



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
ingrid@dimp.com
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

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The Prez Rambles On...

Aren't field trips great! I understand the club had a great paint rock hunt the Saturday following the March meeting. Although I wasn't able to attend, my spies tell me most every one found some good agate. Hurrah!!! I do hope someone found enough to donate a piece of agate or a cab made from a piece to add to my member made cab collection. (Have you noticed I don't beat around the bush much?) Anyway I hope everyone had a great time and found some fabulous agate. Nothing beats paint rock agate in my book. However, I'm not quite as bad as Ken Swann who says it's the ONLY agate in the world. I'd say that too if I had his collection.

Keep watching the newsletter for news of upcoming field trips. Our Club has joined the Dixie Mineral Council. Field trips are offered every month somewhere in the southeast. Our club will sponsor one of these trips in June 2005. Dixie Mineral Council trips will be published in the newsletter as we receive information on them. If you know of a place we can dig or gather geodes somewhere in this area that can accommodate a hundred people or more, please let one of the board members know. We are also going to try to have our own field trips several months each year. If you know of places we can hunt rocks or fossils, please let us know. Also let us know if you would like to lead a field trip to that area.

Don't forget the dig and barbeque at Graves Mountain, Georgia the first weekend of May. This is a world class hunting area for both minerals and cutting material. It is an open pit mine that was mined for kyanite. Supposedly there are thirty to fifty minerals that can be found. Most of the number are micro sized specimens. If you can go, do so. Don't wait another chance might not come around. Graves Mountain is locate in eastern Georgia not too far from Augusta. Specifically it's located just inside the western border of Lincoln county about fifteen miles east of the town of Washington. It's about a six or seven hour trip from the Nashville area. I've driven down after work on Friday, then drive home after the dig on Saturday. However you may want to dig both days. There are three pits to dig in. After two trips there, I have yet to make it to the third pit.

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

April 17th

May 15th

June 18th

July 17th

August 21st

September 18th

October 16th

November 20th

December 18th

LAST ISSUE!!!

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. If it says 2002, you will not receive next months newsletter unless you send in dues.

Send dues to:

Will H. Smith
5304 Bellcrest Dr
Antioch, TN 37013

When mentioning the lapidary classes at Tullahoma at the March meeting, I neglected to mention that Paula Vance also teaches. She is teaching a wirewrapping class following the morning lapidary class. That way the students can cut cabs in the morning, then turn them in to jewelry in the afternoon. What a cool system! Paula, I apologize for leaving you out. If I missed anyone else, just call me on the carpet. I'll add you to the list. I know several members contributed a lot of time getting the shop setup down there. Somebody remind me at the meeting this month to get those people to stand, or maybe get them to sit and everyone else stand while we give them a standing ovation. Somebody's got to remind me though, as I have brain cramps fairly frequently and forget what I'm supposed to be doing.

Our members are also doing an outstanding job with the classes in Donelson. I'm not sure how many are teaching now. I do know the classes are full and going strong. Great job and thanks to all our teachers at both Senior Citizens centers!!! You don't have to be a senior to participate in the classes. My children think it's a hoot that I am a member of the Donelson Center. I really get lots of laughs from both the children and my wife when the Senior Newsletter arrives at home. It doesn't bother me because I know I can participate in the club classes. I've taken two sessions of silversmithing so far.

Dr. Albert Odgen, a Middle Tennessee State University professor, had a great program for us last month. He showed a film he had produced on how water systems work in karst environments.. He also shared news of the mineral museum he is trying to get started at Middle Tennessee State University. Hopefully the funding will not be cut from the university budget. I think he said he hoped the museum would open by

next summer. Plans are being developed for Club members to be invited to have displays of their rocks and minerals for three to six months at a time. A museum in Middle Tennessee should attract large numbers of school children. What a great opportunity for us to work with the museum. Hopefully they will let us help develop educational material and possibly let us assist with guiding school groups through the museum. If some of us have displays in the museum, maybe we can use some space to advertise our clubs educational opportunities.

Our club has been asked to help with a Boy Scout project. Basically we would be helping the fifth grade scouts earn their geology pin. There are seven activities of which they have to complete five. I would like to have five or six volunteers to take one of these activities and be responsible for putting it together. I would also like someone to volunteer to lead this project. The date would be June 9 or June 10. It would require about three hours on one of these afternoons. The director of the camp, Dan Onkst, would like for each activity to be separate so small groups of scouts could be rotated around to the different activities.

There will be approximately fifty to sixty scouts that will participate in this program. Here are the categories: Collect five geologic specimens that have important uses. Examples of rocks and minerals used in glass, metal, jewelry, fertilizer, and road building products. Make a scale of mineral hardness for objects found at home and show how to use the scale to find the relative hardness of three samples. List some of the geologic materials used in building your home. Make a drawing that shows the cause of a volcano, geyser or an earthquake. Explain one way in which mountains

are formed. Describe what a fossil is, how it is used to tell how old a formation is and find two examples of fossils. Mr Onkst is planning to be at our April meeting to answer any questions you might have. This is a great opportunity to get our name out in the community and to promote our hobby.

Enough rambling. See you at the meeting.

Steve
shenegar@net-
serv.com



BOARD MEETING - March 20, 2003

Board meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m. Quorum was present. Several new member applications were received and approved: Julian Matthews of Bowling Green, KY; Harold & Pat Conrad of Old Hickory, Josef & Marta Maierbacher of Wartrace, Connie & Gary Hirt of Mt. Juliet, John R and son Elliott Martin of Hermitage. The budget proposal was approved except for the scholarships section; further review pending. Discussion of the Dixie Group and our participation in it ensued, and it was agreed that MTGMS would join this group, with our own sponsored field trip scheduled for September 2005. Lewis has developed a sign-in sheet for members and visitor cards for documenting each meeting's attendance. Professor Ogden has volunteered to lead a field group of anyone interested in his field of work. Lewis will order stone holders for Tina's May geology project at her school. Ingrid is gathering e-mail addresses for any who wish to receive their newsletter via computer. Steve showed us a picture of the new Elevator installation project at William Holland School. The board agreed to ask that at the May meeting

swap program, participants add one DONATED item each, to be auctioned at the end of the swap with proceeds to be added to the elevator fund. Bob discussed needs for the TN Earth Science Teachers project. Will Smith asked us all to think about the layout of booths at the Show, with eyes on # of spaces, costs, etc. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Paula Vance - Secretary*

GENERAL MEETING

Meeting was called to order by President Steve at 7:36 p.m., who announced all our new members (see Board Meeting, above.) Visitors were welcomed: John Roden of Nashville, Josef Maierbacher/Wartrace, Nancy Stetten/Nashville, and Dan Onkst of the Murfreesboro Boy Scouts. Students from both Lapidary classes were asked to stand and be counted. In light of the Iraq war, Lewis read us all a prayer, appropriately worded though 27 years old. Will reminded the group of the field trip to be held Saturday. Guest Dan Onkst then informed the group of an opportunity to present a program to about 75 scouts June 9-13. Bill Buckner was lauded as the AFMS Safety Chair, writing articles for each newsletter on safety concerns. We were reminded about the Graves Mtn dig planned for first weekend in May.

Steve asked for a volunteer to take over handling the stamp fund, and as Joe Powell was standing closest to the ticket bucket, he was volunteered for the position. A real riot then ensued for the stamp fund prizes. Lots of contributors brought lots of prizes: Ken Swann, Paula to the Max, Bill Buckner, Harry Howland, Frances Mangrum, Al Johnson,, Joe Powell, John & Portia Stanley, and Mary Clyde Sparks. WOW, it was fun, and thank you folks. Lewis brought expressions of gratitude from Tom Malone for the auction of his stock. Lewis then informed the group of the plans for an auction at the end of the May meeting

with proceeds to go to William Howland School elevator project.

Sadly, there was no bad joke of the evening due to French masquerading as Al threatening to boycott Man on the Rockpile if joke told. Seriously, Al Johnson gave us some real good thoughts about interesting young people in rocks by way of scads of books available for young readers. BARBARA ELLIS will be on the Rockpile for April.

Albert Ogden then gave us a wonderful program, with updates on happenings at MTSU as well as a good rating for Max and Paula's spring water quality. Thanks, Professor. He has been doing great work at Elmwood Mine, and is instrumental in bringing about a geology museum at MTSU. He has also made available a video on sinkholes, water pollution, testing, etc. Very interesting projects.

Alyce Grimes volunteered to write article for newsletter, and meeting was adjourned at 9:00 for socializing.

*Respectfully
submitted,
Paula Vance -
Secretary*



DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

Official Field Trip of The Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society

WHAT: Mineral Collecting Field Trip, Rock Swap and "Cook Out"

WHERE: Martin Marietta's "Woodleaf Quarry" Woodleaf NC [Rowan County NC]

WHEN: Saturday, May 17th, 2003 at 8:00 am

MINERALS: Calcite, Chabazite, Chalcopyrite, Epidote, Feldspar, Flu-

orite, Hornblende, Molybdenite, Natrolite, Prehnite, Pyrite, Quartz and many micro-minerals still to be listed.

MEET: At 7:30 - 7:55 am at "Woodleaf BP" 3335 801 & Parks Rd [35° 46' 01" N / 080° 35' 26" W] This is a 5pt intersection of 801, Parks Rd, Woodleaf Rd, Cool Springs Rd and Woodleaf-Barber Rd.

COLLECTING HOURS: We will need to meet at 7:30am to receive a safety briefing and check-in by 8:00 a.m. The quarry will be open to the DMC for specimen collecting till 4:30pm and the Rock Swap will end at 5:00pm

FEE: There will be no fees for mineral collecting at this location - Our Thanks to Martin Marietta and the Woodleaf Staff for helping to make this event possible.

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be available at a nominal fee (Details TBA)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: It is MSHA required that you wear a Hard Hat, Safety Eye Wear and Steel Toe Boots at this site.

This site is an active quarry with high vertical walls and attendant hazards. Safety should be a primary concern. Be aware of those above and below you when near high walls and unstable areas.

You must provide your own shuttle to / from the quarry bottom. (4X4 not necessary) DMC delegates are requested to yield to any quarry traffic & drive cautiously around pedestrians and mineral collectors.

AGE LIMIT: Children of all ages will be allowed but it will be the parents responsibility to insure they will be kept close and under adult supervision at all times while on quarry property and see that they are mindful and obey all the safety requirements and special conditions es-

cont'd on page 4

The Jeweler (or Jewelry Nut) in the Real World

by M.C. Sparks

In a past article I held forth about the benefits and fun moments of being a lunatic rockhound in the real world of "non-rockers". Being a jewelry freak, esp. one who makes much of their own jewelry, also has repercussions.

For Example:

Gifts from others – As far back as I can remember, friends and family have given me bits of broken jewelry, and miscellaneous trinkets to create with. I have always enjoyed putting together odds and ends to make new things. My mother and I used to laugh about what "incarnation" a piece of jewelry I owned was in. And very early this interest combined with my love of gems and minerals. I was given for Christmas a children's version of a rock tumbler. Very soon I was polishing agates and jaspers, and making jewelry. I learned early on how to use findings and epoxy. Now that I am "grown up" (or at least older), people still give me odds and ends.

Make for others – I enjoy puttering with jewelry, possessing enough skill to produce some fairly decent things, especially in the areas of wire-wrap. I enjoy getting to make things for others; like the other creative types also I enjoy getting to share these one of a kind pieces with others, who are always delighted and impressed. I have been able to pass on things with sentimental value also, like items I made for my mother. After she passed away I gave pieces I had done for her to her sister, or close friends. It meant a great deal to them that it was something I had made, and belonged to mom also.

Sales – Seeing as I like to putter, but do not produce in quantity, the

aspect of sales is always interesting to me. People often ask if I sell items, and the answer is I don't try to do the inventory you need to do regular sales. But one of my favorite stories about jewelry making I will share - I was attending a quiet religious retreat at a conference center in Sewanee. There were programs at various times, but also time to relax and do other activities, like take walks or meditate. During one of these periods, I pulled out my wire wrap kit and got off in a corner of one of the larger meeting rooms. I thought puttering a little with my wire warp would be relaxing. Well, as I mentioned this was a quiet retreat, i.e. No Talking. So after a time of sitting and working, I began to feel that "someone's watching" feeling. I looked up....since no one was talking, I had not noticed about 20 women wander over and huddle around as I worked. Gave me quite a start! Then one of the ladies leaned over and whispered, "when you finish, could I buy that from you?" I ended up selling all the work I did that day...at cost. I felt a little like the money changer in the temple, so I figured "no profit".

And all of these type contacts with other people have the greatest and ultimate benefit, as I mentioned in my other article. You are often making new friends. Plus you are getting people interested in the hobby, in minerals and gems and crafting. It is always a joy to share with others and watch as they begin to appreciate our world...of maniacal interest in rocks.

DMC Program cont'd from page 3

established by the quarry for this event. The same dress requirements apply for youth as described for adults.

PETS will not be allowed to roam free and will be allowed only if their attendance is necessary.

EQUIPMENT: Gloves, Buckets or Collection Containers, Paper to wrap nice specimens, Crack Hammers, Sledge Hammers, Chisels, Gads, Water Spray Bottles, UV Lights/Sunshields, Sunscreen, Chair for Rock Swap Plenty of fluids.

(Water will be available in the "Quarry Bottom".) Good protective clothing should be worn (no shorts). Dress appropriately for the weather, this event will be held "RAIN or SHINE"

DIRECTIONS: From I-40 (between Statesville and Winston Salem) [35° 55' 22" N / 080° 35' 24" W] at Mocksville take exit 170 / 601 south to 801, and take 801 south to the "Woodleaf BP" Gas Station [35° 46' 01" N / 080° 35' 26" W]

WHERE TO STAY: Mocksville NC (Zip 27028) (Exit 170 / I-40 & 601) / Days Inn & Suites (336) 751-5966; 629 Madison Rd - Mention the "Dixie Mineral Council" for group rates (\$49.50) / Comfort Inn (336) 751-7310; 1500 Yadkinville Rd - Mention the "Dixie Mineral Council" for discount.

Western Steer, Pier 601 Seafood, Taco Bell, Horns, Pizza Hut, Burger King, Wendy's, Arby's and a number of gas stations are proximal to exit 170 / I-40.

Motels in the Salisbury NC area are filling up because of the "Race Activities at the Lowes Motor Speedway". Rates are not discounted in this area because of the race events. We recommend the motels listed above or suggest lodging in the Statesville NC vicinity.

The Quarry is 5 minutes from the meeting area. This will allow sufficient time to review safety regulations and sign the required release form before entering the quarry pit.

cont'd on last page



The Hunt

by Ingrid Regen

Months of bugging Will and Joe had finally paid off... We were going rockhounding!!! March 22nd turned out to be a beautiful, warm spring day here in Nashville. I set off at 7:45am in order to make the 9:00am meeting time. Since this was my first rockhounding experience of any sort, I was a little worried that I was ill prepared. That was quickly confirmed as soon as I arrived at The Stuckey's. It was warm, so I had shorts on. Apparently when they said we'd be hunting on "the side of the road" that is supposed to include tramping through brambles. Oh! Well! I'm a tough girl...

The site was a short drive from The Stuckey's, where everyone had gotten fueled up for the day's work. Once we arrived at the site and were safely parked along the road, all 27 of us gathered around Ken Swan for a rundown of the area. Will and Joe put in their 2 cents, and then we were off in the direction that made us feel most lucky! I headed up the hill with several folks, to work on an exposed face. Several people including Paula braved the brambles on the lower side of the road.

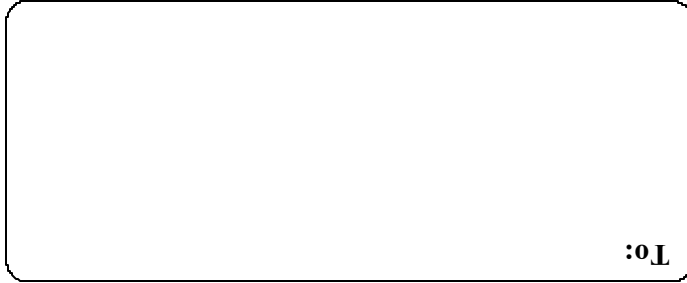
A lot of what I found was rotten, which means it had holes running all through it and wouldn't be good for



Top: The rockhounds
Middle Column:
 1. At the Stuckey's eating breakfast
 2. Ken Swan giving us the rundown
 3. Some new proud parents of fabulous paintrock specimens
Right Column:
 4. French is working hard to hit paintrock gold on the side of a hill
 5. Look what we got!!! Some of the best finds of the day.

cabbing. But, almost everyone found at least a few great pieces that they can cab. It was a lot of fun and a lot of hard work. All I can say, is when's the next one?

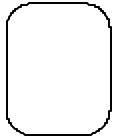




To:

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Next Meeting:
April 17th
Place:
Farm Bureau
818 S Church St
Murfreesboro, TN
Time: 7:30 PM
Board Meeting:
6:30 PM



First Class
Postage



Nashville, Tennessee 37212
c/o 2510 Essex Pl

Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

DMC Program cont'd from page 4

ROCK SWAP: The WPM&GS is planning a Saturday afternoon Rock Swap and would like to invite all delegates to bring an extra box of rocks to trade.

LUNCH: The WPM&GS will offer for sale Hamburgers and Hot Dogs with all the fixn's Saturday afternoon. (Bring Your Own Soft Drink For Lunch) "Woodleaf BP" has a grill. Other lunch possibilities would be in Mocksville (listed above) or in the Salisbury vicinity with similar offerings.

SPECIAL NOTE: I would like to ask all field trip chairs or individuals planning on attending to drop us an e-mail or give us a call with the number that will be attending in your group or digging party. This will allow The Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society to plan accordingly for lunch.

Contact: Wayne Bowman
WPM&GS Field Trip Chairman
Phone: (828) 397-5222
Email: WPMGS@Go.Com
Event Home Page: <http://community.webtv.net/LynnFlintstone/MAY2003DMC>

NOTE: Severe Weather Or Crisis Out Of Our Control May Result In The Cancelling or Rescheduling Of This Field Trip.

"Field Trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on this or any DMC program field trips!"

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: 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

For Sale: New glass display case. 20.5" X 28.5" X 2.5" \$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 members and friends to advertise goods and services for sale or swap & want ads.