



Mid-TENN Gem'ers

Newsletter of
The Middle Tennessee Gem
and Mineral Society, Inc.
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Really Short-
Minutes

A Thank You or
two (one with pic-
tures)

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and more...

The Prez Rambles On...

For those of you who are wondering, YES, WE ARE HAVING A PICNIC!!! Last month was a practice run. I apologize for not getting the correct information to Ingrid last month. We had to move our meeting place because the Farm Bureau is using their meeting room to handle claims from all the storms and tornados last month. The Wilderness Station was available so we moved the meeting there. Somewhere along the line a picnic got slipped in. I think everyone who attended enjoyed the rock swap and auction. We raised \$317 for the elevator that was installed at the William Holland Lapidary School in north Georgia.

June is our regular picnic month. We will be meeting at the Wilderness Station at the Barfield-Crescent Park in Murfreesboro. PLAN ON STARTING AT 7:00 P.M. The park is just a few miles south of the Farm Bureau building where we normally meet. Directions were given in the last newsletter and hopefully they will be in this issue. Be sure to bring you plates, silverware, drinks and napkins for you and anyone you bring. Cook a wonderful potluck dish or two or three, to bring to share with everyone.

I don't know if LaVelle Smith is coming or not, but I want to put in an order for one of her lip-smacking hams. How about it LaVelle, we'll let you stay with Smitty so you don't have to drive back home late at night. Smitty, you need to bring the cornbread. The rest of you long term members bring the goodies you usually bring. This is not the time to experiment with something new.

New members it's ok if you bring something new as we don't know about your cooking. It's perfectly acceptable for you to try a new recipe and slip that in. As for myself, I'll bring me. Most cooks like me because I'll try almost anything (it does have to be dead and cooked) and eat large quantities. Now if someone will slip in some pinto beans and some fried taters to go with that cornbread and ham, I'll think I've had a taste of heaven. Anyone have fresh tomatoes. I like those to. As for the rest of you, I'll eat your food too. I like it all. I'm already

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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

June 18th

July 17th

August 21st

September 18th

October 16th

November 20th

December 18th

Internet Web Page:

<http://www.mtgms.org>

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

drooling just thinking about it. We need be out of the building by 8:30 if possible. Come early and enjoy.

Picnic time is time for show and tell. Bring things you have been working on the past year so the rest of us can ooh and ahh and wish we could do that work too. It's ok to do a little trading also.

A few of us spent most of the afternoon June 9, working with 44 cub scouts. We were there to help them complete the requirements for a geology activity pin. Lewis Elrod, Joe Powell, Jay Matthews, Will Smith and myself were showing the scouts the wonders of the mineral and fossil world. Will demonstrated the uses of minerals in and around the home. Joe explained how mountains are formed. I think the scouts were fascinated to discover that Mount Everest isn't actually the tallest mountain on the earth. Tallest above sea level, but not the tallest from it's base. Jay showed the scouts fossils and how they are used to determine the age of rocks that are found around them. Lewis demonstrated the hardness of minerals and how the hardness scale relates to items we use in everyday life. I let them mine for some mineral specimens. These specimens represented minerals used in building our homes, roads, offices, and even in making medicines. I think all of us had a good time. I'm certain the scouts had a great time. It still amazes me to see the look of wonder on a child's face after he makes a new discovery.

It's time to start preparing for our December show. We will have the floor layout finished soon and will send the contracts out to our dealers hopefully by the end of June. There are lots of jobs to do before, during and at the end of the

show. Please consider what you can do to help, and schedule the time early. We need someone to start training to be a show chairman, someone to train for doing show publicity, someone willing to make sure the display cases get taken care of, both setup and take down. Some of our long term members would like to take a break on occasion, so we need new blood to step up and get some experience. It's work it's rewarding and even sometimes fun.

This year instead of a club booth we will have a small dealer area. Club members will be able to rent one table and we may open it up to some other small dealers we have found over the years that only need one table. This year we will have contracts for the small dealers just like the main dealers. The small dealers will have to abide by the same rules as the regular dealers. Please see me at one of the meetings or call me (615 896-1472) if you are interested.

Steve
shenegar@
net-serv.com



BOARD MEETING - May 15, 2003

Didn't happen.

*Respectfully submitted,
Paula Vance, Secretary*

GENERAL MEETING - May 15, 2003

Didn't have one. Food good. No bad jokes by Bob King. Next (June) meeting same place, 7:00 p.m., this time everybody bring food and pig out and have fun.

*Respectfully submitted,
Paula Vance, Secretary
(and principal smart aleck)*



A Special Thank You from West Elementary

Thank you Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society for helping make our sixth annual "Geological Dig" at West Elementary in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, such a success! We really appreciate all that you do to make science come alive for our students. I'd like to express a special "thank you" to all the members who donated minerals, as well as shared their knowledge with us. I would also like to express heartfelt gratitude and a deep appreciation for the members who participated and helped on the day of our dig.

Lewis Elrod and Steve Henegar worked with students at the "Tumbled Stones" area. The students proudly wore their necklaces with tumbled stones. They also loved the petrified wood from Steve. Al Johnson worked with the students at the mineral identification center. He talked to the students about the habits, hardness,

and other identifying qualities of rocks and minerals. The students were so excited, it was hard to pry them away from each center. Member Tom Kurras brought many wonderful specimens of fluorescent rocks. The students were in awe as the plain rocks suddenly changed to orange rocks that appeared to glow like lava, as well as the rocks that changed to glow yellow, purple, red, pink, blue, and green. Marty Hart helped oversee the areas and photograph students at various stations. The students loved the geodes donated by Marty. They were so excited (as Al Johnson put it) to be the "first one in the world to see inside this geode". Marty Hart overheard a third grader tell another student, as they peered in the windows, "We get to do this next year!" One of my student's parents told me that her son had been waiting since first grade to do this dig. He could barely go to sleep that night. Member Bob King helped set up the dig, gathered and prepared minerals and fossils, as well as worked on the day of the dig. He has helped implement and plan the "geological dig" from the inception in 1998.

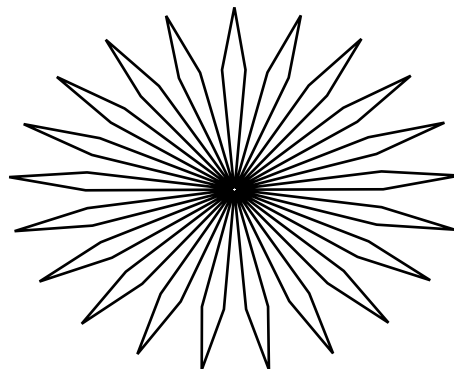
I only wish the members of the Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society could have seen the faces of the students as they cracked geodes, excavated five fossils at the "dig site", and crawled through a man-made cave to find minerals. I'd like to thank the MTG&MS for giving us a scholarship to make this geological experience possible. After seeing the fluorescent rocks, along with the many rocks and minerals at the dig, without a doubt, the students will never look at a rock the same way again. You reached students today, and you made a difference!! I appreciate your overall

support all year long, as well as the funding to make this dig possible. The students learned a lot, but even more, they gained a greater appreciation of the world around them. Our goal is to motivate students and to help students build understanding as connections are made through Earth science.

Theresa Wright, the Earth Science teacher at Mt. Juliet High School brought her students to assist with the dig. This connection benefited both the high school students and our fourth grade students by providing role models, as well as the opportunity for students to work together to gain an appreciation of "Earth science" at two different levels. Bob King also brought two high school students from White House High school.

The "Geological Dig" is a massive undertaking and a daylong event that involves many people. I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that your efforts, your kindness, and your sharing of knowledge make a huge difference. I have learned something new at each rock club meeting. Thank you for not only affecting my students, but for also making an impact on me as a teacher.

Tina King, fourth grade teacher
West Elementary
9315 Lebanon Road
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122



Just-a-sawing

by Will Smith

For many years I've purchased slabs instead of rough, since I like to know what I'm getting and do not like to saw slabs. Now that I have more time available, I've been running my saws, cutting rough Tennessee material and it has been a learning experience.

I first discovered that some of the less expensive saw blades work better than the expensive ones on both the 6" and 10" saws. I had always used water in the 6" since I cut a lot of Opal, which does not like oil, but a problem developed. The low cost blades rust so I had to remove the water after each sawing or add a rust inhibitor. Joe was using soluble oil at Donelson, but I was still concerned how it would work on Opal. A Club member gave a gallon of Grave's Die-Cut water additive to Tullahoma and Donelson so we started using it in the 6" saws and it worked wonderfully without any rust and fast cutting with the low cost blades.

In reading some of the material on Die-Cut it indicated it could be used on saws up to 10 inch so I tried it on one of my 10" saws and it worked great. I've always been concerned with using oil on the 10" and larger saws as my coolant, since it creates a mist in the air, which you breath and that can not be good for your health. We drained and cleaned the oil from the 10" saws at Tullahoma and Donelson, adding the water/Die-Cut mix. It was great, no oil, no need for cat-litter (which removes the oil from the slabs), no smell, and no mess. "But" after a few cuts on Agate, the saws would stop cutting all togeth-

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ANNUAL PICNIC

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 the Georgia Mineral Society, Inc. & the Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society

"WORLD CLASS STAUROLITE"
HACKNEY FARM, BLUE RIDGE,
GA. (FEE AREA)

Date: Saturday, July 5, 2003

Time: 9:30 A.M. Eastern

Location: HACKNEY FARM, BLUE RIDGE, GA.

Children are welcome.

Pets are OK but the owner has pit bull dogs which are very friendly to people - ? pets, I'm not so sure about?

Location: This is a world class site for staurolite (fairy crosses and the Georgia state mineral)! Steve Hackney had made a few improvements on the farm a few years ago to make it easier for us to collect here. He cleared and bulldozed the old trenches by the creek and dug new trenches. Now you can either dig in the newer trenches or make your own hole someplace else. So far, the foot of the hill seems to be the digging spot of choice. I like to sit in the shade of a tree on an overturned 5 gallon bucket and screen the creek for crystals. The crystals at Hackney Farm are small and almost perfect. Most of this material is in the form of single prismatic blades (over 60% found), twinned crystals inter-grown at 60° (over 30% found), twinned crystals inter-grown at 90° (3-4% found) and occasionally Maltese crosses (under 3% found) and "multi-twins" (rare). You may also find hornblende, diorite and gold ore. On a trip here a couple of years ago, Daniel Miller (field trip chair for the Knoxville club) found three small gold nuggets while panning in the stream!

Meet at: We will be meeting at 9:30 AM in the theater parking lot located behind McDonalds at the junction of SR 515/76 and SR 5 in Blue Ridge, Ga. Minerals found: There is plenty of staurolite (Fairy crosses) here. (Single

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er. Ken put oil back in the Tullahoma saw and it started cutting agate again. In looking at the blades, the metal was being pushed over the diamond rather than being removed, thus causing it to stop cutting.

What could be the problem? The information on Die-Cut indicated it could be used in 10" saws.

After many searches on the Internet, I learned some very important information. First, Die-Cut should not be used on any saw above 7 inch or on stones with a hardness of 6 or more. It works OK on Agate (hardness of 7) because we are using it on a 6" saw, but not the 10" saw. Some of the 10 to 1 ratio water-soluble oil will work in 10" saws, but not well with Agate.

This explains why when I first started I could not get my combination saw and grinder to work. It came with soluble oil and I would cut for hours on a small Tennessee Agate with out much luck. Now I know it was not the blade or the low cost machine, or the operator, it was the coolant. I think the word "coolant" is the problem since what we're doing is more dealing with lubrication and removing the rock mud from the cut than keeping the stone cool.

Over the years most Rockhounds I know were mixing motor oil and Diesel Fuel to run in their saws. Not sure how healthy it was, but the Diesel could become a real fire hazard.

After looking at many Web sites, I discovered that you must use an oil when cutting Agate using 10" or larger saws. Most of us have been using Almag by Texaco as our cutting oil. Some other oils I discovered do the same job such as

Shell Pella, Chevron Superlub, Arco Calube, Standard RPM Flush, and Mobile Velocite. I found some Velocite #6, which I think I'm going to like better than Almag.

What's important is that we be concerned with the air we breath in our shops, along with what will do the best job. I'm going to cut up all my rough, then sell my saws and go back to purchasing slabs for cutting into cabs. I'll let you know if the Velocite works better than the Almag.

Update, the Velocite # 6 is great for cutting agate. It stays clean and liquid without suspending too much rock mud in the oil, but it has a smell that gives me a headache if I don't allow all the mist inside the cover to cool down before removing the cover. Going to try some of the other oils.



Pictures from Camp



A Webelos Thank You

I wish to once again Thank your club for its professional & knowledgeable presentation at my Camp on June 9th. My hope is that you may spark some interest in some of the young men to learn more about Geology. The over 40 boys that you taught yesterday were able to earn their WEBELOS (5th Grade Scouts) Geology Activity Pin. In the WEBELOS program there are 20 different Activity Pins that the boys set out to earn on this 2 year program. Geology is often not afforded much time. They are making a specimen bag today & will take the stones that your club so graciously gave them home in it. Again, Thanks to you & your members, Mr. Henegar for all you did.

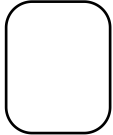
V.R. Dan the Day Camp Man



To: _____

**Park
Barfield
at
PICNIC
June 19th
Next Meeting:**

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested



First Class
Postage



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

prismatic blades, twinned crystals intergrown at 60° and 90°, and occasionally Maltese crosses) You may also occasionally find hornblende, diorite and gold ore.

Tools: You will need to bring a shovel and pick for digging in the new trenches, a bucket or two to hold specimen dirt, wire screens of 1/2 inch and 1/4 inch to take to the stream to wash your bucket material, and Ziplocs for your specimen finds. You can forget the digging and just screen the stream material. I've had great luck with this method in the past. You may even want to take a few buckets of specimen dirt home to process later! Don't forget your food and drinks.

Cost: \$10.00 fee per carload. A Georgia Mineral Society host will be collecting this fee and issuing a "parking pass" at the movie theater meeting location. Please bring the exact dollar amount!

Where: In the theater parking lot located behind McDonalds at the junction of SR 515/76 and SR 5 in Blue Ridge, Ga.

Directions from Atlanta: Take I-75 north to I-575. I-575 will change to Georgia 5 and 515. Follow this highway North through Ellijay until you reach the town of Blue Ridge. SR 5 makes a left at the McDonalds. You will see the McDonalds on the North West corner. Make the left and then right into the theater parking lot which is just after the McDonald's entrance. Total distance is 74 miles from I-75/I-575 and total driving time will be about 1:25 hours

This field trip will be canceled if there is a travel advisory posted between Atlanta and our collecting site.

George Libby, GMS Field Trip Chair
Telephone: 770-978-2117
Fax: 770-985-4281
Cell Phone: 678-910-7476
email: Onsiteinatlanta@yahoo.com

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: 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.