



Mid-TENN Gem'ers

Newsletter of
The Middle Tennessee Gem
and Mineral Society, Inc.
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The Prez Rambles On...

Ok people, it's PICNIC TIME!!! Being one who has a habit of eating I'm looking forward to this. For those of you who attend the meetings in Tullahoma and Donelson, I want to extend an invitation for you to come to the picnic in Murfreesboro. Find someone to drive, if you don't drive at night. Although, if you don't stay too late, you might be able to make it home before dark anyway. The 17th is only 4 days away from the longest day of the year. Everyone pile in a car and come on. If you don't want to cook, stop by KFC or Kroger and pick up a bucket of chicken. I want to come home from this FULL!

For those of you that do cook, I like beans, taters, maters, corn, cornbread, roast beast (beef, deer, elk, moose, buffalo - you get the picture), chicken, hamburgers, eggs, pasta, etc., etc., etc. In other words I like food. While I'm partial to Southern cooking, I also like Yankee cooking, Tex-Mex, real Mexican, western (that's steak for those who haven't been west), Italian, French, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, so don't be shy. If I've got room I'll try it. The rest of you are invited to eat also. I won't try to hog it all... maybe.

Here's what you need to bring. Food for your family and for sharing, silverware, china (paper, plastic or fine), something to drink, and food. Optionally you may want to bring a tablecloth, candles, fresh flowers etc., if you wish to decorate the table. Don't expect me to bring any decorations, I'm only in it for the food. One other thing, bring a dollar or two for a collection to give the the people that keep the building open for us. Another thing to bring is items for show and tell. It's also ok to bring a few items for sale, not a lot, just a few. I expect lots of goodies from all you folks that have been in class in Donelson and Tullahoma. Let the rest of us see what you're doing.

The picnic will take place at the Barfield/Crescent Park in Murfreesboro. We'll meet at the back of the park at the wilderness station at 6:30. Please be prompt. I'll promptly be hungry at 6:30. If your late that's ok too. I'll

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:

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

Smithsonian Institution
Scientist to Speak at
Asheville GemFest 2004

Picnic Location

Points

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

eat more later. All kidding aside, make your plans to join us.

I just recently got back from a trip out west. I took my mom and older daughter for what turned out to be a whirlwind tour of 10 states. I even took a little time to rock hunt. We stopped at the Great Salt Plains State Park near Jet, Oklahoma to dig selenite crystals. It's really a wimpy way to dig for rocks. First you dig a hole in the sand. Then either fill it with water, or let the ground water seep in. Most of the crystals are in the first 2 feet, and most of the ones I found were in the first 6 inches. Anyway after you get your hole started and water in it, you just splash the sides with water and wash the crystals out, assuming you are in an area that has crystals. Then lay the crystals out on a newspaper for them to dry. They are very fragile when they are first uncovered.

This trip, I picked out the larger holes and enlarged them. They were the most productive holes. I tried digging a few holes of my own, but never heard the crunch of crystals, so I didn't continue very far with them. Digging the selenite crystals at this location reminds me of playing in mudholes when I was younger. It's still fun to play in the mud!

The dig area is open from April to October each year. Each year a different area is open for digging so the crystals have plenty of time to form. It's a flat, white salt flat. Use your sunscreen, sunglasses, and a tied on hat that is good to shade your face. It's also always windy.

For the rest of the trip we took the Cog Railway to the top of Pikes Peak in Colorado. It was a beautiful, almost cloudless day. Temperatures were in the 70's when we left

the train station. On top the temperature was 22 degrees with a wind chill of 0. Winds had to be close to 50 miles per hour, as I could barely stand to take pictures. Still quite a bit of snow above 11,000 feet. It was one of those days that you could see forever. Visibility was better than 200 miles. As someone said you could see the earth bend. At 14,110 feet it's a tall mountain, and the oxygen is very thin. That's what they mean by Rocky Mountain High. They even had a flavored oxygen bar in the gift shop, so you could get a better supply if the natural supply didn't suit you.

The main purpose of the trip was to visit some friends in Sheridan, Wyoming. My folks started going out to visit them in the early 1990's. I've been going since 1997. We've only missed going the year my dad died. Anyway while visiting we went up into the Bighorn Mountains. While there, my daughter and I got into a snowball fight. I won, as I found a bare patch of skin above her belt line. For some reason some of the snow went down her pants. I had a good laugh at the jig she danced when the cold snow hit her. You shouldn't wear shirts that don't cover the top of your pants when you are in a snowball fight. Beth found out about how cold snow is and how accurate her papa's aim can be. On the way home we stopped to see Mount Rushmore.

What an impressive carving!

I even just happened to find a few rock shops along the way. Ok, I really knew where most of them were before I left home, I just didn't tell my daughter that. My mom was already used to stopping at rock shops when we travel. This evening I was cutting a piece of dinosaur

dung that I had selected at one of the rock shops. I still haven't figured out what this dinosaur was eating, I do know it was very colorful. Must have been a big dinosaur as this piece is several inches in diameter in all directions. I also found a bargain on slabs. I brought back about 15 pounds of them. I would have bought more if the natives hadn't gotten restless and wanted to move on.

As you might surmise, I had a good time. I'm already planning the trip for next year. Going to take a young nephew, he says he'll hunt rocks with me. Hmm. Maybe the Blue forest or the fossil fish beds. We'll just have to wait and see.

We got a bit of good news from Albert Odgen, a club member and an MTSU professor about a mineral museum at the University. Space has been allocated and money has been allocated to buy display cases. If you have any special minerals, rocks or fossils, talk to Albert about either loaning or donating them to the museum. I know a number of us are really excited about this as it has been a desire to have a museum at MTSU for a long time.

The main purpose of the museum is to educate school children about the earth sciences. I'm hoping our club will help sponsor some educational events for these children.

Enough rambling, see you at the picnic.

Steve
shenegar@
net-serv.com



May 20, 2004: MTGMS BOARD MEETING

President Steve opened the Board Meeting at 6:40 pm. Paula reported that the Tullahoma lapidary shop is still without a door-knob after break-in, but we're working on it. Yard sale netted a bit over \$400. Lewis recommends a burglar alarm for this shop and its storeroom. Currently the machinery is covered by the Senior Citizen Center insurance. Will Smith initiated discussion re a budget for each satellite lapidary center. Joe needs a 12" saw for Donelson.

We were reminded of the Boy Scout project set for June 7 at Barfield Park. New members were approved: Dean Hamilton and Sharon Calhoun from Nashville, David and Wanda Fruehauf of Lynchburg, Joe Kington and Sara Beth Smith who are also new scholarship recipients.

INGRID NEEDS ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTER!!!!

Steve asked the Board to consider purchasing table banners for our outside presentations/programs. Lewis will check with Kinko's re cost. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by:
Paula Vance, Secretary

GENERAL MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 7:30. We welcomed David Hayman of Smyrna as a guest. Steve noted that information on our newest scholarship recipients was on the back table for perusal. Report on Tina's school dig was also on table, and Tina gave us a verbal report as well, thanking the Club for all the help given to her projects.

Steve announced an open scramble session available this Saturday at June Miller's rock pile again. Prof. Albert Ogden updated us on the status of the MTSU Geology Museum, and it is finally in the works instead of just talking about it! He needs cabinets, specimens, and of course money. He will keep us up to date on progress.

Stamp fund drawing was held then, with donations from Bill Buckner, Paula Vance, Johnny Hilliard, Lewis Elrod, Norm Crocker, Cameron Byler, and John Stanley. Thank you all for your generosity.

June meeting was announced by Bob King, NOTE; JUNE 17 AT BARFIELD PARK, BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM, bring lots of food and anything else you want. The July meeting program will be by Bill Buckner. Bob then gave us his bad dog joke - a 2-groaner. Meeting disintegrated into swap/shop/brag fest at 8:30.

As respectfully as always (yes, I'm trying to get back to "normal"), Paula Vance, secretary



May Meeting of Donelson Club Branch

The Donelson group had an attendance of roughly twenty-four for the Sunday afternoon meeting. The Stamp Fund was started and attending members generously donated some good items for this first drawing.

Will Smith began the meeting by giving a summary of thoughts from our last meeting and once

again brought up the topic of voting for officials for the Donelson group. It was decided that this would be done at the July Meeting.

Will presented for viewing pictures he had taken at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts on his teaching trip to the school in Young Harris, Georgia. He had views of the different classrooms as well as the new elevator and the memorial plaque dedicating the elevator. The addition of this piece of important equipment has been extremely beneficial to increasing attendance at the school for those with physical handicaps or limitations of mobility.

Classes at the Center are going strong. The addition of a 14" slab saw to the shop will be a needed bonus. Joe mentioned they are offering Lapidary Classes during the day on Tuesdays from 9-11 am and twice at night on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It was mentioned the possibility of a casting class at the Center being started in the fall. Silversmithing classes are being held twice a week.

Once again, a group of silver pick collectors headed up to June Miller's rock pile over the past weekend and treasure hunted to their hearts content.

The meeting presentation was a video showing of "The Pipemakers". This video covered a brief history of the Native Americans who originally hand mined pipestone from quarries in Southeast Minnesota for use in the making of ceremonial pipes. This area is now Pipestone National Park. Founded in the 1930's this national park allows the continued hand mining of pipestone by Native Americans. The video showed examples of the artistic skill involved with the con-

struction of these pipes by showing a pipe being made from start to finish. On hand were examples of a completed pipe as well as several pipes in various stages of completion.

Mary W. Bailey
Club Reporter

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

DMC Program of the SFMS Field
Trip Committee

An Official Field Trip of the
Montgomery Gem and Mineral
Society Host

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

9:00 Saturday July 10 2004

Site Name: Erin Road

City and State: Ashland, Alabama

County within State: Clay

Children: Pebble Pups are always encouraged to attend our field trips. Any age or size is welcome.

Pets: Only if kept under control.

Trip is FREE.

TRIP: to Erin Road, Clay county to collect garnet crystals

COLLECTING: Massive Almandine Garnet crystals, samples will be displayed before trip. Kyanite, black tourmaline (schorl), and quartzite are also sometimes found.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: It will be hot and dry in the collecting area. Plan ahead and bring something to drink.

BRING: something to collect in, simple digging tools, drinks, and

comfortable clothing.

DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:

Where we will meet: In the Winn Dixie Parking lot in Wetumpka

When: 7:30 Central Standard Time

Directions to our meeting place:

Follow Highway 231 north from Montgomery into Wetumpka. Turn right (east) into the Winn Dixie parking lot. We will be staging from here to go north to Ashland on Hwy 9. If you wish to meet us in Ashland itself, we will be leaving town going west on Hwy 77 and will stop at the last convenience store/gas station before leaving town at approximately 8:30 CST + or - 20 minutes. Hwy 9 runs north/south through Ashland and Hwy 77 runs east/west.

The convenience store is west of the center of town approximately 1-1.5 miles on the south side of Hwy 77. There are only 2 convenience stores west of Ashland on Hwy 77 and only one on the south side of the road. I do not recommend vehicles larger than a SUV on the dirt county road. It would be difficult to turn around and although the road runs through, there is an old wooden bridge to cross which may cause problems.

Drive Time: Approximately 1.5 hours from Montgomery, .5 hours from Ashland.

Collecting Area: The area is in the Talladega National Forest. Collecting will be along a dirt road that runs through privately managed forestry land.

Both the road surface itself, the banks, and the area near the road. There are other materials that can be collected in this same area. No large holes are allowed, however

there are plenty of easily collected garnets. Material is "poor" quality, however can be cabbed or used for spheres and eggs. Has interesting red/orange appearance with healed fractures and inclusions. A table will be set up with samples and already cut material. There are many other minerals in the general area including several gold mines, pyrite mines, and turquoise (wavelite) has been reported.

Contact numbers:

phone: James Mallonee (VP-Field Trips) 334-567-0765

e-mail: koldunbelyj@hotmail.com

Phone: David Sherrod 285-5537

e-mail: Dsher355@bellsouth.net

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!

DMC Program / SFMS Field Trip committee's purpose:

To collect field trip information from it's member societies; schedule and coordinate field trip dates; disseminate field trip information to all member clubs so that each member society may publish this information as one of their "official" scheduled field trips.

Please reply by e-mail to:
dmc@gamineral.org

World Wide Web site for the DMC is:

<http://www.gamineral.org/dmc.htm>

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION SCIENTIST TO SPEAK AT ASHEVILLE GEM FEST 2004

Dr. Michael A. Wise from the Dept. of Mineral Sciences of the National Museum of Natural History will be the featured speaker on Saturday afternoon, June 19, at the Asheville Gem Fest 2005 sponsored by the Colburn Earth Science Museum. Both talks will take place in the Dianna Wortham Theater in Pack Place.

Dr. Wise has done extensive research on a number of world-wide pegmatites and will be discussing the mineralogy of 2 famous gem-bearing pegmatites in the Southeast:

1) The Morefield Mine in Amelia, Virginia. The mine is renowned for a number of minerals, but probably most famous for gem quality amazonite. The mine is featured in a display at the Smithsonian. This talk is scheduled for 1:30 PM.

2) The famous locality of Hiddenite, North Carolina is the subject of the second talk. Dr. Wise has been researching the geological origin of the emeralds from this area and may have some surprises to share with us. James K. Hill of North American Emerald Mines will be a special guest for this talk and will share information on his current mining efforts at Hiddenite. This is scheduled for 3:00 PM Saturday

3) Admission to both presentations is free.

The Asheville Gem Fest will be held from Friday, June 18 through Sunday, June 20 and features quality dealers in gems & pearls, jewelry, mineral specimens, meteorites,

and more. Children and adults will be able to search for crystals at an outdoor flume, pan for gold or discover crystal surprises with a geode cracker. The shows silent auction offers visitors a chance to bid on jewelry, minerals and gift certificates from many local businesses and restaurants. For more information, call the Museum at (828) 232-1329 or visit our website at www.colburnmuseum.org.

Admission to the Gemfest and the Colburn Museum is free during the weekend events.

POINTS

SPEARS, ARROWS AND STONE IMPLEMENTS

from MAGS Rockhound News - June 2004

Archaeologists use the word "point" for the tip on a spear or an arrow. They also call a stone implement a point even when it served as a knife and not as the tip of a projectile. Examination by microscope often reveals whether or not a point has been used as a knife; certain wear-marks appear on it. Sometimes it is even possible to tell what kind of material was cut by the point.

If a stone tool was used as a scraper this too can be discovered by studying the edge with a microscope. The wear-marks left by scraping are very different from those left by cutting.

The three views above show a flint blade that has been turned into a point only 1-5/8 inches long. This delicate workmanship was done by

pre-Eskimo craftsmen at Cape Denbigh in Alaska.

Reference [Information and Illustration]: Folsom, Franklin and Rachel; *America's Ancient Treasures*; Rand McNally & Company, New York, NY; 1971.

Information gathered for educational purposes under the provisions of the "Fair Use Act of 1976."

News for Rockhounds

from MAGS Rockhound News - June 2004

fossil news . . . the University of Pittsburgh has announced the discovery of a T-Rex skull that is reportedly to be the most complete found to date. Within the same week an auction was scheduled in Los Angeles of what was described as the first T-rex found. I am not aware of the auction results.

smithsonite . . . the July edition of *Rock and Gem* has an excellent article on Smithsonite including material from the Rush, Arkansas area. It appears the writer, Bob Jones, would really like to have piece of the "bright-yellow Smithsonite casts after calcite." Any MAGSters out there willing to part with one. It apparently is highly sought after and quite valuable.

agate names . . . the agate we call "banded" is also referred to in various sources as river agate, Mississippi agate, Louisiana agate, Crowley's Ridge agate and Mommy's agate. The latter name was given because the finder found it on his mother's property.

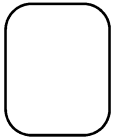
geode . . . the term is derived from the Greek word *Geoides* which means "earthlike."


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

To: _____

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First Class
Postage



Picnic Location for June Meeting

The picnic this year will be held at the Murfreesboro Barfield-Crescent City Park. It will be in the Wilderness Station. This is a lighted, air conditioned building with rest rooms.

Directions to the park are as follows: Traveling on I-24, take exit 81 south toward Shelbyville. Continue for 1.7 miles turn right on Barfield-Crescent Road. (There is a Phillips 66 station on the right at the light at the corner). Drive 0.8 miles on Barfield-Crescent Road. Turn left into the Barfield-Crescent Park. Continue 0.3 mile to the first street on the right and turn right. Continue for approximately 75 feet to a stop sign. Turn left at the stop sign and continue 0.5 mile to the Wilderness Center, which is a building on the

right. Enter the parking lot, which has adequate spaces, and come in the front door of the building. The Wilderness Station is at the rear of the park behind the Frisbee golf course and past the picnic pavilions.

For anyone who goes to the Farm Bureau building as a reference point: Continue south towards Shelbyville to the overpass above Interstate 24. The above directions then apply.

Be sure to bring a table cover if desired, table ware, plates, drinks, etc. You will also need to bring a covered dish (food) sufficient to supply your family and some to share with others and plenty of extra for the newsletter editor. There are many good cooks in our group and we always have a feast at our summer picnic. Bring hobby items you have been working on for show and tell.



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

Next Murr Meeting:
June 17th
6:30 pm
Pic Nic
Next Don Meeting:
June 20th, 3 pm
Next Tull Meeting:
July 12th, 7 pm

Swap and Shop

For Sale: Now available for sale! Large garage stuffed full of 35 yrs of rock collecting. 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.