



# Mid-TENN Gem'ers

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

## 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  
615-893-8270

## DIRECTORS

1 year: Max Grimes  
931 393-2491

2 year: Bill Buckner

3 year: Ken Swann

## Inside this issue:

Even without a meeting we get a President's letter. Plus, thanks to Will, we have 2 articles about the new lapidary shop in Tullahoma. For a little fun, Bill Jackson has submitted some Did You Know facts. And, for your convenience, we've included the William Holland class schedules.

## The Prez Rambles On...

What a bummer! Our weather had some nerve snowing out our January meeting. I do hope everyone had a good evening in spite of the slick roads that night. For future reference, if the Rutherford county and/or Murfreesboro city schools are closed, consider our meeting canceled. It's too dangerous to be out in the snow and ice.

We scheduled a board meeting for February 6. We were pretty much stopped by the weather although four of the board members did make it. We used the time to review the past year financial statement and this year's budget. We also talked about some goals we would like to achieve as a club this year.

There are two goals that stand out that I would like to see us achieve this year. One is to gain non profit (501C3) status for the club. This would allow us to purchase items without having to pay sales taxes and allow us to accept donations that would be tax deductible for the donor. The second goal is for us to have regularly scheduled field trips. I'm still looking for a few people to form a field trip committee to make sure we have field trips available several times during the year.

Other goals are to increase our exposure in our community whether locally or globally thru the internet. The director of the Wilderness Station at the Barfield Crescent park in Murfreesboro is interested in us doing more activities there. Marty Hart made a suggestion we setup live demonstrations at the geology dig at Tina Kings school in Mount Juliet. We'll be asking Tina about this in the near future. He is also working on a project to get Tennessee rocks on the web. The idea is to provide pictures of Tennessee rocks so students and teachers can have a resource to help identify them. Marty has also suggested we do activities maybe on weekends to draw more people toward the club, then have a system in place to follow up with new members and visitors to keep them interested in the club activities. Another goal is for us to compete in the American Federation All American Club contest. Lewis Elrod has volunteered to lead this effort.

- cont'd 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.

## Meeting Dates for 2003

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. Check the upper right hand corner of your address label for the year you are paid through.

Send dues to:

Will H. Smith  
5304 Bellcrest Dr  
Antioch, TN 37013

Since our show has done well for several years, we have been able to apply a good bit of money toward our educational projects. This past year we awarded nine scholarships to Austin Peay State University, Motlow State Community College, Middle Tennessee State University, Tennessee Tech University, and Vanderbilt University. In addition to these scholarships we sponsored a project for the Tennessee Earth Science Teachers, sponsored the geology dig at West Elementary School in Mount Juliet, sponsored lapidary, silver-smithing, and wire wrapping classes at the Donelson Seniors Center, and built a new shop in Tullahoma at the Senior Center there. Classes started in Tullahoma in January. Will Smith and Ken Swann are reporting full classes with a lot of enthusiastic students already turning out some great cabs.

At the suggestion of Marty Hart, I would like to enlist volunteers for at least one member to make a commitment to write an article for the newsletter each month. If club members are willing to do this it will give our editor a boost by making the newsletter interesting to do rather than being a chore. Member material really makes a club newsletter. Think about doing this for the club. We'll be asking for volunteers at each meeting. This should also teach you a lesson to not elect the past newsletter editor as president, at least not until he has had a year off.

If you have any ideas for the club, please let me know. E-mail me or call (615) 896-1472. I'd love to hear from you.

Enough rambling, see you at the February meeting.

Steve

shenegar@net-serv.com



### First lapidary class at the Coffee County Senior Citizens

Here you have Ken Swan teaching our first Lapidary Class in the new Owens Brothers Lapidary Room at the Coffee County Senior Citizens in Tullahoma. Many hours of hard work have been put out for this day. He is teaching three of our first students who have no idea what he is talking about. I heard someone ask if Ken even knew what he was talking about. After it was over Ken was heard saying "Lord what have I let Will talk me into?"

Actually Ken has been cutting beautiful Tennessee Paintrock Agate for many years and he did a great job getting this first group along with the other 9 students. In watching him during the second week, you knew that both he and the students had bonded, and he was forever going to be appreciated for what he has shared. He can't get over how excited the new students get when they put a polish on that completed cabochon. After polishing her first Strawberry Agate cabochon, an 86 year young student wanted Ken to give her a key to the room so she could polish stones all week long.

Another student was seen showing off his prize 30 x 40 cab of Paintrock Agate to his friends shooting pool. He was explaining all the skill needed to shape and polish his Gem. It turned out so beautifully, Ken tried to take it back from the student!

Ken needs help since many more want to take the class than he has time to offer. Some of the students appear to learn fast and may have to become instructors soon. ~



**Did You Know that...**

According to Greek mythology, Bacchus, the god of wine, fell in love with a young nymph who turned to the goddess Diana for protection from his unwanted attention. In desperation, Diana turned the nymph into a quartz crystal to save her, and Bacchus, saddened by the result of his actions, poured wine over the stone in the memory of his love. Thus amethyst was created.

Until the end of the Middle Ages, Carnelian was ground into a powder and mixed with water to be taken internally as protection against plague.

## 2003 SFMS Wildacres School Workshops:

### SFMS Session 1:

April 14th - 20th

- Cabochons - Gerald Burnham
- Chainmaking, Beginning - Doris Mott
- Faceting, Beginning - Tom Wilkie
- Glass bead Making - Marillyn Jobe
- Raku Pottery - Sarah House
- Wax Modeling/Casting - Tim & Jan Steeper
- \*Wirecraft, Advanced Free-form - Lisa Roberts
- \* Wire Weaving - Linda Chandler
- Wirecraft (Beginning) - Ranny Parham

### SFMS Session 2:

August 18th - 24th

- Casting - Bill Harr
- Intarsia (Beginning) - Tom Wilkie
- Fused Glass - Addy dePietro
- Gem Appreciation - Ben Smith
- Precious Metal Clay (Levels 1) - Ken & Mary Ann Devos
- Opals - Joe dePietro
- Raku Pottery - Cindy McDowell
- \* Metalwork/Repair (Advanced) - Jeff Sheer
- Silversmithing (Beginning) - Bill Cady
- Wirecraft (Beginning) - Ranny Parham
- \* Wirecraft (Advanced Free Form) - Lisa Roberts

### SFMS Session 3:

September 22nd - 28th

- Gem Appreciation - Ben Smith
- \* Faceting, (Advanced) - Tom Wilkie
- Casting - John Almasi
- \* Gold - Dan Haga
- \* Intarsia, (Advanced) - Tom & Kay Benham
- \* Precious Metal Clay (Levels 2) - Ken & Mary Ann Devos
- Chainmaking (Intermediate) - Doris Mott
- Opals - Sarah Lee Boyce
- Seed Beading - Jo Harrison
- Wirecraft (Beginning) - Lisa Roberts

### SFMS REGISTRAR:

Polly Carman  
 603 Breezeway Drive  
 Cocoa, FL 32926  
 Telephone: 321.632.5739

## 2003 SFMS William Holland School Workshops:

### Federation Session 1

June 8th - June 14th

- Cabochon Cutting - Anita Westlake
- Casting & Wax Models - John Iacullo
- Dichroic Glass Fusion - Addy dePietro
- Opal Cutting - Joe dePietro
- Silversmithing, Beginning - Allen Jewel
- \* Silversmithing, Intermediate - Don Monro
- Soapstone Carving - David Tuttle
- Wirecraft, Beginning - Lisa Roberts
- Stained Glass - Julia Larson

### Federation Session 2

October 12th - October 18th

- Beading - Jo Harrison
- Cabochons - Gene Baxter
- \*Chainmaking (Advanced) - Doris Mott
- Fused Glass - Addy DePietro
- Opals - Joe DePietro
- Silversmithing, (Beginning) - Bill Cady
- \* Silversmithing, (Advanced) - Dan Haga
- Wire Sculpture - Lisa Roberts
- \* Wirecraft, (Advanced) - Betty Baxter

### REGISTRAR: 2003 Class Year

Perry & Teresa Curl  
 405 W. Leslie Court  
 Woodstock, GA 30188  
 Telephone: (770) 751-7313  
 Email: tcurl@bellsouth.net

### DIRECTORS:

Joan Cady  
 360 Chipmunk Dr  
 Hendersonville, NC 28739  
 Telephone: 828.698.2815

Email: bcsilver@bellsouth.net

The registration form is printed

These classes are ONLY open to current members of SFMS clubs

### REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:

Three SFMS Wildacres Workshops are scheduled in 2003. Applicants from SFMS clubs will be accepted first. Members of other AFMS clubs have been invited to apply and are then welcome on a space available basis. Applications for the April session will be accepted beginning February 17, 2003, and for the August and September sessions beginning May 1, 2003. The postmark date on or after those dates determines the order of acceptance. First time attendees have an extra priority.

Students under 18 years of age are welcome. They must be accompanied by a responsible adult and be approved by the workshop director and instructor.

Registration fee is \$250 per person and 1/2 (\$125) must accompany the application form. The full amount may be submitted if it is more convenient (it is for us). The balance is due 4 weeks before the workshop begins. NO balance reminders will be sent!

\*Classes with an asterisk have prerequisites. See course descriptions in the January Lodestar for details.

For more information about either school go to:  
<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>

This page was a print out of the  
2003 SFMS William Holland  
Workshop Registration Form

## Owens Brothers Lapidary Room is up and running

You have to see all the work done to complete the Owens Brothers Lapidary Room at the Coffee Senior Citizens Center in Tullahoma. The Seniors offered us one half of a metal building located behind their main building and work was started in September. Much had to be done (pic 2) before any work could start. Once cleaned out a wall was installed across the middle of the building and was completed in late December.

As you can see, (pic 3) the room has a nice entrance door. Once inside you're shocked to see how good it looks and how well it is equipped. It is small and accommodates all we can handle at this time.

I'm not going to thank all the members who spent their time working on this project, but you know who you are and should feel good about your contribution. I do need to thank the following non-members who helped make this possible:

Al Johnson's Lutheran Church gave us 3 perfect folding tables for equipment, and 10 folding chairs which have worked perfectly for us.

Read Wearing gave us a large folding table which we use to teach and work around.

Tullahoma Builders Supply gave us a very good discount on most all of our materials.

Tullahoma Floor Covering & Supply provided some very expensive carpet which has already saved many stones.

Silver Fox (Lewis) ordered all the wheels and equipment for us at his cost.



LISSCO in Knoxville gave us a special price on a heating and cooling unit.

Roy & Dot Mead gave us some slabs for students to cut their first cabs.

Chunky Owens Estate gave us a trim saw, slabs, and miscellaneous items.

Mary Fishburn gave us a Foredom Tool with many accessories.

I hope I did not leave anyone out. So many have helped and I, along with each student both now and in the future, thank you.



*Will Smith*

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



To:

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Next Meeting:  
Feb 20th  
Place:  
Farm Bureau  
818 S Church St  
Murfreesboro, TN  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Board Meeting:  
6:30 PM

First Class  
Postage



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

## OOPS!!!

By June B. Miller, CM

Here it was the first of February and I was still looking for my GEM-ER for January 2003. What had happened - new editor? - lost in the mail? - gosh where was it?

Thinking I had somehow goofed up and overlooked it in my stack of mail, I went back through all the stack of club newsletters I had received in January and there was not a blue cover in there! Deciding to “waste basket” a bunch of junk mail I had piled up, I went through that stack piece by piece instead of my usual glance and toss. What was this wad of white papers with my name on it? Deciding to investigate further, I undid the staple (Steve never put in staples) and lo and behold, it was the January GEM-ER!!

I must say it was a totally new format - no book form, no blue cover but very well done. A new editor does sweep clean. I only found one obvious typo. I must confess, being a judge for EFMLS and SFMS has made me very eagle-eyed. BUT - as an old Indian saying goes - “You have to have a place for the spirit to get out”. This issue had plenty of spirit all over it and I can see where when the 2003 newsletters are juried, we will have a top contender for new editor of the year.

Now that I know to not look for that blue cover book format, I will not toss it in February into the junk pile. ~

## 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:** 18 lb Tumbler \$75, Cab makers. Cab Mate, sanding belts & disk, tumbling grit & polish, sphere machines, grinding wheels, 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](mailto: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.**