



Mid-TENN Gem'ers

Newsletter of
The Middle Tennessee Gem
and Mineral Society, Inc.
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The Prez Rambles On...

Lewis Elrod and I took a field trip to Graves Mountain, Georgia this past weekend. This was my third trip to the mountain and Lewis' first. We started out the day collecting from a couple of diggers tailings pile. They missed quite a few nice, mostly small specimens of iridescent hematite. After filling my pack and going back down the mountain to the truck, I wondered thru all three pits just to scope it out. Lewis wandered thru the pits at the same time. I filled my pack again with a yard rock and a few specimens from different places in the pits.

There had been a tremendous amount of rock moved in the four or five years since I had been there. I went back to the tailings pile to see if I could collect enough specimens to give to the children at the 2004 West Elementary Geology Dig. I'm pretty sure I succeeded in that mission.

As I was packing up to leave, I noticed a small hole in the pit wall. I don't know how many times I had glanced over it in the course of the day. I went over to examine it and discovered a small opening in the floor of the hole. I stuck my hand in to see if there was anything but dirt. I could see the entire hole so there was no worry about spiders and snakes.

Reaching in I found a loose rock. I pulled out a gorgeous piece of quartz coated in iridescent hematite, not just a single color but an entire rainbow of colors. I immediately started to open the pocket. After enlarging the hole, specimens started falling out. The pocket apparently had collapse at some point in time. The specimens were easy to retrieve by hand. The walls of the pocket were also covered with hematite covered quartz.

Quitting time came too early. I had a nice flat full of specimens many with a full rainbow coloring. I suspect the pocket held many more treasures. I had run out of time and arm as I reached as far into the pocket as I could reach. I deeded my pocket to someone else digging nearby. I had plenty of specimens anyway. The only thing I can think of better would be to break into a

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

**CHANGE OF
VENUE For May
15th!!!! See page 4
for details**

June 18th

July 17th

August 21st

September 18th

October 16th

November 20th

December 18th

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. 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

Inside this issue:

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Rock Shop

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Swap & Shop

and more...

pocket filled with awesome paint rock nodules.

Before leaving for Graves Mountain, Lewis and I went to West Elementary School in Mount Juliet to help with Tina King's Geology dig. We were joined there by Marty Hart and Al Johnson, Bob and the star of the show, Tina King. (Drum roll please!) I think we all had a great time.

I always enjoy working with kids, so I had a ball helping them insert a shiny tumbled stone into a wire cage. I also gave them a nice piece of petrified wood from Montana and Wyoming. Reports came back that the children thought the tumbled stone necklaces were "baad". They also enjoyed the petrified wood since the pieces were adult fist sized or multiple smaller stones in a baggy.

It's also fun to watch the non rockhound adults who participate. Most of them wanted one of the necklaces too. We were able to fill all requests including necklaces for a high school teacher and her students. Lewis figured we gave out 100 necklaces that morning.

After some arm twisting, we had enough volunteers volunteer to help with the Cub Scout Day Camp in Murfreesboro on June 9. If you want to sign up to help also, we can always use help as there could be as many as eighty cub scouts working on the geology activity pin. We will have five stations for them to rotate through. The stations will be hunting for specimens, rocks and minerals used in ordinary things, mineral hardness scale, geologic materials used in building homes, tell how mountains are formed, and fossils.

If anyone has some small pieces of rough such as quartz, amethyst,

rubies, marble, small mineral specimens and would like to contribute them to the cub scout project, please bring them to the May meeting. We need at least five specimens for each scout. I'll obtain the rest of the material needed after the meeting.

Enough rambling. See you at the meeting.

Steve
shenegar@
net-serv.com



BOARD MEETING - April 17, 2003

Meeting was called to order at 6:40, and a quorum was present. Troy Hill was introduced as a visitor representing the Boy Scouts, updating us on the scout session at Barfield Park. Will Smith then asked what our thoughts were regarding the scholarships. He moved that the board approve the same scholarship budget including only Motlow and TTech as recipients and dropping the rest for lack of interest shown. Lewis seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. New members were approved: Dr. Albert Ogden of MTSU, Sam & Doris Robertson of Tullahoma, and Steve Kanies of Nashville (again, welcome back Steve).

There being no further business the Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Paula Vance - Secretary*

GENERAL MEETING

General Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Steve. Joseph and Mary Bailey were introduced as visitors, and Bill Jackson introduced his wife as a visitor also. Troy Hill then updated the general membership on the cub scout shindig going on at Barfield Park, and asked our club to participate in activities for the scouts' geology pins. He eventually filled the requested areas of expertise (I think,...) with Jay Matthews stepping in as hero to complete the roster.

We were reminded about the Graves Mountain dig, scheduled for May 3-4 and we were encouraged to attend if at all possible. Another madhouse round then continued with the stamp fund (it really IS fun) with items donated this month by Francis Mangrum, John Stanley, Johnny Hilliard, French Gothard, Bill Buckner, and Paula to the Max. Thanks, folks, your generosity makes things so much more entertaining.

Program Chair Bob King then reminded us all about next month's meeting being the "Swap and Shop" session, with one additional item donated (please) for elevator fund auction to follow. The June meeting is always the picnic, again to be held at Barfield Park.

Top of the Heap (rock, that is) this month was our own beloved Barbara Ellis, who showed us that rocks don't have to be shiny, or hard, but can be tokens of love and support. She then anointed Harry Justice for May.

Bob then told his bad joke of the night (or did he?), and presented Bill Jackson to entertain us with a record of his family trip to Australia and New Zealand for Christmas

2002. We saw many beautiful scenes, neat places to visit, various shopping experiences for the gems and minerals indigenous to that region, and a lovely family enjoying time together. Thanks, Bill, for a great narration.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

*Respectfully
submitted,
Paula Vance -
Secretary*



It's That Time Of Year

by Alyce L. Grimes

All the inspirational Doctors have stressed that we must get outdoors and exercise. They say walking is the best exercise known to man. As I was growing up in the '50s my family stressed doing constructive projects. So my brother and I were taught to find a job and work at it. This form of work would be exercise enough. No, it didn't mean walking on a treadmill because this got me no where.

So with all this being said ----- Working my regular job "Pet Watchers" is not enough exercise. Now if I walked from house to house (some 50 to 100 miles a day) I might get enough exercise, but there are only 5 hours to get the job done.

For several years, I have been tilling up a garden plot. This garden spot is only 50 ft. by 75 ft. and there's lots of work? --- exercise to be done. I have gone over several great exercises to see which ones I

need the most. I must say all of them. Tilling the soil means starting the machine, bending over and checking the oil, bending over to pick up the 5 gal. can of gas to fill the gas tank. Then pulling the rope ---- over and over and over. You or I must hold on to the machine strongly as it jumps this way and that way. After a few hours the arms are shook to death.

Later I start the toe touching exercise. In past years (every year) I have gotten 6 pails of small rocks out of this small garden spot. Each year I check over every rock for it's worth. There is hope for a small Diamond or at least one geode. You see, I have gone on Rock hunting trips in gardens where we found several geodes. Every year I bend over to pick up these rocks and I only find leaver-rite. I know I have progressed to the weight lifting exercise as I haul the pails over to the driveway.

Now, I realize, over the years you may have picked up some leaver-rite. ---- but 6 pails every year is not fun. I know also I have not put in any seed in the ground for this type of rock. So please tell me which one of you is dropping off your leaver-rite in my garden?

Thank you for
your time,
Alyce L.
Grimes



A Visit to Gloria's Rock Shop

by Bill Jackson

My wife Dottie, daughter, Elesia and I were attending classes at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina the last week of April. Brasstown is only a twenty minute drive to Young Harris, home of the Holland School of Lapidary and next door is Gloria's Rock Shop. I had tried to call Gloria and Dick Helsley, to arrange a visit. Unfortunately I had misplaced their card and didn't have a phone number. Anyway, Elesia and I decided to drive down on Wednesday afternoon hoping they would be around and also to visit the Holland School to take some pictures.

Dick and Gloria were in the process of getting things ready for opening on Sunday so instructors for classes at the Holland School could obtain rough material, slabs, and gemstones for students to use in their classes. We noticed a large wooden crate near the door with the top boards leaning against it. Dick explained they had just gotten back from their annual visit to Tucson and were in the process of unpacking stuff they had purchased. We went back for a closer look at the crate and a smaller one nearby. Inside the crate, which was about four feet high, was a beautiful Brazilian Amethyst geode packed in sawdust. It had been sliced down the length to reveal the crystals inside. The stone weighed 291 pounds. The total weight of crate, packing and stone was over 400 pounds. Dick had a price tag of \$1570 on it but said another dealer said he would put a price tag of \$5000 on it at his shop. Dick had two other specimens but one had been sold. The

cont'd on page 5

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

CHANGE OF VENUE

DUE TO THE STORMS WE WILL NOT BE MEETING AT THE FARM BUREAU

Instead, we will be combining the June picnic with the May swap meet. We WILL be meeting on the SAME DAY and SAME TIME as our usual meeting, just a different place. The picnic will be held at the new **Murfreesboro Barfield-Crescent City Park**. It will be in the **Wilderness Station (tel: 217-3017 if you have questions)**.

This is a lighted, air conditioned building with rest rooms.

Directions to the park are as follows:

- Traveling East on I-24 take exit 81 south toward Shelbyville.
- Continue for 1.7 miles to the fourth red light and turn right on Barfield-Crescent Road. (There is a Phillips 66 station on the right at the light at the corner).
- Drive 0.8 miles on Barfield-Crescent Road.
- Turn left into the Barfield-Crescent Park.
- Continue 0.3 mile to the first street on the right and turn right.
- Continue for approximately 75 feet to a stop sign.
- Turn left at the stop sign and continue 0.5 mile to the Wilderness Center, which is a building on the right.
- Enter the parking lot, which has adequate spaces, and come in the front door of the building. The Wilderness Station is at the rear of the park behind the Frisbee golf course and past the picnic pavilions.

For anyone who goes to the Farm Bureau building as a reference point:

Continue south towards Shelbyville for 1.9 miles to the overpass above Interstate 24. The above directions then apply.

Be sure to bring a table cover if desired, table ware, plates, drinks, etc. You will also need to bring a covered dish (food) sufficient to supply your family and some to share with others and plenty of extra for the newsletter editor. There are many good cooks in our group and we always have a feast at our summer picnic. Bring your swap items and any hobby items you have been working on for show and tell.

SEE YOU THERE!!!!

An Official Field Trip of Forsyth County Gem & Mineral Club

Field Trip: 8:00 am -12:00, Saturday, June 21, 2003

Site Name: Vulcan Materials Company's Morganton Quarry

City and State: Morganton, NC

County within State: Burke County

Children: Over 12 years old can attend if supervised closely by parent or guardian. Must wear appropriate safety gear. No Pets

Contact numbers: Contact Jim Stroud, if you have any questions concerning the fieldtrip. phone: 336-744-2940

e-mail address:
stroudj@vmcmail.com

mail address PO Box 4239 Winston-Salem, NC 27115

TRIP: Vulcan Materials Company's Morganton Quarry

COLLECTING: This quarry has several rock types, which include augen gneiss, chlorite biotite gneiss, amphibolite, and pegmatite. The following collectable minerals have been found at this location: garnet, golden beryl, black tourmaline, apatite, sphene, feldspar, biotite and muscovite books, and siderite. The majority of these minerals are found in the pegmatite zones. Garnets are almandine variety and have been found up to silver dollar size. However, the majority of them are 1/8" to 1/4" in diameter imbedded in the pegmatite.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: This is an operating mine. All persons attending the fieldtrip will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement, take 15 minute hazardous training, and wear the required safety gear at

cont'd on page 5

other one, still in its crate, was only about 30 inches high and weighed about 130 pounds. He was asking \$590 for it.

In addition to a wide variety of geodes and other specimens, Gloria and Dick have a wide selection of faceted gemstones, cabochons of all sizes, shapes and varieties of gemstones not only from the U.S. but from around the world. Fortunately for us, they had just brought in a huge stack of rough slab material and I was able to pick and chose from the best. Eles found some faceted stones she had been wanting. We talked for awhile as we continued to look for unusual gemstone material.

Gloria is in therapy for a knee replacement and wasn't able to move around much. Dick mentioned that Suzanne, daughter of Harold and Mary Lou Sparks, founders of the Holland School, had been taken to the hospital in Atlanta to diagnose the ailment afflicting her. I called Sunday afternoon to enquire about her condition. She was still in the hospital, but they didn't know what was wrong or when she would be back. Suzanne had been working at the school getting ready for classes when she became ill.

Dick and Gloria send their greetings to club members in



Murfreesboro and told me of the fond memories they had of trips to our annual show before it was moved to Nashville. They lived in Chattanooga before retiring in 1987 after 36 years with the Southern & Norfolk Railroad. Dick and Gloria purchased land for the Holland School and their own home in 1983

on a mountain side near Young Harris, Georgia. Two years later they moved into their new home and opened Gloria's Gems Rock Shop in the basement. Dick has a shop in back to house his slab saw and other lapidary equipment. Dick will be teaching a class with Chris Callaway at his shop the first week of June. Dick will be teaching students how to use a slab saw to slab rough rocks along with the proper care and cleaning of your saw and blades.

It is a very scenic and easy drive of under four hours from Murfreesboro to Brasstown. Another twenty minutes will get you to the Holland School and Young Harris. If you haven't visited the mountains of North Georgia, or



the Ocoee River in Tennessee, in the spring or fall, you are in for a real treat.



Field Trip cont'd

all times. This includes a hard hat, safety glasses, and steel-toed boots.

We will meet at the quarry office at 8 a.m., sign releases, receive instructions on boundaries and safety, and be lead into the collecting area. We must leave the quarry by 12 noon! In addition, all persons are asked to stay away from the quarry walls. There is plenty of material loose on the quarry floor. **VEHICLES WILL BE PERMITTED INSIDE THE QUARRY ON THIS TRIP** and parked until leaving.

BRING: Hard hat, safety glasses, rock hammer, and something to carry and wrap samples.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET: Where we will meet: We will meet at the quarry at 8:00 am and be allowed to collect until 12:00. Quarry's phone number (828)437-2616.

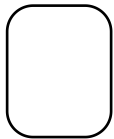
Directions to our meeting place: From Interstate 40, take Highway 18 North at exit 105. At the fourth traffic light, turn right on Fleming Drive. Continue to end of road at Route 64/70 (dead end at BiLo Food Store). Turn left on Route 64/70, travel under the railroad bridge. Immediately after crossing under bridge, at the Viscotec plant, turn right on Kirksey Drive. Make another right on Quarry Road. Quarry entrance is 1/4 mile off Quarry Road.

Vulcan Materials Company
Causby Quarry Road
Morganton, NC 28655
(828) 437-2616

Drive Time: This is approximately a 1-1/2 hour drive from Winston-Salem.

To: _____

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested



First Class
Postage



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

Next Meeting:
May 15th
MEETING
CHANGE DUE
TO STORM
See pg 4 inside!



Class openings SFMS Workshop at William Holland Retreat

It's not too late! Act now and reserve your space in a June SFMS William Holland Workshop Class! There are still limited openings in the following classes at the June session at William Holland Retreat:

- Casting & Wax Models
- Dichroic Glass Fusion
- Opal Cutting
- Beginning Silversmithing
- Intermediate Silversmithing (this is an excellent class to bridge the gap between Beginning Silversmithing and Advanced)
- Beginning Wirecraft

If you are interested in taking

one of these classes, please e-mail your class preference to Perry & Teresa Curl at tcurl@bellsouth.net to reserve your space, then send your application and full fee of \$250 to them immediately.

This will be the first SFMS workshop at William Holland to enjoy the comfort of the newly air-conditioned class rooms and dining hall. An elevator has also been installed.

Reminder: May 1 is the first postmark date for application for the August, September and October workshops at Wildacres and William Holland Retreats; get your applications ready to mail and get the classes you want.

Anna Denton,
SFMS Education Chairman

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.