



Mid-TENN Gem'ers

Newsletter of
The Middle Tennessee Gem
and Mineral Society, Inc.
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Inside this issue:

Presidents Letter

Finally some minutes from a meeting

Nephrite=Jade

A Visit to William Holland

Field Trip

Fabulous Pics!!!

Swap & Shop

and more...

The Prez Rambles On...

Well folks show time will be here before you know it. It's only two months away. I hope everyone plans to pitch in and help with the show this year. It takes a lot of work to setup, man the entrance tables, work the silent auction and take down everything at the end of the show. It's not hard if there are plenty of folks to help. If there are only a few folks, it's tough on the few that do it. Make your plans to lend a hand with setup on Friday, December 12, sell tickets or help with the grand prize registration table during the show or help pack up our showcases and other show supplies at the end of the show. Joe Powell can use your help with the silent auction. No matter what your talents we can use you if only for an hour or two. Plenty of help assures we all get to enjoy the show.

I hope you're saving your pennies to spend at the show. I dump the change out of my pocket everyday just so I'll have some extra spending money. I prefer to think of it as going rockhunting with my silver pick. The more change I save the better my silver pick swings. Much cleaner than digging in the dirt with a shovel. I've even found cut and polished rocks with my silver pick. Can't come any where near matching that with the shovel.

We have a good variety of dealers with lots of great merchandise relating to our hobby. Most dealers are veterans of our show, however there will be at least one new dealer in the mix this year. Over the years I've formed some wonderful friendships with our show dealers. The thing I like most about our show is renewing these friendships with both dealers and club members. I still think rocks are merely the excuse for joining this club, while the friendships formed are the real reason for being a part of the club. Don't get me wrong, I like the rocks. I like to look at them, play with them, cut and polish them. However, it's the people that are the real gems. Over the past ten years of rockhounding I've met some real gems. I'll bet you have too. Now where was I going when I got sidetracked? Oh yeah! Dealers. We've got some great ones for our show. Come on out and show your support for both our dealers and our club.

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 2003:

October 16th

November 20th

December 18th

Meeting Dates 2004:

January 16th

February 20th

March 19th

April 15th

May 20th

June 17th

July 15th

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

~ cont'd on page 2

And invite fifty of your closest friends. It will be Christmas shopping time. Our show is a great place to find some unique gifts for anyone's shopping list. So go ahead and invite those friends.

I just returned from a trip out west. I did make it to the Eldorado Bar Sapphire Mine in Helena, Montana. I even found a fairly nice sapphire. Our trip was cut back due to a friend who was traveling with us having a heart attack and pneumonia when we reached Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He was airlifted across the mountains by helicopter to Idaho Falls while my mother and I drove across two mountain passes in the middle of the night. One pass was about 10,000 feet high with 10% grades on both sides, while the other was over 8,000 feet, neither has guard rails. Needless to say I was rather tense while driving on unfamiliar mountain roads after midnight. It was an adventure I won't soon forget. Unfortunately after two weeks, our friend is still in intensive care in Idaho Falls. He is very slowly recovering.

We're hoping and praying that he has a full recovery. I had hoped to visit with Al Johnson in South Dakota while we were out there. Our friend's illness knocked that out. In spite of all the problems, it was still great to get to do the sight-seeing we got to do before his illness struck.

It's also time to start thinking about new officers for the coming year. I hope that you will consider being an officer at some point in time, especially if you are asked by our nominating committee to serve. Traditionally the past president gets the task of coming up with a slate of officers. He or the President may recruit others to assist with the task.

Lewis Elrod is our past president, so don't be shy to say yes if he asks if you will serve as an officer. It's vital to our club to have good officers.

Anyone want to take my place?

See you at the meeting.

Steve shenegar@net-serv.com



September 18th, 2003 Board Meeting:

President Steve Henegar called the meeting to order.

Bob & Tina King submitted a bill for \$500.00 to cover the cost of the boxes used to display the fossils made available to Tennessee teachers for use in their classrooms. Lewis Elrod moved that MTG&MS pay the \$500.00 bill. Bill Buckner seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Kings sent a letter of appreciation to MTG&MS expressing their gratitude for the support.

Bob King informed the Board that House Bill 421 would make it illegal to sell or trade anything collected on public land. The bill also restricts what can be collected on private property.

Ken Swann moved that Lewis Elrod be reimbursed for the minerals he purchased to be used in the school dig and other projects. Bill Buckner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Will Smith requested that MTG&MS reimburse expenses related to the arbors to be used in the senior centers. Bob King moved that MTG&MS reimburse Will. Lewis Elrod seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ken Swann reported on the progress at the Coffee County Senior Center. The center insured all MTG&MS equipment housed on their property. Additional space is available for expansion but additional help will be needed with wiring and installing bathroom facilities. The goal is to ask for donations for items such as carpet, drywall, wiring materials and air conditioning.

Ken Swann reported that space is available for silver smithing. Bill Buckner volunteered to teach. Ken stated that the October classes were full. The Shelbyville Senior Citizens Center plans to bus students to Tullahoma so that they may attend classes. Will Smith estimated that approximately \$1,200.00 would be needed to prepare the new space.

Ken Swann requested \$200.00 for his petty cash fund. Bob King seconded the motion. The motion carried.

On the show front Will Smith reported that the press releases were ready. The status of the trailer and stored items needs to be determined. A show committee is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. at the Donelson Senior Citizens Center on September 21st, 2003. We need to prepare a list of jobs to be done and who is to be responsible.

Will Smith reported that the doors open at 12 o'clock noon on Friday to begin setup. Bob & Tina King volunteered to do setup and

takedown. Will announced that John Chang and Pat Fisher are returning.

President Steve Henegar adjourned the meeting.

Club Meeting:

The regular club meeting was held at the Farm Bureau Building. Twenty-four members were present.

President Henegar opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. A brief review of the Board Meeting was given.

The "Person on the Rockpile" was John Martin, a member since April of 2003. He described how he had always had an interest in rocks and began picking up pretty little rocks beginning in his toddler days. He took a few geology courses in college then tried a little wire wrapping of natural stones. It must be an inherited trait since his nine-year-old son has been interested in rocks since his diaper days. A sign at Donelson Senior Citizens Center led him to become a member of MTG&MS and renewed his interest. The October "Person on the Rockpile" is Jay Matthews.

Mark Greenbaum is scaling down his forty years of collecting and is selling or giving away many of his treasures. Everyone is invited to stop by and please take some treasures home with you.

Announcements were made of the upcoming Show Committee meeting at Donelson Senior Citizens Center. Everyone is invited to volunteer to help in this project. Sign up for a position either manning the ticket booth, setting up, helping with the refreshments or

take down. It is hard work but also fun!

Will Smith, Show Chairman, announced that members can still rent a table in the Club Space but they must sign a contract.

Bill Buckner presented a program demonstrating the presentation that he gives at schools and other groups. He gave an educational program that should inspire more of us to share our knowledge and collections in our communities. The children enjoy the program. Thanks to Bill for his outstanding commitment toward furthering our hobby and educating children.

Respectfully submitted

Anna Elrod, Acting Secretary

JADEITE=JADE

by George Judd, G. G.

Jadeite is a silicate of sodium and aluminum. It is a mineral of the pyroxene group of rock-building minerals and is related to such single-crystal gem minerals as spodumene, diopside and enstatite. When pure, jadeite is white, but when it contains varying amounts of different oxides, mainly ferrous and ferric oxides, the result is gray-greens, yellow-greens, reddish-browns, yellows, grays and lavender, or mauve, jadeite. The finest greens are caused by the incorporation of chromic oxide in the structure, the same impurity that is responsible for the color of emerald.

Jadeite is formed through strong metamorphic action from the alteration of soda-rich rocks enclosed in serpentinitous rocks. It appears as lenses veins, stringers and nodules. Because of its inherent toughness, jadeite survives erosion when softer enclosing rocks have long since dis-

integrated into powder. For this reason, it has been found spread over considerable distances in alluvial deposits but rarely discovered in place. Water-worn boulders vary in size from several inches to several feet across.

The toughness of jadeite is due to its structure; close examination of a typical specimen shows many thousands of minute crystals closely interlocked in every conceivable direction. This structure gives jadeite a tenacity that is seldom equaled by any other mineral. In contrast to its supreme toughness it has only average hardness, 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale. However, this combination of properties makes jadeite easy to saw and carve while retaining great strength even in thin sections.

There are two other types of jadeite. Diopside jadeite is an intermediate mineral between jadeite and diopside. This type of jadeite is a silicate of sodium, calcium, magnesium and aluminum. This jadeite type is the main form found in America.

Chloromelanite is the third variety of jadeite. Even though it is classed as jadeite it is intermediate between jadeite and acmite, or even jadeite, acmite and diopside. It is a silicate of sodium, iron and aluminum. Color is the distinguishing characteristic of chloromelanite and ranges from dark green to black. All black jadeite is not necessarily chloromelanite.

This quality of toughness of the two minerals that we in the Western world refer to collectively as jade was well known to many prehistoric peoples. Archaeologists have shown that the superior toughness of jadeite and nephrite implements

was appreciated by early peoples in widely separated areas. Functional articles were in use in Egypt between 4,000 and 5,000 B. C. Nephrite and some small amounts of jadeite was used by prehistoric Europeans, particularly Swiss Lake Dwellers.

However, in Central America jadeite was the principle jade used for religious and decorative purposes. Olmec offertory caches have yielded a lot of small works, carved out of hard stone such as diorite, serpentine or jadeite, and given a remarkable high polish. Characteristic traits of all the statues are apronounced deformation of the skull and a mouth with downturned corners. It is known that it was customary among several pre-Columbian peoples for the skulls of newborn babies to be deformed by having bandages tied round them. Funeral masks that were made from jadeite were another popular art form used the Olmec's. This culture was active from 500 BC to 800 B.C.

Although the Mayans had been around a long time starting around 1,55 B. C., it wasn't until the Classic period from 300 to 900 A. D. that they created their great empire. The Mayans used jadeite much like the Olmec's did, funeral masks, statuettes made for example, of the Sun God; funerary customs played an important part is use of jadeite by the Mayans.

Jadeite first became known to the Chinese in the middle of the eighteenth century. All older Chinese jade pieces are nephrite. The source of this jadeite is Upper Burma, within an eighty-mile radius of the town of Mogaung, which is very near the Yunan Province of China. Both alluvial boulders and jadeite in situ have been taken from this area.

One source, only recently reported, is near the village of Manzanal, in Guatemala. Until this discovery, the Central American source of jadeite was a mystery. Some of the material is quite acceptable for modern jewelry. In 1939, in California, white jadeite was found in San Benito County in association with a dark, opaque, green jadeite. Jadeite has been reported from Mendocino County, California. Chloromelanite, the dark-green to black iron-rich jadeite, has been reported from San Diego County, California.

*The Rockpile via The Pterodactyl,
September, 2003*

Could We Use Your Art As Grand Prize?

by Will Smith

During the past Show's I've done different members and dealers have asked how we select the Grand Prize we offer, all with a desire to have theirs considered. It got me thinking that more should have the opportunity to present their Art for our review and consideration. At the same time, thinking from the view of the winner, that person may not need a bolo so it would be great if we could offer a wide selection.

What we're going to do this year is invite any member or dealer to present their Art for review by a three person committee who will be unnamed. You will need to submit your item or a picture of same to me giving a description of the item, along with the price you will charge the club if any. The committee will select a number of different items based on quality of craft, price to

club, and interest they think the winner would have in selecting that item as their prize.

If your items is not selected and you submit it for review, I will get it back to you as soon as that determination has been made. If your item is selected as one of the offered Grand Prizes and if it's selected at end of the show, the club will pay you your offered price. If your item is not selected, then it will be returned to you that night or as soon as possible.

I think this can be good for both you (by being selected as an offered Grand Prize), the winner (by having more to select from) and maybe the Club (by not having to pay for the prize since it could be great advertisement for the Artist). Since many of you are artists in other areas, we will be considering items outside our hobby.

Show Meeting Sunday
the 19th at the Donelson
Senior Citizens Center at 3
PM in the Lapidary Room. Ev-
eryone interested in knowing
how we pull the show off
each year or who may
want to help should feel
free to attend. That
goes for those of
you down at
Tullahoma
too.

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

A Visit To Wildacres - Part I

By Will Smith

A few weeks ago I was to teach the Silversmith class for the Fall Workshop Eastern Federation at Wildacres. I could not turn it down since I had never been to that beautiful mountain location which has taught so many of our members over the years.

For those of you new to our club, Wildacres is like William Holland, but the Original retreat for both the Eastern and Southeastern Federation club members. It was equipped by both Federations and continues to provide workshops twice a year for the Eastern and three times a year for the Southeastern.

I was very interested to see the layout of the shops and how they were equipped. I was impressed since the lapidary could handle 10-12 students using Genie's, saws, flat laps, and polishers. It was very clean, roomy, and had well maintained equipment.

Next to the Lapidary class was the Faceting class with some wonderful equipment and space as well.

The Smith's class room was the same with room to teach 12+ students with torches at each bench. They supplied each student a tool box with most all the needed tools. Two buffers were available, along with a rolling mill and big bench shear. The room included a wall bench along two sides with added in space for students to store their items.

Next to the Smith's class, was the room for casting, which was large and well equipped.

All the information sent out indicated you should bring a book and take time to read or get close to nature. I must have made a wrong turn at the top of the hill since the only time I could have read a book was on the driving back to Nashville. It was beautiful and in the middle of nature with no TV and only a couple phones, but the schedule was wall to wall. After breakfast you had a speaker then classes, lunch, classes, dinner, and another speaker or activity at night. Most of the time you welcomed the bed by 9 PM.

Over the next month or so I will go into more detail regarding some of the programs and activities of interest.

The Miner's Ledger

By John Scully

Back in the desert hills,
I found a crumbling mine
that had been abandoned
for a very long time.

A stone and stick or two,
through rotting frame I threw,
to roust the rattle snakes,
so I could see the place.

Into the stope I went,
lamp lit, head low, back bent,
the old mine to explore.
Also, to find some ore.

Just inside the entrance,
where lingered light of day,
I saw where he had chanced
to live a miner's way.

Against the wall, his things -
table with coffee pot,
a wooden shelf with cans,
and a crude wooden cot.

Then, I went farther back
to the interior,
and soon in total black,
the mine got scarier.

With my dim lamp alit,
along old tracks I went,
finding lots of tools, a
sledgehammer and drill bits.

It began to appear
as if he were still here.
Looking this way and that,
I felt a prick of fear.

I came to some rubble,
at a bend of the tunnel,
and all of a sudden,
my hair stood on the ends!

There was a funny smell.
Then I looked down to see
dynamite at my feet
oozing a nitro gel.

Into a wall of gold,
in holes drilled long ago,
I saw old fuses go,
oozing some more nitro.

I was scarcely breathing,
not ready for heaven yet,
and, ever so slowly,
I turned around and fled.

When back at the entrance,
I paused to take a look.
Sitting on his old bench
I spied a crumbling book.

Usually in life,
without a backward glance,
to look through our old mines,
we do not get the chance.

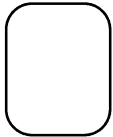
Now, this chance came my way,
as I opened the cover
of Pat Derry's diary
and his mining ledger.

His was a hard story
of danger - muck, drill, blast -

To:

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Next Meeting:
October 16th
 with
Dr. H. Wayne Leimer



First Class
 Postage

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

to find a lode of gold,
 and escape from his past.

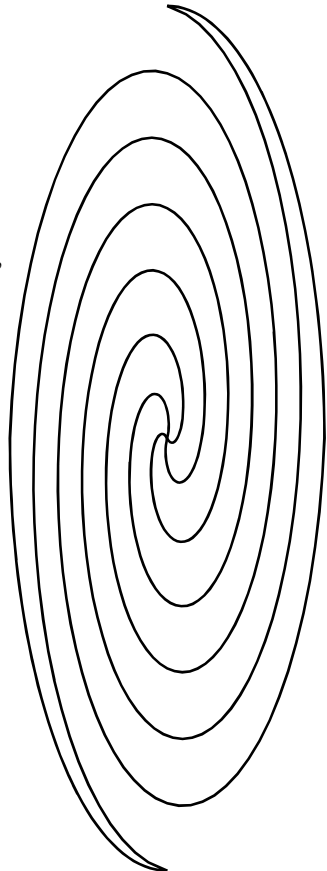
In 1883
 he'd spotted mineral sheen.
 Drilling, blasting, mucking,
 he had followed the seam.

Drill, blast, muck. Drill, blast muck,
 He worked on without luck.
 Yet, with each passing day,
 some treasure'd come his way.

Quartz crystals in his light
 clear, sparkling, radiant.
 And, then a wall revealed
 of pure golden pyrite.

But, supplies had run low.
 Apaches were about.
 He knew that he must go
 for help to Socorro.

He'd do it tomorrow,
 after a final blast.
 But, alas, this page of
 the diary was the last!!!!



Swap and Shop

For Sale: Now available for sale! Large garage stuffed full of 35 yrs of rock collecting. Rocks of all types from fossils, specimens, to slabs are priced individually. Large selection of yard rocks still available priced by the pound. Petrified wood and quartz \$1/lb, other rocks \$.50/lb. Call Francis Mangrum to setup a time to visit (615) 228-8577.

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: Bargains Galore! Equipment & supplies at close-out prices. Come or call George Jones, 5025 Franklin Rd., Nashville, TN (615) 333-3781 email: georgejones@comcast.net

For Sale: Cab machine - Crystalite Ringleader, all diamond wheels. Works great. \$350 481-0083 Mark Greenbaum

Swap and Shop is for members and friends to advertise goods and services for sale or swap & want ads.