



Mid-TENN Gem'ers

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

Presidents Letter

Meeting Minutes

Safety on the Road

Wild Acres II

Two Field Trips

Exhibits Needed

Poem: The
Geologist's Lament

Swap & Shop

and more...

The Prez Rambles On...

The Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society lost a very dear friend last month. Max Grimes departed this earth to the great rock hounding heaven where only perfect agates are found, where Paint Rock Agate is found in great abundance and where lapidary equipment never rusts. Max passed away on October 18th. A memorial service was held on October 25th at his home place in Cannon County. To Paula, his wife, to Alyce, his daughter, and the rest of his family, we extend our deepest heartfelt sympathies on your loss. We miss you Max!



Max was one of those club member who always pitched in to help with club activities even when he became too sick to be doing anything. I remember Max as a very dear friend who was wise beyond his years. He was a person I envied very much as he was a jack of all trades, master of most. As a person who trips over hair in the carpet and can't walk and chew chewing gum at the same time, you can see why I envied his skills and knowledge. I honestly believe he could have flown a rocket ship if the need had arrived.

The only thing I can remember him having difficulty with was getting his car out of his garage after it had been parked in there sideways. Never underestimate the power of a mad woman. I still just heehaw when I think back on hearing him tell about it. Ask me or any of the older members if you wish to hear more about this story. One of the most fun times with Max was when he and Paula were married at the show a few years ago. I've never been to a better wedding. The decorations were fabulous too. I wonder how they got all those people to get out their best rocks to decorate the hall just for their wedding.

Well folks, it's less than a month until our annual spectacular Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil show at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds in Nashville. It's December 13-14 this year. This is our big fundraiser for the

~ 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 2003:

November 20th

December 18th

Meeting Dates 2004:

January 16th

February 20th

March 19th

April 15th

May 20th

June 17th

July 15th

August 19th

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

year. Proceeds from the show fund college scholarships, the Donelson workshop and the Coffee county workshop. Thanks to the hard work of several members, the Donelson workshop has moved to larger quarters and the Coffee county shop has doubled their space. We've had requests to open other workshops at other senior centers. We could do it if we had more instructors. Anyone interested?

Speaking of the show, it's my bound duty as duly elected president of this fine, outstanding, worthy of your help organization, to harp on the membership to make yourselves available to help before, during, and after the show. Consider this the official request - invitation - exhortation - harrassment - down right begging - I want you there - be there or be square - just do it - it's ok to work around the football game - speech to come join in the fun (ok it's really work, it's just fun if we have lots of help) and help out with the show.

Come Friday afternoon December 12th to help and we'll even feed you. Supper is at 5:30 pm. We really need new members, as well as the old ones, to step up to the plate and take a swing at setup, ticket sales, registration, then packing it up for another year. I think I'm going to throw in a new twist. Everyone who helps with the show, show committee included, will put their name in a box for a drawing at the end of the show for one of my slabs of paint rock agate. I'll have the box at the show for you to drop your name in, if you work any time before, during or after the show. If your not present at the end of the show, when the last dealer leaves, I'll mail it to you. Any takers?

See you at the meeting and the show!!!!

Steve
shenegar@net-serv.com



**October 21st, 2003
Board Meeting:**

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Henegar. Board members present: Steve Henegar, Will Smith, Lewis Elrod, Bill Buckner, Ken Swann, Joe Powell, Lisa Trail, Bob King, Tina King, and Ingrid Regen.

Ken Swann reported on activities at Tullahoma. He praised the students for their work, ideas and resourcefulness. Paula Vance will resume teaching wire wrapping. The Board has agreed at a prior meeting to budget \$1,200.00 for preparing additional space in the building. An additional advance of \$1,000.00 was approved but may not be needed and returned to the treasury. This advance is to be repaid as fund-raisers are held.

Will Smith gave an update on show plans. He feels that we are well organized and all dealer space is rented. Will plans to put an article in the bulletin. Anyone wanting or willing to work should let Will know.

Bob and Tina King volunteered to assume the task of handling the children's activities. Joe Powell reported that he would like our contributions for the silent auction as soon as possible. He would like the donations identified and an approximate value set for the items.

Lewis Elrod is to propose a slate of officers for the calendar year of 2004. They will be voted on at the November meeting and will take office in January. The proposed officers are: President-Steve Henegar, First Vice President-Bob King, Second Vice President and Editor-Ingrid Regen, Secretary-Paula Vance, Treasurer-Will Smith, Past President-Lewis Elrod, one year Board Member-Bill Buckner, two year Board Member-Ken Swann, three year Board Member-Lisa Trail, non voting new member for the Board to be selected by the President. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.

Joe Powell reported that Donelson Senior Citizens Lapidary was thriving. Classes fill up quickly. Some of the machines are showing wear and will require new wheels soon.

Other items were discussed such as our status in a 501-c-3 filing with the IRS and future plans and direction for the club. Most topics will be addressed in the 2004 year.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Elrod, Acting Secretary

Club Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Henegar. Guests were welcomed. A report of Board activities was given.

The Person on the Rockpile gave an interesting summary of how he became involved in the hobby. He started with the usual small stuff and later drifted away from the hobby but has now renewed his interests in collecting. Julian Mathews comes to us from Bowling Green, Kentucky. This is

dedication to our hobby. We are very fortunate that he chose to join our club.

Tina has placed Bob on restriction so we were spared a joke for the evening.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Liemer from Tennessee Tech. He spoke of a variety of his experiences, which provided, as always, an outstanding program. He gave us an exam and several of us even passed it. He spoke of the risks involved in collecting some of the minerals such as asbestos. He had a number of specimens with him which he passed around for our examination. We are always happy when he brings students, and scholarship recipients, with him and he brought Marion Shepard with him this time. We thank him very much for his presentation.



Respectfully submitted,
Anna Elrod,
Acting Secretary

Safety on the Road

*by Bill Buckner,
AFMS Safety Chair*

Accidents don't just happen. They are caused. There are three major elements in the transportation system.

- The driver
- The vehicle
- The road

All are important. Most accidents relate to the driver. We need to keep our vehicles in good condition. This includes adequate tires

with correct pressure and aligned wheels, regular service to the motor, and adequate gasoline in the car.

We, ourselves, need to be in shape to drive or let someone who is in shape drive. To be in shape takes several things into consideration.

Vision, which includes peripheral vision, judging distance and speed, and night vision.

Hearing, horns, sirens or screeching tires can warn you of danger. With adequate use of mirrors and being careful this can be taken care of.

Fatigue, try to get rest and sleep before you travel. Eat lightly. Most people get sleepy after a big meal. Take breaks every hour or two. Try not to drive late at night when you usually sleep. Never drive when you are sleepy. Be especially careful not to drive if you are taking medications that make you drowsy or dizzy.

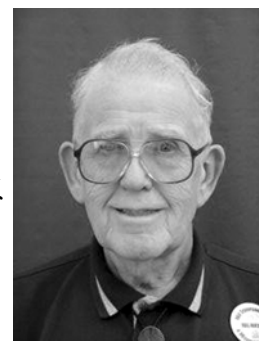
Health, if you are feeling bad and need to go somewhere, let someone else drive. Some diseases cause concern. Epilepsy, diabetes, heart conditions, high blood pressure or circulation problems that can cause blackouts can be a problem. With any of the above conditions keep regular contact with your doctor and take recommended medication. Carefully note the side effects of any medications.

Emotions, if angry or excited, give yourself time to cool off. If worried or upset about something, try to keep your mind on your driving. If you are impatient, start your trip earlier.

Never drive around a lowered gate at a railroad crossing or try to outrun a train.

On hot days, or on any day, please do not leave a child (or pet) unattended in an automobile. Hot days can kill children (or pets) and automobile robbery and/or car jacking can take children as well as cars. Also some children can manage to get cars out of gear and cause accidents.

(Note: Bill's articles are being picked up and reprinted in a number of society newsletters across the country.)



Wildacres - Part II

by Will Smith

When you think of Wildacres, you think of learning how to facet, smith, or cab, but you learn much more. First when they say to bring a book to read and to expect time to get close to nature, they were dreaming. The only time I got close to nature was going to class the day it rained. To read a book would have required one of those tape recorded books so you could play it at night while asleep. Wall to wall activities, but all worth the time.

One thing which impressed me the most was how AFMS leaders had traveled from the West Coast to teach members of different Federations how to judge Show Display Cases. No Big Deal or is it. Well I learned that if you are one of those competing to have the best display case at your show, you want to expect the same standard when you attend the next level of competition at a Federation Show.

You would not think it would take Rocket Science to judge a

show case, but when you get into it and think through the process you realize it does require standards for judging, thus the reason for a full class which lasted all week at Wil-dacres.

After talking with Jay Bowman the instructor, I realized we have members who could become interested in this part of the hobby, from either the competing side or the judging side. I recall during the Federation Show a couple years ago Ken was troubled because his beautiful show case of TN Agate did not receive a high score. The reason was due to the very large size of polished agate in his case. What Ken did not realize is that the rest of the world are lucky to have small pieces of beautiful agate and he is the exception. If they allowed the large slabs to be judged they would automatically win each time, since so few other members could compete. Ken, it is like a handicap in golf, and I know you don't agree, not sure I agree either.

What I do know is that when I said anything about Tullahoma, those who attended our show had no idea where Tullahoma was located, but remembered that someone down there had one of the most beautiful cases in the world of beautiful TN agate. Ken, you did not take first place or get the blue ribbon, but none of those who judged the cases could recall who did win. They did remember your case and what was in it, so your case was the ultimate winner. What more can you ask for?

What I would like some of you to consider is how this could be a new opportunity for members of our hobby. You may not have the time or equipment to cut stones or make jewelry, but you could learn

how to judge, get certified so you could judge at other club shows, and even teach our members how to display/show their treasures. Ken, if someone decides to get certified to judge and teach, we will let you in the first class.

What I'm seeing come out of our students are wonderful examples of our hobby, which could draw attention to both our club and what we're doing if displayed at other Club and Federation Shows.

I purchased the most recent AFMS Uniform Rules Book for the club thinking that we have some in the club who would like to learn more about judging. Would be nice to get someone certified through one of the classes next year. Who's it going to be? I'm guessing Lewis can get you more AFMS info if your interested.



Two Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc
The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

SFMS Field Trip Committee
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

Official Field Trips of MTG&MS

Field Trip #1:

An Official Field Trip of the Athens Rock and Gem Club (Host)

WHEN: 8:30 am Saturday, December 13, 2003

WHERE: Diamond Hill Mine,

Antreville, Abbeville County, South Carolina (FEE SITE)

The Athens Rock and Gem club would like to extend an invitation to rockhound one of the premier quartz collecting localities in the southeast. Recently, under new ownership, years of overburden have been removed to expose new veins and deposits of high-quality quartz. You will find an abundance of plates of well-formed milky quartz crystals, primarily in the form of "skeletal" quartz, as well as smokey quartz and even an occasional amethyst crystal.

Assembly Point: Diamond Hill Mine

DIRECTIONS: The Diamond Hill Mine is located near the small town of Antreville in northeastern South Carolina.

From the south: Exit I-20 at US 221 (exit # 183) just east of Augusta, Georgia. Drive north on US 221 to McCormick, SC. In McCormick turn north onto SR 28. Continue north on SR 28 to Antreville (approx. 50 miles). About 2 miles south of Antreville, SR 184 enters SR 28 from the right (east). When you pass SR 184 start watching carefully on the left for Emanuel Baptist Church. Turn left at the church onto SR 284. Drive east on SR 284 for 2.3 miles watching carefully on the right for Suber Road (S-01-508). Turn right onto Suber Road and follow it approx. 0.7 mile to Diamond Hill Road (on right, gravel, S-1-538). Turn right onto Diamond Hill Road and follow it about 0.5 miles. The mine entrance will be on the right.

FEES: Adults - \$10/day; Children under 16 year of age - \$5/day

cont'd on page 5

Also, upon arrival, each participant will be required to sign a waiver of liability.

Other Essentials: Pick and shovel, rock hammer, chisels, and scratching tools. There is ample water on site for screening and washing specimens. Bring a lunch, plenty of fluids, hat, gloves, and sturdy shoes. Bring rubber boots and a change of cloths if it is going to be a rainy or wet day.

Trip Chairman: Jim Maudsley
Phone: (706) 353-1792
e-mail: jamesm24@charter.net

Field Trip #2:

An Official Field Trip of the Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society (Host)

WHEN: 9:00 am, Saturday, January 17, 2004

WHAT: Fossil, Mineral, and combination Fossil/Mineral Collecting Trip

WHERE: Rucks' Pit, Fort Drum FL.

WHEN: Saturday, January 17, 2003 9:00 am

MEET: Hwy 441, Ft. Drum General Store, Ft. Drum, FL 9:00 am (not Ft. Drum Diner)

COLLECTING HOURS: We will be able to collect from approximately 9:30am-5:00pm.

ITEMS COLLECTED: There is an abundance of well-fossilized and calcified marine shells. The sand and shell matrix rock is in the Nashua Formation (Pleistocene) and is composed of well-calcified shells. Any cavities within these fossils may contain calcite crystals. Honey colored calcite crystals up to 1" in length can be found within large fossilized clamshells. Small

calcite crystals within shells are very common. Fossilized bone and teeth can also be found.

FEE: \$10.00 fee (children 13 and under free) will be collected. Adult must accompany children at all times.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: It is recommended that you wear sturdy shoes or boots and gloves. Daytime temps can vary as much as 40F, so layered clothing is appropriate.

WHAT TO BRING: Bring buckets or backpacks along with paper to wrap nice specimens, scratching tools, hammers, picks, shovels, chisels, safety glasses, sunscreen, maps, lunch, and plenty of fluids. Collecting conditions are considered easy; however, safety should be a primary concern.

Contact: Mickey Cecil
Email: helpcecilhelp@juno.com
Phone: 904-725-6198

WHERE TO STAY: Okeechobee is the nearest town. I now know that it is very difficult to negotiate rates of stay due to fishing tournaments that often occur. Below is a list of motels in Okeechobee; however, January is peak season for south Florida. Negotiation on room rates may be possible. There are also many motels in the Kissimmee area and on I-95 south of Melbourne down to Ft. Pierce.

DIRECTIONS: Ft. Drum is on Hwy 441 approximately 15 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 60 and 441 (Yeeshaw Junction).

"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!"

The Geologist's Lament

By R. L. Frism, 1940

Gather 'round me, hear my story,
 I'm a rockhound in distress
 I'm a rockhound bathed in troubles
 I'm an outcast, more or less

I have fossils in the kitchen,
 I have crystals in the hall.
 I have minerals in the bathtub,
 I have relics on the wall.

I have oxides on the carpet,
 I have oil upon the floor.
 I have blacklight in the parlor,
 I have bones behind each door.

Attic rooms are fairly sagging,
 Rocks pave the cellar floor.
 Pockets bulge with gemmy pieces,
 All of this and more.

Wifey thinks that I am goofy,
 I don't know, she may be right.
 She insists I have silicosis,
 Or some contagious form of "ite."

Says my head is lined with agate,
 (A freak displacement of the bone).
 Says my brain is just a nodule,
 Says my heart is turned to stone.

Threatens me with separation,
 Storms about our rockhound home.
 Says life for me is just a geode,
 Or a hunk of mammal bone.

Are you rated as a fossil?
 Are you obliged to live alone?
 How do you maintain a hobby?
 And still maintain a happy home?

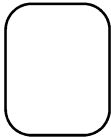
From Lodestone via Rocky Mountain Federation News and others


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

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First Class
Postage



AFRICA 2003: Norman and Heloise Kendrick will show slides from Africa in May. Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and four safari tent camps in Botswana and Namibia. Lions, tigers and bears, oh my! Sorry, no tigers or bears but lots of elephants, hippos, birds, crocodiles, zebra, and a variety of antelopes, and a cheetah eating its kill. A few slides and specimens from their summer in Colorado.

Next Meeting: **Nov 18th**



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

Exhibits Needed

Will Smith, at a recent show meeting, induced me to take on the job of handling the educational exhibits this year. I agreed to this and now I need responses from you as to who, and what, you are going to display. Look around. Probably all of us have a number of items that would make a good looking, and educational, display for our visitors to view and admire.

Mineral collections, jewelry you have made, polished specimens of various stones you have, etc. These items will be good for the public to see. We have the display cases but will only bring in the number needed. Please see or call me as quickly as possible with your request for a case. We would like to see as many as possible this year. This group has some of the finest examples of any group around. Let's see how many displays we can put together this year.

Lewis Elrod, CM



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

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