year, mark your calendar for December 12th of this year, because that is when we will setup for the 2003 Show, but we will need your help before then. Your investment of time will be rewarded.

**Thanks to all,**

*Will Smith*



To:

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

First Class  
Postage



Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.  
c/o 2510 Essex Pl  
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

## Open Letter to Members and Friends of MTGMS

First, I want to say that the December show was one of the most wonderful I have ever attended. In spite of a few hitches, I think things went off pretty well, and I hope all the attendees were happy (booth owners as well as customers).

Secondly, my deepest appreciation to all of you who dedicated some of your time and assistance to Paula to the Max, in every way imaginable. Help with setup, lots of help with takedown, and your general outpouring of love and concern for Max during the show touched both of us to the depths of our hearts. He had no idea in how high esteem he was regarded by so many of his friends and fellow rockhounds. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you, and your continued prayers and encouragement are wonderful to experience.



Paula Vance



## 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/wise), 18 lb Tumbler \$75, Cab makers. Cab Mate, Folsom & Dremel tools, sanding belts & disk, tumbling grit & polish, sphere machines, grinding wheels, welding torches, flat lap machines, 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.

**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.**