



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...

MTG&MS began a new chapter of it's history this past Sunday. Approximately 20 people gathered at the Coffee County Senior Center in Tullahoma to organize a new chapter of MTG&MS. Regular meetings will begin next month on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. I'm hoping by the time the newsletter goes out a meeting place will be secured. Possible places are the Senior Center or Motlow State Community College. Look for coming details. Several people filled out applications to join the club. I think with some more publicity in the community, the interest will be tremendous and we will have many new members.

On Sunday February 15 at 2:00 p.m. at the Donelson Senior Center we will have an organizational meeting for a third chapter of MTG&MS. I'm looking forward to seeing that get off to a good start also. It will be nice to get more club involvement from more of the people who participate in our classes both at Donelson and Tullahoma. I look for MTG&MS to be come an even better and stronger club as a result of having chapters of the club in these two areas. It should also give us greater opportunity to continue and increase interest in our hobby thru our educational outreach. Now if I can just figure out a way to make all the meetings without my family missing me or complaining about me playing too much.

Now that spring is just around the corner -- ok maybe I'm stretching it a little -- I thinking we need to do a little rock digging. My doctor tells me it's great for me to dig rocks and that I should do it often. There's just a little problem, I don't know too many places to go and bigger problem is I'm not organized enough to search out places to dig. Here's where you can help on that account. We need a Field Trip Chairman. No it's not necessary that you know lot's of places to dig, we need someone with organizational skills that will hound the snot out of those who do know where to dig, and then make arrangements for someone to get permission to dig and then lead the trip, maybe the person you've been hounding. You need the skills to organize these things a few months in advance so members can schedule time

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 2004:

February 19th

March 18th

April 15th

May 20th

June 17th

July 15th

August 19th

September 16th

October 21st

November 18th

December 16th

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Taking a road trip to June Miller's

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Dues are 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

to go. I'd even like to see a group of us go to some of the Dixie Mineral Council fieldtrips or maybe a long weekend trip to places like the quartz mines of Arkansas or the Ruby mines of North Carolina. Maybe you can arrange lodging, transportation, etc. Maybe we should call this position Cruise Director. Organize the activity and direct us out on field trips, just like a on a cruise ship except we would be cruising out to dig rocks not floating off in a big boat on the ocean. However if you can find an island we can dig on, I'd be willing to take the boat ride out. Always wanted to go on a cruise. Ok, back to the subject at hand, I'm asking for 2 or 3 volunteers to form a committee to organize some field trips.

While I'm on the subject of field trips, would anyone be interested in taking either a bus or plane trip to Washington D.C. to see the Smithsonian's Hall of Gems? Since they're in the same building we could see the dinosaurs and other fossils too. It would take at least 3 or 4 days to take a trip like this. If your interested, please let me know. Call me at home (615) 896-1472, email me fortyish47@yahoo.com, or catch me at the meeting. If there is enough interest, I'd be happy to play cruise director and organize the trip.

I've been snookered into doing the program in March. Bob, our first vice president in charge of programs must have begged just right last month to get me to volunteer. Anyway to either whet your appetite or maybe turn you away from the meeting, I'm going back to the basics. The program will be - if something doesn't happen to change my mind - Steve's Ten Easy

Rockhounding Lessons in Two Easy Steps! Beats the twelve step programs everyone else is selling. It might be humorous might be less humorous, you'll have to come see and decide for yourself. Either way, for those with enquiring minds, we'll explore the basics of rockhounding - might even find a few rocks. Now does anyone have any rockhound tools I can borrow?

Enough rambling! See you at the meeting.

Steve
shenegar@
net-serv.com



January 15, 2004 BOARD MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. New members Barbara and Alan Garrett were approved, they live in Joelton and are Donelson students. Bill Buckner proposed a memorial for Max Grimes, and Lewis moved it be in the form of subscriptions to Wire Artist for both Tullahoma and Donelson classes. Individual donations may also be made in the form of supporting the completion of the elevator at William Holland. There are six students in the silversmithing class at Donelson, and only three torch set-ups. Will Smith was given the go-ahead to buy needed items. Money was added to the postal account, Lewis is processing renewal for membership in SFMS; Lewis will also reorder more stones/supplies for the demonstration sessions. It was decided that a direct account will be set up with Kinko's to han-

dle the newsletter publishing costs, as well as possibly an ongoing account with the post office for stamps. It was announced that Tullahoma will have its organizational meeting the first of February at the Sr. Citizen Center, and Donelson chapter will convene the third Sunday of February. There being no further business the board meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

GENERAL MEETING

President Steve called the meeting to order at 7:30 by directing everyone in singing Happy Birthday to Lewis Elrod and Steve's wife, Dale. (Hope she heard us.) It was announced that a member Pat Conrad has moved to Wyoming. Steve informed the general membership in attendance of the memorial set up to honor Max Grimes by sponsoring subscriptions to Wire Artist. Anyone wishing to make individual donations in his name to the William Holland School elevator fund, please give check made out to W.H.S. to Will or Lewis for a lump sum to be sent to them. Steve told us about a rock shop in Sevierville that has some awfully nice pieces at great prices.

The person on the Rockpile was not in attendance and will be severely punished if we ever find out who it is supposed to be.....

Stamp fund was carried out, however no piece of paper had been provided for donors to list items up for grabs, so thank you all who brought in stuff.

Organizational meetings were scheduled, for Tullahoma Sunday at 2:00pm 2/1/04 at Sr. Citizen Center, for Donelson also at 2:00

pm on 2/15/04. Bob King has promised a "help wanted" ad in the February newsletter for program presenters. Next month should be a presentation on scrimshaw, and March is promised to Steve Hene-gar. Two bad jokes followed as threatened. The meeting was then turned over to Lewis Wilson aka Elrod who gave a slide show and informa-tive talk on the history of Elmwood Mines. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.



Respectfully as always,
Paula Vance - Secretary

New Branch Meetings of MTGMS

By Will Smith

The Tullahoma branch of MT-GMS had their first meeting this month and added the following new members: Mary Rose, Grace Win-bush, Peggy Wilcher, Pierson & Martha Smith, Betty Majors, Patty Gadeken, Richard Besancenez, Thomas & Dorothy Robertson, Marge Zimmerman. Many attended and it was decided their next meet-ing will be the 2nd Monday night of the month.

By the time you get this news letter, we will have had the Donel-son meeting. We anticipate many to attend and find a lot of excitement with our Donelson students.

A Visit With June Miller

By Will Smith

For some time Steve has been telling me about his digging at June Millers house. You've seen her ad in our NL classified each month. I had to be in that area this week and had the chance to visit with her. It was great collecting agate, but won-derful talking about Bob and old times. For those of you new to our club, Bob went to collect agate in heaven a few years back. June was our editor for many years and both were very active in our club.

Bob and June had a Rock Shop in Florida and were concerned with the unrest in their area. Since they had been on some field trips with the Huntsville Club they were look-ing in Alabama for a new place to live. During one rock hunt to the Sherwood area they were camping at Monteagle. On the drive back from the dig they saw a for sale sign at the edge of a bluff with the most beautiful view. You know the rest of the story.

Bob and June were very active in a number of clubs, the Southeast-ern Federation, and the American

Federation. June continues to sup-port 4 clubs and the Federations. She currently judges NL's for the Federations. She is a wealth of in-formation and stories. Even if you did not want to collect some great jasper and agate, it is worth the time to just visit with June.

She's very active with Tennes-see Arts & Crafts Association, her family, and other volunteer oppor-tunities in the area so you must make an appointment to visit. The Huntsville Club has scheduled a trip to collect on Saturday after 9 AM on Feb. 21. June said our club would be welcome. She charges by the pound so all you need is time, sacks, and money, that is if your going to collect. June does not charge to just visit.

June, you and Bob are the type people in all our clubs who caused people like myself to take up the hobby and become a part of the club. Your wealth of knowledge and experience is worth more than you will ever imagine. Our thanks go to you both.

You will find June by going I-24 south to Exit 134 at Monteagle, go South on Hwy 41A past Se-wanee, then left on Hwy. 56 (Sherwood Rd) for 3 miles where you will see on the left two houses overlooking the valley. June's house is the first house. It is about 1.5 hours from Hickory Hollow and another 10 miles to June's. Happy Hunting.

This Month's Program

Award winning scrimshaw art-ist, Mary W. Bailey, will be pre-senting a short program to the club on scrimshaw. Mary has been cut-ting "scrim" for the last 18 years

~ cont'd on page 4

HELP WANTED

SHORT HOURS:
30 to 45 minutes
PAY: \$.00

BENEFITS: Praise, admiration
TIME: 3rd Thursday of month
JOB: presentation, video, talk, slides, demonstration
QUALIFICATION - willingness to present

CONTACT: Bob King
kingwhhs47@hotmail.com,
615-754-0095

and examples of her endeavors have been published in such magazines as *Blade* and *Knives Illustrated* gracing the handles of custom handmade knives. Recently she was a featured artist in the June, 2003 issue of *Wire Artist Jeweler* for her combining of two art forms into collectable wearable jewelry art. She has taken several awards over the years for her scrimshaw at various shows. Recently Mary took the award for *Best Jewelry Design* at Dragon*Con 2003 in Atlanta this past September, her first time exhibiting at this juried art show.

Mary and her husband, Joseph, joined the club in October of last year and look forward to learning more about other club members and exchanging ideas and techniques.

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*

An Official Field Trip of the GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE PALM BEACHES, INC. (Host)

An Official Field Trip of the Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society

When: 9:00 am, Saturday, March 13, 2004

Where:

CARGILL PHOSPHATE MINE

"Rockhounds/Fossil Enthusiasts". The meeting time is 9 AM. It should last until 12 or so. Bob, the Cargill ring leader and "Tour Guide", is very generous with his

time and knowledgeable of the area fossils. You can find sharks teeth, shells, marine life from fish to mammals - large and small specimens from tiny teeth to whale vertebrates, sting ray, dugong, etc. Sodas are supplied but bring : Lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, buckets(s), small shovel, pick, trowel, baggies for your treasures, towel, foam knee pad for kneeling or sitting on and sunglasses, boots.

Directions : take I-60 from the east or west to Route 17. Go south to Fort Meade about 10 minutes. Turn west on RT. 630 and go 2 or 3 miles and watch carefully for Peeples Road on the left/south side. Go down Peeples Rd. to the end, about 3 miles. There is a "guard building" on the left and parking is just past it on the right. >From that point, "BOB" will have you follow him to the appointed destination. Bob's number is 863-676-7227 if you get lost or are running late. Just tell him you're from the Gem and Mineral society of Palm Beach. Look for Ray Tilson. He's from our club and knows a lot about what you'll find. He's also very familiar with the Peace River.

FOSSIL SHOW - SATURDAY and SUNDAY MARCH 13 & 14, 2004. This is the annual Tampa Fossil Club Show. I coordinated this weekend to include the show and trip since we're already over there! A FOSSIL DREAM COME TRUE! There will be LOTS of fossils available for sale in case you didn't find what you wanted at the dig on Saturday. Mineral specimens, jewelry and lots of other "goodies" will be there. Dr. Gordon Hubbell, world renowned prehistoric shark expert, will be giving lectures. The hours are Saturday and Sunday from 9- 5pm. You can

go there after the dig or all day Sunday or BOTH! The show is about 45 minutes away from the dig.

Directions: The show is held at the Tampa Fair Grounds. Take I-60 north to I-75. Go west on I-4 to Rt. 301. Go south on Rt. 301 to the entrance to the fairgrounds (Expo Park) which is on the west side (right side) of Rt. 301. Follow the signs to the building for the Fossil Show. I think the cost is \$3 but WELL WORTH IT ! There is a Mini-mine for kids and concession stand food available. There might be another show (computers?) at the same time next door.

ACCOMMODATIONS - the town of Bartow on I-60 and west to the Tampa area have many motels available.

The Peace River is south of the mine and is great for continued digging - especially at the De Soto County Park west on Brownville Road and down into Arcadia where campsites are available. LOTS of choices to see and do this weekend !! this is one you won't regret and will have fond memories!

Michelle Renne', Field Trip Chair
MCreates@aol.com

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!

What is it?

by William D. Jackson

This material is soft, pliable, easy to cut and mold or shape, can be thinned with water to make a paint, or used as paste to fill holes and gaps. When dry it can be carved, cut, sawed, drilled, sanded and glued. It can be used with sterling silver, gold, dichroic glass, gemstones and found objects to create earrings, pendants, bracelets and unique jewelry. After it is completely dry, this material is then fired in a kiln and turns into pure silver. How is it possible something made from a soft, pliable clump of clay, when fired in a kiln, becomes a solid metal piece of pure fine silver? By now you probably know what it is. This extraordinary material is Precious Metal Clay.

Under certain conditions, small particles of metal will fuse together in the same way that droplets of water run together to make larger puddles. In the case of most metals, oxides or tarnish form naturally when exposed to air and prevent fusion from occurring. However, precious metals such as fine silver and gold, do not readily oxidize even at the high temperatures needed to induce fusion. For this reason it is not feasible to make sterling or brass versions of precious metal clay.

Mitsubishi Corp. developed precious metal clay or "PMC" in the early 1990's after several years of research and experimentation trying to find new markets for silver. They are a major world producer of copper and other industrial products. Silver happens to be a by-product of the copper mining process. Scientists at the Mitsubishi Materials Special Products divi-

sion in Sanda, Japan decided to make a pliable material with the consistency of modeling clay using very small flakes of fine silver which could then be used to make things of silver. They found a way to grind silver into very tiny particles smaller than a grain of salt. In fact, it would take 25 of these microscopic flakes of silver clumped together to equal one grain of salt. These tiny microscopic particles of silver were suspended in an organic, naturally occurring binder with plain drinking water added to make a soft and doughy like material. They then developed the process using 24 carat gold. Is it any wonder why they called it precious metal clay?

When "Precious Metal Clay" or PMC was first introduced into the United States about five years ago, only one variety was available. Since then, two new versions, PMC + and PMC 3, have been introduced. All three versions of PMC come in a lump form, much like polymer clay or the play dough used by children. PMC+ is more dense and dries faster. PMC + is also available as a thin clay paper which the Japanese use to create origami designs. PMC 3, the newest type, is available as a lump, in a paste form and as a slip in a syringe which can be used to create fine detailed filigree. All three types are compatible with each other and can be used in a combination of ways. The original or standard PMC has a shrinkage rate of about 28%, which means the original piece will be almost 1/3 smaller after firing. It also requires a higher firing temperature for a longer period of time than the other types.

The silver flakes in PMC + and PMC 3 are shaped differently,

hence less binder is needed. Shrinkage is also less, only about 12%. This allows PMC + to be fired at a lower temperature than standard PMC and for a shorter period of time. PMC 3 is as dense as PMC + but fires much faster at a remarkably lower temperature. However it dries out much quicker when it is being worked in the wet clay stage.

Fusion of the tiny silver flakes in PMC takes place after the water and binder have been burned away in the kiln. This burnout can be observed if a small piece of PMC is heated with a torch. Flames will ensue and then you can see the silver start to shrink and fuse together. Maintaining the correct temperature for the specified time is crucial for the firing of PMC. PMC 3 can be used with dichroic glass, many gemstones, and sterling silver settings because it can be fired lower than the melting point of glass and sterling. Some lab created gemstones such as zircons can be fired with any type of PMC.

Gold PMC fires at a much higher temperature than the other types of PMC. Once the gold PMC has been fired, it can be used with silver PMC to make bicolor jewelry items.

If PMC dries out and becomes hard but has not been fired, it can be rejuvenated by adding water. The water will be absorbed after awhile allowing it to be worked as clay again. PMC can be worked by cutting with a knife, rolling a coil and shaping it around an object, making a pancake with a roller, then cutting strips or shapes, gluing pieces together, texturing the surface, setting a gemstone in place or use the syringe to add detail to the surface.

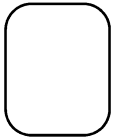
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To: _____

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Next Meeting: Feb 19th
Time: 6:30 pm
Mary Bailey "Scrimshaw"

First Class
Postage



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

After the PMC dries, it can be carved, cut, sanded, or pasted onto another wet clay part, added to a pre-fired part or fired in the kiln. After firing, the PMC is removed and cleaned with a wire brush to remove the white powder on the surface. The item can then be placed in the tumbler, or can be burnished to reveal the highlights of a textured surface, maybe antiqued if desired. Pin backs, ear studs or other findings can be soldered to PMC and finished like sterling silver jewelry.

If you have questions about this remarkable new technology, want to learn more about it or want a hands on experience with PMC, contact me at: wjacksn@bellsouth.net or call: 1-615-890-1048.

For more information go to the PMC Guild website: <http://www.pmcguild.com/>

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

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

Wanted: Norman Kendrick 931-967-1305 from the Tullahoma club is interested in a used cab machine. Preferably a portable, but interested in all.

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