



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...

You know, it's a lot of fun to mix kids and rocks! Several club members assisted Bob and Tina King with the Geo Dig at Tina's school on May 7. Not only do kids and rocks make a good mixture, but throw in a few moms, dads, grandparents, a reporter and a congressman and you've got the makings of a fun day. The dad that was the geode cracker this year was fabulous, he kept a running banter with the kids that was rather comical. For instance the kids were required to wear safety glasses to crack their geode. When finished the dad would make the comment - Now don't run off with those good looking high fashion glasses! I need those back! It's good to see the parents participate like that. I don't know who had more fun, dad or the kids.

It was also nice to see Congressman Jim Cooper out for the day. Bob had the opportunity to give him a grand tour of the dig, also giving club members an opportunity to share our hobby. We made sure he had information about the bills going through congress that would severely hurt or curtail our collecting opportunities on public lands. It looked like he might have even been having a good time.

Anyway the dig was a huge success again this year. It never ceases to amaze me at the amount of work Bob and Tina put into this one day. It's an all year project, not just a hastily put together project. I tip my hat to both of these educators, teaching the way teaching should be by creating wonder and amazement in their students. Mix in the natural curiosity of children and you get a great learning experience. You can see in the students eyes how much they anticipate the dig day. It's also amazing to see the younger students with their "I can't wait until it's my turn" looks. Thanks Bob and Tina for being such great teachers.

One thing I would like to mention, it takes a lot of fossils and specimens to pull the Geo Dig off each year. As you search, silver pick, or just go through your collections, pick out a few small hand sized colorful specimens to help with the cause. I try each year to find enough specimens to give 1 to each child. They really

~ 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:

May 20th

June 17th

July 15th

August 19th

September 16th

October 21st

November 18th

December 16th

Inside this issue:

Presidents Letter

Minutes from all the clubs
and sub-clubs of MTGMS

2 Field Trips

New open location

Trivia

Shop Tips

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

appreciate the gift. While I don't expect everyone to donate enough for each child, if each member would donate just 2 or 3 specimens, we'd have a lot of rocks for the kids to choose their very own. I'm guessing several of these kids will keep the rocks they get for a long time, maybe even into adulthood.

I hope a few of you have the opportunity to go to Graves Mountain this month. It's the weekend after the meeting. There are lots of rocks and minerals to collect. Who knows how much longer this site will be open as I suspect the government is going to require them to reclaim the site at some point in time. If you can go, do so. It's well worth the trip. Would someone pick up that 5 pound rutile crystal I missed last year and bring it to me?

Spring is in full steam, summer will soon be here. Get out there and do a little rock collecting. It's good for your health, even if you only dig with your silver pick. My doctor says I can do all the digging I want, the more the better. Me, I plan to try my luck at the Great Salt Plains State Park in Oklahoma this year. I may hike to the far reaches to see if I can find some larger crystals or maybe even a good cluster of selenite crystals. The digging doesn't get any better than here. Dig a shallow hole in the salty sand, add water and splash the sides of the hole to uncover the crystals, then set the crystals out to dry on a piece of newspaper.. They even conveniently form in the top 2 feet of sand, so you don't have to dig deep. It's almost as much fun as making mud pies.

Enough rambling! See you at the meeting.

Steve
shenegar@
net-serv.com



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

SFMS Field Trip Committee
DMC Field Trip Sharing Program

An Official Field Trip of The
Northeast Georgia Mineral Society,
(Cornelia, GA) Host
An Official Field Trip of the
Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral
Society

Field Trip #1

9:00 AM, Saturday, June 5, 2004
Chunky Gal Knob, Clay County,
North Carolina
(Nantahala National Forest)

FIELD TRIP DETAILS: We will meet at the intersection of US 64 and Buck Creek Road at 9:00 AM EDT. This spot is 16.5 miles west of Franklin NC. and 12.1 miles east of the intersection of NC 175 and US 64. Children, under close supervision, and pets, on a leash, are okay.

COLLECTING: Participants will be looking for smaragdite, a green chrome-rich amphibole and for corundum. Corundum from this site occurs as: white/gray, pink, blue, or bronze. The pink corundum will fluoresce under UV. Tremolite has also been found at this site.

CONDITIONS: USFS regulations limit hole depth to 18".

BRING: Heavy shoes/boots, eye protection, 1/4" - 1/2" screens, buckets, shovel, sledge and rock hammer, chisels, prybar. Also bring lunch, beverage/water, insect repellent and sunscreen.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are a number of restaurants and motels, in Franklin and south of Franklin, on US 441 and NC 28.

CONTACTS:

Kim Cochran (770) 979-8331
Ron Skvarka (706) 754-2418
amysk@hemc.net
Richard F. Walter (770) 532-8874

Field Trip #2

Kyanite Mining Corp. is really excited about this DMC event. They are in the process of busting up big boulders for us and turning over new material. They are also planing to have a nice handout packet for everyone who attends. This looks like it will be a great field trip.

An Official Field Trip of The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc. (Host)

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

Willis Mountain Kyanite Mine
8:00 am until 10 pm, Saturday,
May 22, 2004

Baker Mountain Kyanite Mine
10:00 am until 2 pm, Sunday, May
23, 2004

The Gem & Mineral Society of Lynchburg, Virginia Inc. is proud to host our third DMC Field Trip. The Kyanite Mining Corporation

~ cont'd on page 3

has graciously allowed us to hold this two day event at their facilities near Farmville, VA.

OVERVIEW: A brief schedule of the fun and fellowship events.

Saturday, May 22nd. Willis Mountain, (a monadnock) is the only significant active Kyanite mine in the world. At 9:30 am we will have a guided tour of selected facilities and processes and then collecting on the mountain, free BBQ, Hot Dogs and snacks (RSVP appreciated), soft drinks and water, rock swap (bring your swap material, table and chairs or tailgate). There will be night collecting in a limited area after dark until 10 pm. We will have at least four club members with super bright short wave ultraviolet lights but bring your own for your personal collecting.

Minerals: mostly white with some blue Kyanite (some crystals fluoresce light blue), Pyrite, Red Mica (iron stained), Muscovite, Hematite coated Kyanite (some iridescent), Quartz and rare Apatite, Trolleite, Augelite, Enargite, Topaz, Lazulite, Variscite and Goyazite. Several of these also fluoresce.

Sunday, May 23rd. Baker Mountain which is inactive and partially reclaimed. We will be collecting in two different areas.

Minerals: Beautiful blue Kyanite crystals loose in the soil or in Quartz, Pyrite, Green Mica (Fuchsite), Red Mica (iron stained)

MEETING TIME & LOCATION: Saturday morning between 8:00 and 8:30 am, we will all gather in the Food Lion parking lot, Sprouses Corner for sign in and mine release signing. At 8:30 am there will be hand outs, maps and a review of the

weekend events. There you can also view some of the typical minerals that we have found in the past.

Sprouses Corner is 20 miles north of Farmville, VA on Route 15 where it intersects with Route 60. >From this intersection drive north on Route 15 for 1.4 miles to a traffic light at Route 20. Turn left and you will immediately see the Food Lion on your right. We will gather at the rear of the lot between 8 and 8:30am.

Sunday morning between 9:30 and 10:00 am we will all meet at the Baker Mountain mine site. Maps and directions will be provided at the Saturday briefing.

EQUIPMENT: Standard quarry gear is required for everyone which includes hard hat, safety glasses and good strong boots, no sneakers or sandals. You should also wear long pants and have gloves. It may be warm so dress accordingly and it is usually very windy on the mountain. Bring your collecting equipment such as hammers, chisels, buckets and newspaper for wrapping delicate specimens and UV lamp for night viewing of fluorescent minerals. We will be allowed to drive to the main collecting area on the mountain.

FACILITIES: We will have a uni-sex port-a-poty in the area as well as a first aid area and tent for shade. Bring chairs for your own comfort. Hot BBQ and hot dogs will be available from Noon until 2:00 pm. Snacks and drinks will be available all day. Bring any additional food and water you will need for your evening meal.

AGE LIMIT: Everyone is welcome but children must be 6 years old and above. They will not be allowed to roam around unattended and must obey all safety require-

ments. All pets must be under control at all times.

LODGING SUGGESTIONS:

Sprouses Corner (about 1 mile)

Star Motel, 1-888-564-5422 \$55.

Farmville (about 20 miles)

Days Inn, 434-392-6611 \$53.00 ask for DMC rate if reserve before 4/30/04,

Super 8 Motel, 434-392-8196 \$55.00 ask for DMC group rate,

Comfort Inn, 434-392-8163

Appomattox (about 28 miles)

Super 8 Motel, 434-352-2339,

Budget Inn, 434-352-7451 \$40.00 ask for DMC field trip discount.

Paradise Lake Family Campground (about 33 miles) 434-993-3332

Burkeville (about 36 miles)

Comfort Inn, 434-767-3750,

Weston's Motel, 434-645-7761 \$43.00 with 2 beds, \$33.00 with 1 bed.

Add \$3.20 per additional person.

ALL OF THESE MOTELS ARE CLOSE TO RESTAURANTS, FAST FOOD AND GAS STATIONS.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RSVP:

David Callahan,

Field Trip Chairman

The Gem and Mineral Society of Lynchburg, VA. Inc.

Phone 540-297-1853

dbcall1@aol.com

website:

www.LynchburgRockClub.org

Minutes of April 15, 2004 Board Meeting

No board meeting was held this month.

In 2003 we participated in a field day for Cub Scouts at the Barfield Park. This will be held again this year and we will again take part in the program. To volunteer for this please see President Henegar.

A decision to collect donations to the William Holland Elevator, in honor of Max Grimes, was made at the meeting. Please send donations to: Suzanne Wagner, William Holland Retreat, Inc., P O Box 980, And Young Harris GA 30582.

We have been invited to participate in an Earth Day activity at the Nashville Zoo on April 3rd and 17th. Steve Henegar and Lewis Elrod will host the first day and volunteers are needed for the 17th.

Respectfully submitted,
Lewis Elrod, acting secretary

Minutes of April 15, 2004 General Meeting

The general meeting of the MTG&MS was called to order by President Henegar at 7:30 pm.

The Cub Scout program will be held at the Barfield Park on June 7th and we need volunteers for the program. This year it is "Walk on the Wild Side" and will be presented to 50-60 boys who are earning their Geology Badge. Call Steve Henegar if you can help. We did this last year and it was very enjoyable. Pitch in and help this year.

The summer picnic will be held at the Barfield Park again this year. Remember to be there and bring your choice of foods along with

plates and utensils. We will have plastic table covers for all tables again this year.

The program was presented by our own Al Johnson who took us on a tour of some of our western states. The program especially covered the Dakotas and the highlight was information presented about the Crazy Horse monument being carved out of a mountain. An old story about carving is that you "just carve away everything you do not want and the carving is what is left. In this case the amount not wanted is a huge amount of stone that is being removed with explosives and large equipment an enormous amount of manpower. It is a fantastic project and it was really good to see more on this.

The May program will be our "show and swap session". Bring something you want to swap, sell or even give away. You may also be lucky enough to find something that you really want to take home with you.

Again we went to Tina King's school to help with her "Geo Dig". As always we left feeling that we took more home, in the way of pleasure at having been a part of the program, than we left. The children were well behaved and obviously were looking forward to the event. We provided each child (and several teachers and parents) with tumbled stone pendants. Thanks Tina, for letting us take part in this.

Respectfully submitted,
Lewis Elrod, acting secretary



Tullahoma Meeting Minutes

MTGMS met on Tuesday, May 10th. Louis Elrod was our speaker on the Elmwood zinc mine in Carthage, Tn. He had slides and a very interesting program along with samples from the mine.

Saturday, May 15th is our yard sale to raise money to help with the expense of the lapidary room. The shop was broken into over the weekend. Nothing was taken. They think it was teenagers.

Peggy Wilshur and Dick Gross will be the Outreach Committee chairmen for publicity about the club and its work and classes. We will form a calling list and post card for those that don't have email as a reminder for the meeting dates until everyone gets familiar with the times and dates. It is the second Monday of the month in the Tullahoma Senior Center at 7:00pm. All are welcome.

There will be a field trip to Franklin, N.C. in July. Details forthcoming.

"Man on the rock pile" will be given by Norman and Heloise Kendrick for the June meeting. Topic will be rockhounding in Tn. and Colo.

Respectfully, *Heloise Kendrick*

Donelson Meeting, April 18th, 2004

The Donelson meeting had an attendance of roughly 14 individuals for the April meeting with two visitors present and one of the students from the Silver Smithing Class on hand.

~ cont'd on page 5

Will Smith opened the meeting with a brief discussion on the need to establish officers for the Donelson Club chapter. After several minutes of open discussion, it was decided to hold off on any decisions to give the chapter time to establish itself in this area.

Will Smith brought up the situation concerning Wild Acres and it's slowly dwindling class attendance. He provided photos taken at Wild Acres for club members to view and discussed this facility as well as William Holland and the offerings of both.

It was decided that the feature of a "Show and Tell" learning discussion be added to each monthly meeting providing members the opportunity to present items for viewing and identification.

The "Stamp Fund" will be endorsed by the Donelson group starting with the May meeting and will be limited to possibly drawing for two items only so as not to take up too much time for the hour allocated for the meeting. It was also discussed whether or not to have meetings during the summer months since many members use that time for vacation and rock hunting trips. Those in attendance wished for the meetings to continue through the summer.

Bill Buckner presented the monthly program on the subject of "Maintaining a Good Library" by presenting to the club a variety of books from his own library of reference as well as several he is currently reviewing. It was also mentioned that there is currently available at the Donelson branch a subscription issue of Wire Artist Jeweler that can be viewed at the center. Also, the main club chapter

maintains a library of videotapes that can be checked out for a reasonable time frame for club members.

The Donelson Senior Citizen day classes are primarily booked solid according to Joe and Will, with perhaps, one opening left in Silver Smithing and one in Lapidary in the night classes? (Ingrid, can you check with Joe on this?)

Al Johnson volunteered to present the May Program. Will Smith volunteered to present the June program. Ingrid once again is asking for articles for the newsletter so if you have interesting topics please e-mail it to her.

*From Mary W. Bailey,
Club Reporter*

Ivey Farm Amethyst Location

This old mine (worked from 1968 to 1980 and periodically since then) located 3 miles south of Warrenton, Ga. has been recently opened up by Rodney Moore as a pay-to-dig site. Heavy machinery is being used on the tailings piles to uncover material and new areas are being dug. Scepters and euhedral or double terminated crystals of fist size or larger have been found; some are etched and about 10% are anhydro. Photos of recent finds can be viewed on www.mcrocks.com and www.dixieeuhedrals.com/page5.html.

Fee is \$10/adult and \$3/kids (must be 12 years and older). Week-days are open for individuals or groups. Saturdays for club field

trips or groups of at least 10 people and Sundays, the same but at least 5 people.

Phone Rodney @ 770-380-8917.

(Information from Rodney Moore in e-mails of March 9, and April 19 and 28 <sio2ga@bellsouth.net>; In Hound's Howl)

Ed Hansen's Time-tested Shop Tips

End cuts: Use Elmer's glue to bond end cuts (or any hunk of rough material, for that matter) to a chunk of 2x4. Clamp the 2x4 in your slab saw vice and continue slabbing. Soak off the wood by dropping in a bucket of water for about a week.

Sanding sticks: Dip popsicle sticks in glue, then in grit. Or, wrap a piece of sandpaper around the popsicle stick. Use various grits, make lots. Very handy.

India ink: Use India ink to paint dinosaur bone slabs. The softer matrix will hold the black ink. Then cut and polish your cab. You will have a nice black outline around the wonderful cells.

Montana agate: The plumes and patterns form along seams, so cut perpendicular or parallel to lines to get the best pictures.

Tarnish remover: A pinch of baking soda rubbed on silver takes off tarnish.

(From The Pegmatite , April 2004)

The Trivia Vug

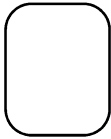
· In August 1996, Hindu pilgrims died in a snowstorm in the Himalayas, as they were en route to worship a stalagmite. The frozen Hindu pilgrims believed the stalagmite to be the phallus of the god Shiva.

~ cont'd on page 6


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

To: _____
Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

First Class
Postage



- Scientists now believe that the fossil of a millipede found in Britain three years ago is the oldest creature to have lived on land. The tiny fossil was found on a harbor foreshore near Aberdeen, Scotland.
 - Petoskey Stones are fossilized colony corals (Hexagonaria percarinata). Their origin is traced back to Devonian seas that covered Michigan's Lower Peninsula about 350 million years ago.
 - "Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro, Arkansas yields on average, two diamonds per day. If you are really there to mine instead of play, your odds of finding a diamond are 1 in 10.
- (Sources: USGS and numerous Internet sites. From R.J. Harris, Central PA RMC, Rock Buster News, March 2004.)

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

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



Next Murr Meeting:
May 20th
7:30 pm
Show n' Swap
Next Don Meeting:
May 23rd, 3 pm
Next Tull Meeting:
June 14th, 7 pm

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.