



Mid-TENN Gem'ers

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

2 year: Bill Buckner

3 year: Ken Swann
 931 857-3435

The Prez Rambles On...

As I sit here at my computer on the first day of December, I'm anticipating our show beginning in just 12 more days. I can't wait for it to get here. I hope everyone plans to attend and help us pull off the greatest show we've ever had. We have a great group of dealers, so come on out and spend your money. Invite your friends, it's a great place to do some Christmas shopping. I hope you've been saving your money so you'll have plenty to spend at the show.

Not only do we have a great show coming up, but our December meeting is our Christmas Pig-Out Party. Here's what you need to do. First make sure you leave the 18th open in your schedule. Next make plans to prepare plenty of food. Make enough for you and your family members that will be attending. Next make sure to bring enough to share with a few others. Then, and this is most important so pay close attention - BRING ENOUGH TO FEED YOUR PRESIDENT!!!!!! Yes people I have a second hobby, eating holiday pot-luck meals. So even if you choose not to bring enough food for you and your family, at least bring enough for me to have a sample of your good cooking.

I'm especially partial to pinto beans, taters (potatoes for those born north or west of Tennessee), cornbread, ham and tomatoes. Since it's winter, I issue presidential pardons if no one brings tomatoes - 'matters for those of you that only speak southern. While I am partial to these foods, I by no means limit the palate to just these foods. So feel free to bring whatever you specialize in. Chances are I'll try it as long as it's dead and cooked. Raw vegetables are an exception to this rule. Even though casseroles are the second leading cause of divorce, it's also acceptable to bring them because your spouse or whomever you pack around with you doesn't have to eat it.

Back to the Christmas Party, bring your own plates, silverware, glasses and something to drink. You may even want to break out the fine china, fine silverware, crystal and a tablecloth. I'm sure we'll have some extra if you don't have time to stop by the house on the way to

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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 2003:
December 18th

Meeting Dates 2004:

January 16th

February 20th

March 19th

April 15th

May 20th

June 17th

July 15th

August 19th

September 18th

Inside this issue:

Presidents Letter

Meeting Minutes

Wild Acres III

** Flyers for Show -
 Hand them out to 4 or
 your friends!!!!**

Discovering
 Rockhounding

Swap & Shop

and more...

Dues Due!!!

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**

the meeting. The excuse that you don't have something to bring is not acceptable, everybody likes chicken, so make a quick stop at the Colonel's, pick up a box of chicken and come on. If you don't have time to stop, come on anyway. We've never let anyone leave hungry.

Last but not least, we'll have a gift exchange. This is optional, so don't feel pressured to bring a gift. Just skip to the next paragraph. For those of you who choose to bring a gift keep it modest - about \$5 to \$10 value. Men bring a gift for a man, ladies bring a gift for another lady, children bring a child's gift. While the gifts don't have to be related to our hobby, it's hard to beat a hobby related gift. The general idea is to have fun sharing.

In case you haven't figured it out on your own, the best part of this hobby is the people you meet chasing down that special rock or fossil. Our club has some fine members who are fine cooks. Clear your calendar for December 18th around 6:30 p.m. for a fine time of fellowship, food and gifts. I expect to see YOU there!

Before I close, I just wanted to say thanks for everyone's help with the club over the past year. And thanks for your vote of confidence in re-electing me president for another year. I hope everyone is willing to participate in making this a great club. I would welcome any suggestions you might have, as well as volunteers for any jobs that need filling in the club. I'm looking forward to another great year with MTGMS.

Enough rambling already, see you at the show and at our Christmas Party on the 18th.

Steve
shenegar@net-
serv.com



**November 20th, 2003
Board Meeting:**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm, and a quorum was present. Are we ready for the show? Discussion ensued re the show display cases, and it was noted that the trailer needs a NEW floor.

Will then handed out a chart and proposal for "extension" of MTGMS into two satellite meeting sites as well, in Tullahoma and Nashville, with a degree of autonomy. Motion was made to pass the proposal, Lewis seconded, and proposal carried unanimously. Bob King brought signup sheets from Mary Clyde for the general audience to volunteer on, and briefed the board on the teacher boxes. There being no further business, board meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Vance,
lost Secretary now found

Club Meeting:

President Steve called the meeting to order at 7:30, and we welcomed visitor Norm Crocker of Spring Hill, as well as Vince Jones of Vanderbilt University and friend. Steve offered a reward of a Tennessee paint rock agate slab as a door prize for grabs by all who volunteer to help with the show, which is in

THREE WEEKS (yikes!) Will Smith updated the group on progress towards show time, and made available press releases for any local/regional newspapers people could insert.

Steve then announced the Board's approval for establishing two satellite "mini-clubs" in Tullahoma and Nashville, and Lewis noted that MTGMS is now 25 years old. Lewis also asked for more educational display creators, and got some nice response. He then announced that Rock & Gem Magazine is offering discounted subscriptions for club members in which the club will receive a rebate.

The slate of officers was then read, with no changes to candidates except that Lisa Trail would become the new 3-year board member. No further nominations were made from the floor, Norm moved the nominations be closed, Marge seconded the motion, and the entire slate of officers was approved unanimously for the new year. (Sorry folks, you will be stuck with me for another year.)

Mark Greenbaum rose and thanked the membership for assisting with his liquidation/volume reduction project. Paula then thanked the entire membership for their thoughts and prayers during her and Max's ordeal of the past few months. She also asked for their indulgence in assisting her to get back to living again.

Stamp fund drawing was then conducted, with 13 prizes awarded as donated from a bunch of great people: French & Ruth Gothard, Bill Buckner, George Jones, Johnny Hilliard, Cameron Byler, Joe Powell, Joe Bailey (? - sorry, either your

handwriting or my eyes need improving but thank you for all 5 prizes), and last but not least John Stanley.

Attendees were then reminded that next month's meeting will be our Christmas party, with chow time of 6:30 this time, PLEASE NOTE. Bob then told the bad joke about Ghandi (thank goodness that "mystic" had a sense of humor or he might come back and haunt Bob for that one), then introduced our speakers for the program, Norman and Heloise Kendrick. They brought slides and presented their summer of fun in Africa and Colorado. Beautiful pictures and wonderful scenery, but there was no sign of the Botswana agates they were hoping to find - the indigenous residents had no clue what the agates were!?!?! Thanks for a great program.

Meeting adjourned around 8:50 p.m., degenerating to the usual social bedlam. See you all at the Show!

Respectfully as usual,

Paula Vance
Secretary



Wildacres - Part III

by Will Smith

The Wildacre experience was of great value to me. What I'm trying to do in these articles is to help you realize that Wildacres and William Holland offer not only great instruction in our hobby, but give you the

chance to meet and learn from others from all around the country.

Each meal was a new experience both in food and meeting new friends. With three meals a day and trying to visit a different table each meal, you have the chance to talk with most all attending the school, both students and instructors. I did not know anyone in the group since they were all from the Eastern Federation, but was instantly made welcome. Everyone was so appreciative knowing that you had come a long distance to teach members of another Federation without pay. What was more inspiring was that so many of the other instructors had been teaching for many years. By the end of the week I understood why. The sparkle in your students eye when they showed up for dinner wearing their new treasure they had made. Puts everything in perspective.

I got to tell our story of how MTGMS is working to teach and bring new members into our club. Everyone was impressed that a small club in Murfreesboro could be doing so much.

I tell you this because you may not realize what your Club is actually doing in the lives of others. Sometime when you get a chance, talk to Ken or Joe about the students we teach each quarter and how it changes their lives. You'll hear some wonderful stories.

I got to thinking about what we're doing on the drive back from Wildacres. The Eastern Federation has two schools each year and the Southeastern Federation has three. The classes meet 4 days for 5 hours for a total of 20 hours each week. During this fall session it had 52 students attend with some taking

the same class all week and others taking one class for two days and then another class for the other two days. The fee for the week was around \$280. The classes offered included cabochons, chain making, faceting, judging, Micromounting / photomicrography, silversmithing, soapstone carving, and wirecraft. That totals about 1,000 hours of instruction for 52 students.

While driving I began to think what we as a little club are doing to teach our hobby.

This fall we will offer Lapidary Classes where you create cabochons with the option in the same class to learn how to wire wrap your stone or set it into a commercial mount. Three silversmithing classes, one or two faceting classes, one or two wirecraft classes, a casting class. That's a total of 5 classes at Tullahoma and 9 or 10 in Donelson.

The lapidary classes will last for 2+ hours, while the other classes will run 2 - 3 hours. Ken has 28 students wanting time on a machine and to learn other parts of the hobby, while many other new students hope to get a spot in a Fall class. In Donelson, we can take 32 students for lapidary, 12 - 16 for silversmithing, 4 - 8 for faceting and 4 - 6 for casting. That's a total of approximately 80 students for a total of 2,000 hours during the quarter. We do that 3 quarters, plus a reduced schedule during the Summer.

The fee at Tullahoma is zero, while at Donelson a small fee is paid to the Center. Your Club covers the cost of equipment and maintenance. No fee for instructors (or as many refer to us - care takers). What a deal, what a great job, what a wonderful opportunity to change

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the lives of others. It's each of you that are making this happen when you become members of MTGMS, when you work in the Show, when you agree to teach, when you take classes so you too can become an instructor. Instructors are needed and are not paid, but that twinkle you see in a student's eye is more valuable than anything you will ever do.

True you do not get to get close to nature, but you sleep in your own bed. So get off your duff, learn the hobby, volunteer to teach or help in the show, donate slabs or rough for students to transform into works of art, tell a friend about our Club and what we offer. Get the word out because what our Club is doing is important.



The beautiful view.

The Silver Smithing Studio →



The dining room.



matches – rockhounding has to be a word!

I have to decide which site to go to first. Let me see, I think I'm going to skip over the site named "Da Yopper." I don't know what that means really.

Discovering "Rockhounding"

Written in Stream of Consciousness
By Samuel Dewitt Blanton

Webster's Dictionary defines "Rockhounding" as – well, Webster's doesn't have the definition in there. I guess this leaves the task of a definition for the word "Rock-hounding" to me. 'Ole Mr. Webster can't make anything easy for me... However, I'll get to the bottom of this elusive word and in the end, I'll have a conclusive, working definition.

After looking for the word Rockhounding online via the Internet, I have come to realize at least one thing so far – it looks like every state in the Union has a rockhounding club or a rockhounding association. I haven't clicked on any of them yet;

I'm just scanning to see what's available. I have even found a place called "Rockhound State Park." It is located in New Mexico. This state park may provide a hint as to what the definition of Rockhound is so I'll click on the link. It says here, "Visitors are allowed to take up to 15 pounds of rock for their personal collections." So I am assuming that rockhounding has something to do with rocks. Well, I kind-of figured that out even before I started writing this paper.

I'm going to go back to one of these web pages and see what the associations and/or clubs say about rockhounding. Well actually, I should say that I'm going to look at one of the 20,600 matches that Mr. Google found for me. Since I typed in "rockhounding" using quotation marks and got a whopping 26,000 +

It could be something fun but us conservatives have to be careful not to have too much fun. I could look at the Canadian Rock Hounding site. Therein lies another problem – don't much care for the 'tude of the Canadians at the moment. However, I might find some of former president Clinton's family listed there. Naw, I will pass on that too. I wouldn't want to make my Geology teacher mad by picking on a certain oppressed political party. There has to be something good here on the Internet that will help me define rockhounding.

Ahh, this may be the answer I'm looking for. The link from Google reads, "Earth Sciences: Geology: Rocks & Minerals: Rockhounding." I can ascertain from that link's text that rockhounding may have something to do with geology, and not only with

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23rd Annual "Earth Treasures"

Jewelry, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Sponsored by Middle Tn. Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

December 13 & 14, 2003

9AM - 6PM Sat. & 10AM - 5PM Sun.

**Tennessee State Fairgrounds
Creative Arts Building
Nashville, Tennessee**

**Admission: \$2 Adults, \$.50 Children
Under 12 FREE with Adult**

Demonstrations: Silver Smithing, Wire Wrapping,
Bead Stringing, Knapping, etc

Exhibits: Minerals, Jewelry, Fluorescent, etc.

Saturday Silent Auction: Good Stuff

Hourly Door Prize: Donated by Dealers

Register for Grand Prize: Hand Crafted Item

For more information go to www.mtgms.org

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rocks, but with minerals too. Let's see what the site has listed – hopefully it will be a definition! Hmm, well this is interesting. I have found a link to another search engine – I think its name is “WebQuest.” Along with many more sites I see here that it are listed like the Yellow Pages in the phone book. This states, “See Also: Rock & Mineral Clubs” and “Science/Technology/Mining/Prospecting.” So maybe the picture is coming together a little better with the introduction of mining and prospecting into my definition.

Just to keep score and not get lost in my quest: to this point I know that rockhounding has something to do with rocks and/or minerals. It would then of course have something to do with Geology – the study of rocks. When I add mining and prospecting in the equation – so far I can say, “Rockhounding is the mining or prospecting for rocks and or minerals.” I can say this with quite a bit of certainty if I just stick to the facts I've found so far. However, I've still not entered a web site. So, here I go... www.4facets.com is my first stop. Oh no! This site is trying to sell me something! They are selling me rock saws, tumblers, cabbng machines, ornaments, books and finally jewelry. I must find out what a cabbng machine is because my curiosity has been somewhat tugged at.

Okay, after a little reading it looks like cabbng machines are made to shape and polish gemstones. They have three models displayed here. One machine has 6 stone wheels, each with a different shaping and/or polishing function. They also buff, trim, perform flat laping, carving, etc. The machines themselves look pretty cool. I'm sure any manly-man would be proud to have one – even if the man has no clue what the machine does. Wow, \$1100 - \$2900! I must move on. Not only am I get-

ting off of the subject, I find myself looking at tools. I wonder if this is something men do unconsciously? We are drawn to tools, especially expensive ones! Damn, now I want a cabbng machine.

www.virginiarockhounder.com here I come... This web site is a personal site. I have stumbled across the site of David and Debbie Lipscomb of Nelson County, Virginia. They are not trying to sell me anything so I might find what I'm looking for here. David and Debbie have a list of “their mineral specimens” here. So they are collectors of minerals. They have collected, and are sharing pictures of their collection via the Internet. David and Debbie have a small collection as far as I can tell – there are only 17 specimens. Perhaps they didn't get around to taking pictures of all their specimens, or maybe these are the best ones they have so far. Some of their specimens include Stibnite, Blue-Quartz, Spodumene, and Romanchite... These are impressive specimens, just not many of them. This is a husband/wife team of rockhounters who are sharing their collection. They say they are rockhounters anyway. Well, that's just cool. Sounds like a cheap hobby to me! Collecting minerals seems much better than watching TV – except on college football Saturdays of course. Okay, so I assume that collecting specimens is also a part of rockhounding. Maybe it should be worded, “collecting of minerals”. However, I know from my personal experience of going to a gem and mineral show in Huntsville, AL that not only minerals are collected. I can't forget to add rocks and fossils into the final definition.

One more site and I think I'll have a useable definition for Rockhounding. I'm going to hit a club site this time. Well, this is not a club site. This site is listed as “Rockhounds

Information Page.” It looks interesting, like there might be some useful information to help with my definition quest. So www.drizzle.com/~afox/rockhounds/ is the site I have singled out – and boy did I pick good. Let me make myself clear, it's not a pretty site by any means; it just has the words that I am looking for. At the top of this site it states that the site is “...for those interested in rock and mineral collecting, lapidary work and other mineral-related hobbies.” Having no clue what the word “lapidary” means – I had to look it up in Webster's. Webster's defines “lapidary” as, “1 : a cutter, polisher, or engraver of precious stones usually other than diamonds. 2 : the art of cutting gems.” This means that some rockhounters have an artsy side to them. This adds the possibility of business too. I believe that most true collectors wouldn't polish their specimens. So I can only conclude that the people who polish or engrave their specimens are doing so because they will sell them. By deduction, rockhounters can also be collectors who only collect for resale purposes.

So, with the information I have gathered via the Internet, I believe I can now define exactly what a “rockhound” is. I stated above, “Rockhounding is the mining or prospecting for rocks and or minerals.” However, I must add some things to this definition to make it more precise. The definition must be amended to include the new information I have found.

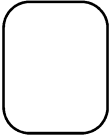
People who love Geology in general, not only people who are mining and/or collecting rocks, minerals and fossils, can also be Rockhounters. These people can have a love for mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes etc., too. Rockhounters may buy tools such as: rock saws, tumblers, cabbng machines (not only a hammer) etc., to use as tools for their

To:

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Annual X-mas Party
 6:30 pm
 Time:
 Dec 18th
 Next Meeting:

First Class
 Postage



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

hobby(s). They may make ornaments from their specimens for resale. They may make jewelry from their specimens for resale. They will collect specimens, either on their own, or by purchasing the various specimens – whichever they enjoy doing most (or in some cases turns out to make the most profit). They may also buy, sell and/or trade. Rockhounds may read and/or write books about gems, minerals, fossils or some form of Geology. They may even write books about their adventures or misadventures while gathering their specimens. The word “gems” is not a good word to use in Geology, or in the definition of Rockhounding. The word “gem” should be replaced with “rocks, minerals, and/or fossils” to be more precise. Rocks and fossils are not “gems” but they are also collected.

Sadly, I could not find a “short and sweet definition” for a “Rockhounder.” So a true definition of a

“Rockhounder” may be, “A person or group of people who may enjoy Geology as a whole. These people may make a hobby of collecting, trading, and/or selling rocks, minerals and/or fossils. Rockhounds may collect their specimens by either prospecting and/or mining for them. They may also buy their specimens from a collector outright, then perform lapidary work on their purchased wares for their personal collection and/or for resale.”

Final Note: This paper has been sent to Merriam-Webster for review. With any luck, in the 2005 Edition of Webster’s Dictionary, we will see “Rockhounder, Rockhounding, and/or Rockhound” in print with the above definition. However, we can still be happy if it is an edited cut-down version of the above definition.

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.