



# Mid-TENN Gem'ers

Newsletter of  
The Middle Tennessee Gem  
and Mineral Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1256  
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1256

## 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...

Well folks I've been to the mountain - Monteagle mountain that is. I spent a whole day digging thru June Miller's rock pile back in February along with 3 other dedicated rockhounds. I brought home 8 or 9 buckets full of rocks.

I weighed them out at 500 pounds. Most of it pain-trock, some morrisonite, some Montana agate, some Tampa Bay coral, a couple of pieces of Graveyard point agate and a few Brazilian agates thrown in for good measure. I think all of us together got about 1000 pounds of rocks. Except for the first thirty feet or so of the pile where I overturned every rock, you couldn't tell we had even taken any rock out. My muscles told me I had lifted several tons of rocks once I got back home. I really had trouble unloading all those buckets after I got home. I had to rest a couple of times before I got them all unloaded from the van and moved into the garage.

I've been slabbing along since I made the trip. So far I cut some fabulous paintrock and some beautiful morrisonite. If you haven't gotten acquainted with June and haven't visited her rockpile, I strongly suggest you take the time to do so. I understand several club members went the week after I did. I understand they found many treasures just as I did.

I liked my new rocks so well, I took them out for a ride on Sunday afternoon after bringing them home on Saturday. Actually it wasn't a pleasure ride for them. I put them to work. My daughter's truck slid off the road in the snow we had that Sunday, so I took the buckets of rocks to see if they would load the truck enough to get it out of the snow. It didn't work. Most of them got to ride home on a wrecker. Exciting day for my rocks. However I don't think I can advise taking your rocks out for a ride especially if it is snowing. Hmm!

Maybe the problem was I didn't have enough rocks. Now I've just got to go back and get more. Sounds like a plan - anyone else want to go?

Although I didn't make the first club meeting at the Donelson Senior Center - I had to take my new rocks for

~ 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 2004:

March 18th

April 15th

May 20th

June 17th

July 15th

August 19th

September 16th

October 21st

November 18th

December 16th

## Inside this issue:

Presidents Letter

Minutes

Numbers from the Christmas Show

Mosquito Help

Meetings

Swap & Shop

and more...

## 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

a ride - the report is that there were a few brave souls that got out on February 15. Nashville didn't get any snow like the southern part of the state, so they were able to have the meeting. Anyway the news is that now club members have three choices for meetings. The regular meeting is on the third Thursday night of the month in Murfreesboro, the meeting in Tullahoma is on the second Monday night of the month and the Donelson meeting is either the third or fourth Sunday afternoon, I think. Hopefully there will be a full report in the newsletter with the exact dates and times.

It's been a long winter, spring is around the corner. I hope you have a chance to get out and do some digging before the critters, bugs and heat get too bad. As for me, I'm planning another trip to Wyoming. I'm planning to do a little rockhunting and a maybe a little silverpicking at a few rockshops along the way.

Enough rambling! See you at the meeting.

Steve  
shenegar@  
net-serv.com



## February 19, 2004 BOARD MEETING

Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:45 by announcing that we need to get a new insurance company - Traveler's is not renewing after 24 years of coverage. He will arrange a policy for us to have our own insurance now. The AmFed show is in Syracuse, NY this year - June?

Ingrid asked how the newsletter cost compares to previous editors.....is really about the same (as is the QUALITY - thanks, Ingrid). Will stated that our web site has had about 50K hits since beginning. Will asked if Ingrid could post the newsletter on the site, or should we go through Marty? Lewis will ask his opinion on the matter.

Will stated that the budget for this year is balanced, with Tullahoma and Donelson classes getting their acts together he doesn't see much change in the immediate future. Lewis will get coils for Tina's school dig again soon. Bob/Tina stated that the theme for this year's teacher boxes is Industrial Uses and Economic Effects. Their requested budget was approved unanimously.

New members Angela Arnold of Tullahoma and Stephanie Stump of Antioch were approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

## GENERAL MEETING

VP Bob King called meeting to order at 7:35, welcoming Gail Thomas of Cincinnati, Ohio as Paula's guest. Stephanie Stump, Jack and Jean Wardall from Columbia were also welcomed as new members.

Will Smith announced that a new dig in Tullahoma was being initiated (about one foot wide and 150 feet long in the form of a trench, that is) for a new kind of agate - if anyone finds any let him know. Seriously though, June Miller has invited the Huntsville club to Sewanee this coming Saturday, and our bunch is also included in the invite.

Stamp fund was conducted, giving away stuff donated by Cameron Byler, Frances Mangrum, John Stanley, Norm Crocker, Bill J., and Paula to the Max. Thanks to all for their generosity.

Bob announced our celebrity program speaker Mary Bailey, who wowed us (at least she did to me and many others I spoke with) with her wonderful artistry of scrimshaw. To contact her for any information, she can be reached at:

Mary W. Bailey - 615-889-3172,  
e-mail Mbscrim@aol.com.

Meeting ad-  
journed at  
8:40 pm.

Respectfully  
as always,  
Paula Vance -  
Secretary



## Numbers from our 2004 Gem & Mineral Show

By Mary Clyde Sparks

There has been some report of bribery towards the 2004 Show Chair... actually it was a combination of bribery, railroading and threats. As I always say "I can't be bought, and I can't be threatened... but put the two together and I'm yours".

Thought you might like to see the information on the 2003 Show. From all I hear everyone had a good time, and the dealers were all pleased.

We should have had a show meeting by the time you read this newsletter. Anyone wishing to be involved let me know... we always need volunteers, and it is always a

~ cont'd on page 3

blast. There are a lot of wonderful people involved in this club, who are a great joy to work with (and pick at). We will probably meet every 3 months or so, unless otherwise needed.

Mary Clyde Sparks  
832-6139

Best of Show: Sticks and Stones

Best Appearance: JenDon

Creative Display: CB Ward

Raw Materials: Love of Land Images

Friendliest Dealer: C & N Rocks

Show Director: Will Smith

June Miller/Jeanette Grimes Memorial Award – dealer or member; someone who shows great artistic talent – Ken Swann

Wilbur White Memorial Award – club member who constantly contributes and is involved – Ingrid Regen

CD Adams Memorial Award - club member who constantly contributes and is involved – Steve Henegar

Harry & Dorothy Kleinsteuber Memorial Award - club member who constantly contributes and is involved – Max & Paula Grimes

Jack Fishburn/ Coy Deaton/ Walt Itin - club member who constantly contributes and is involved – Anne Buckner

Vernon Meerdink Memorial Award - club member who constantly contributes and is involved – John Stanley

Deceased's Spouse - Annual Memorial Award to Spouses of Deceased Members Who Can No Longer Be Active But Continue to support the MTGMS with Their Memberships – Mary Fishburn

Service Above & Beyond – Allan & Pat Wright

Friend to Show – club member; who has given extra effort to show preparation, etc – Mary Clyde Sparks

Numbers for 2003 Show

Day	Adult	Student	Under 12	Totals
Saturday	827	32	13	872
Sunday	389	66	54	509
<i>Totals</i>	<i>1216</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>1381</i>

(We had a total # 1629 in 2002. The difference in numbers was less children in attendance in 2003, but the adults were present and they made good purchases!)

**Mosquito Combat**

*Submitted via e-mail by Dr. Dirk Seelemann, Editor of "The Cutting Edge," newsletter of the Ottawa Lapsmith & Mineral Club.*

Here are some helpful (and interesting) hints about repelling mosquitoes. 'Thought you might benefit from this newly found knowledge! It's about that time folks-- so thought I'd send out this reminder!

OK, mosquitoes...prepare to be repelled!

Use Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets...Best thing ever used in Louisiana, just wipe on & go... Great for babies.

Bob, a fisherman, takes one vitamin B-1 tablet a day April through October. He said it works. He was right. Hasn't had a mosquito bite in 33 years. Try it. Every one he has talked into trying it works on them. Vitamin B-1( Thiamine Hydrochloride 100 mg.)

If you eat bananas, the mosquitoes like you, - something about the banana oil as your body processes it. Stop eating bananas for the summer and the mosquitoes will be much less interested.

This is going to floor you, but one of the best insect repellents someone found (who is in the woods every day), is Vick's Vaporub.

Plant marigolds around the yard, the flowers give off a smell that bugs do not like, so plant some in that garden also to help ward off bugs without using insecticides.

"Tough guy" Marines who spend a great deal of time "camping out" say that the very best mosquito repellent you can use is Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil mixed about half and half with alcohol.

One of the best natural insect repellants that I've discovered is made from the clear real vanilla . This is the pure vanilla that is sold in Mexico. It works great for mosquitoes and ticks, don't know about other insects.

When all else fails--get a frog.

Fight West Nile...pass this along to all your friends in skeeter land!!!



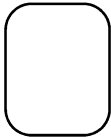
**Internet Web Page: <http://www.mtgms.org>**

To: \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Next Meeting:  
 Mar 18th  
 Time: 7:30 pm  
 Steve Hengar  
 "Rockhounding"  
 10 easy lessons in  
 2 easy steps

First Class  
 Postage



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

**Next Meetings**

**Tullahoma:** 2nd Monday each month  
 April 12th, 7pm, Coffee County Sr Citizens

**Donelson:** Sunday following the 3rd Thursday (ie. the Murfreesboro meeting)  
 Sunday 21st, 3pm, Donelson Sr Citizen Center

**Murfreesboro:** 3rd Thursday each month  
 March 18th, 7:30 pm, Murfreesboro Farm Bureau, Shelbyville Hwy

**Wanted!!**

Stories for the newsletter EVERY month! Please email me anything that you think would be fun, useful, interesting, or whatever you think we'd want to see in the newsletter:

[ingrid@dimp.com](mailto:ingrid@dimp.com)

**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](mailto: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.**