



# Mid-TENN Gem'ers

Newsletter of

The Middle Tennessee Gem  
and Mineral Society, Inc.

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Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1256

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## The Prez Rambles On...

Well folks it's less than a month until our annual Gem Show. I hope all members, yes ALL, are planning to at least attend. You just never know what goodies you will find at the show. It would be a shame to miss out on something special because you didn't come. While your at the show please volunteer an hour or two to make sure everything runs smoothly. We can use your help getting setup on Friday, selling tickets and working the member/registration table during the show, and then help pack it all back up after the show ends.

It takes a lot of help to produce a show. We need all of you to help. Our show is well respected by both our dealers and our customers because our membership makes sure it all works well. In case you've forgotten, the show is December 11-12. Setup starts around noon on the 10th. If you come to help on Friday, you can stay for our dinner put on for our dealers and club member who help with setup.

Each year we offer a grand prize for an attendee of the show. The main purpose of this is to get people to register so we have their address so we can send them notification of our show next year. Our best advertising response is to the cards we mail out from those that register.

Last year we started a grand prize program that is open to all members and dealers to submit an article for the grand prize. If the prize you submit is selected by the winner at the end of the show, the club will accept it as a donation from you or will reimburse you up to \$50 for the prize. Obviously we'd like to have a donated prize, but don't let that hold you back from submitting one. At the show, registrants will be asked to pick which prize they would like if they win. This is a good opportunity to showcase some aspect of our hobby that you are interested in. The prize can be jewelry, gemstone(s), mineral specimen, or something else related to our hobby.

Also coming up in December is our Christmas party. It's a potluck meal with a gift exchange. You don't have to participate in the gift exchange if your not interested.

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:**  
November 18th  
December 16th

**Meeting Dates 2005:**  
January 15th  
February 19th  
March 18th  
April 15th

## Inside this issue:

Presidents Letter

Club Notes

Graves Mtn Trip

MTSU Geology  
Museum

Pictures from the  
last meeting

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

~ cont'd on page 2

If you do want to exchange a gift it doesn't have to be anything expensive. If your a man bring a present for a man. Women bring gifts for a woman. Did I mention food? Bring enough for you and your family and some to share. Bring your own china, silverware and something to drink. And don't worry if you're running late and don't have time to prepare something. Come on anyway, we always have plenty of food, your presence is more valuable anyway. There is always extra plates, silverware, drinks, etc. If we're short, I'll go by something. KFC is just down the street.

While gems and minerals are the common ground in our hobby, it's the people that are the true gems. We've got a lot of gems in our club. I'd like to see all of you at the meeting, show, or the Christmas party.

Enough of the rambling already! I'll see you at the meeting/show/Christmas party!!! And by the way, I would still like to have a cab from every member that cuts cabs and would donate to my collection.

Steve  
shenegar@  
net-serv.com



## October Donelson Club Meeting

Well the year is flying by and the October Meeting of the Donelson Club had a great turnout of people. Course, this may be because of the show meeting planned for after the monthly club meeting

but it was great to see so many faces anyway.

John Martin, our Donelson VP called the meeting to order and with the help of Joe and Will gave a brief run down on the status of the classes going on at the Donelson Senior Citizen Center. These classes are getting great response and the results from the students attending has been well received. I have to say that what I am seeing coming home from the Saturday Silversmithing class that the other half is taking is great. I am getting some beautiful pendants and a ring from Joe's endeavors under Bill's tutelage. I definitely am not complaining, just smiling and waiting to see what else Joe learns.

Mary Fishburn was kind enough to bring in a display of three mounted display boards of that beautiful Tennessee Paint Rock we all love to drool over as an addition to our Show and Tell segment. Each board offered a wonderful variety of finished cabochons of this brightly colored material for all of us to try and talk her out of without success. Thanks Mary for bringing this display in for the club to see. One of these days I hope to finally snag me a slab of this material and get Joe to make me something using it.

The main topic for this month's Show and Tell was a presentation on scrimshaw by yours truly. The art form endures even today and has gone through many changes since the time of the whalers. The club was given a brief history of scrimshaw, a review of the variety of materials and tools used today to produce items in scrimshaw and examples of some of my current works. I through ally enjoyed pre-

sending this program to the club members and appreciated their interest and questions.

John closed the meeting so that those present for the annual gem and mineral show planning committee could get to work.

Mary W. Bailey  
*Donelson 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 Augusta Gem and Mineral Society(Host)

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

**Saturday, December 4,  
8:30 a.m.**

**Graves Mtn., Lincoln County, GA (Fee Area)**

**Assembly Point:** 8:30 a.m. at the Hardees Restaurant which is located at the junction with Hwy. 378 in Lincolnton, GA. We will convoy to Graves Mountain, starting at 9:00 am.

**Directions :** From Washington, GA travel East on Hwy 378 to Lincolnton. From Augusta, take Washington Rd toward Clarks Hill Lake, when Washington road ends, turn Left to Lincolnton.

**Material:** Rutile, Lazulite, Kyanite, Blue Quartz, Pyrophyllite, Goethite /Hematite (iridescent), Pyrite, Muscovite(clear to green) and Ilme-

nite are some of the best known and most frequently found. Forty plus species are known from Graves Mountain, most being in micro size. Some of these that are found in crystal form are Barite, Cacoxenite, Crandallite, Gypsum, Phosphosiderite, Strengite, Sulfur, Variscite, Wavellite and Woodhouseite.

**Equipment:** Any or all of the following. Some sort of transport vehicle (cart), buckets, 8 lb sledge, 2-4 lb crack hammer, rock hammer, pry bar, shovel, chisels, SAFETY EYEWEAR, magnifier, back pack w/egg cartons and /or wrapping material. Hard hat required if you plan to work adjacent to the high wall areas.

**Entry Fee:** \$5.00 per person will be collected as your "Letter of Agreement & Release" form is filled out.

**Food and Drinks:** Bring your own as there is nothing available at Graves Mtn.

**Children & Pets:** Children 12 years and older can participate, but must be supervised by a parent or guardian. Pets must be kept under control by the owner.

**Lodging:** The Cullars Inn adjacent to Hardees in Lincolnton. Tel # (706) 359-6161

**Camping:** Elijah Clark State Park - approximately 6 miles east of Lincolnton on Hwy 378. Reservations (770) 389-7275 or 1-800-864-7275. Park Office - (706) 359-3458

Field trip chairman

Glenn Williams (706)737-8531

World Wide Web site for the DMC is:

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

## Establishment of the New Geology (Mineral, Gem, & Fossil) Museum at Middle Tennessee State University

By

Albert E. Ogden, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Geology,  
MTSU, (615) 907-0004 (h);  
[aogden@mtsu.edu](mailto:aogden@mtsu.edu)

I am excited to announce that my proposal to establish a Geology (Rock, Mineral, and Fossil) Museum at Middle Tennessee State University has been accepted and renovations of the rooms are underway. This has been my dream as a geology professor and rockhound for many years.

The Museum will strive to enrich people's lives by providing a better understanding of the complex and beautiful world of geology around them. The Geology Museum will stimulate the imagination of young people through beautiful displays of crystals, gems, and fossils from around the world and through pictorial presentations of basic geologic principals such as plate tectonics and volcanism. A final goal of the Museum will be to highlight the geology of Tennessee and our economic resources such as zinc, oil, gas, coal, and building materials.

At the age of 12, a couple friends and I were bicycling over the dirt roads of our very rural and hilly neighborhood. We stopped to take a drink from a spring about a half-mile from home when I noticed a "shiny" rock along the little stream bank. We dug around and found a bunch of even more beautiful rocks. The next day, we went back, and as we dug an "old" man

came out from the big stone house above the creek bed and said, "what are you kids doing"? We replied that we were just digging up pretty rocks. He said, "if you want to see some REALLY pretty rocks, come on into the house." He was a stranger, and our parents had warned us of such folks. Reluctantly, though, we said okay. Inside, his ENTIRE house was a rock museum. He then gave us some nicer specimens than we had found. Turns out, he was a retired geologist and former curator of a local museum that had an incredible mineral display. We had just been digging up his thrown away "junk" rocks. With our parent's permission, he started taking us to some nearby quarries to collect specimens. I grew up in an area that has ancient Pre-Cambrian rocks with lots of exotic minerals. This eventually inspired me to enroll as a geology major at Penn State University, and the rest is history.

Before coming to MTSU, I was a Visiting Professor at Clemson University, South Carolina. They had a tiny room with great mineral displays, and even though Clemson is in a remote area, the museum had thousands of visitors. They now have a separate small building built by donated funds, but it was that small room that told me we could do the same at MTSU. Our university President has generously found us approximately 1400 of space to house the Museum. Renovations appear to be ahead of schedule, so I may begin filling the cabinets with specimens as early as January 1st. The Museum will be housed in two interconnected rooms in Ezells Hall. There will be a separate small blacklight room down a short corridor. I hope to have the grand

opening sometime in March. Just think, it won't be long until we all have a place to bring our friends and family throughout the country to let them see why we love crystals and fossils so much!

Through a grant from the MTSU Foundation, I was able to purchase all of the display cabinets needed. I am donating enough museum quality specimens from my personal collection to fill a quarter to a third of the display area. An exhibition on the mining, oil, and gas industries of Tennessee, presented through historical pictures and small pieces of early equipment will be made with donations from the Tennessee Division of Geology. In addition, we plan to create educational displays on caves, volcanism, earthquakes, and plate tectonics. But I need your help to fill the rest of the cabinets. Donations would be wonderful and could be used as a tax write-off. But, realistically, I know most folks really don't want to give their specimens away. Therefore, what I'm really looking for at this time is longer term loaning of specimens. Acknowledgement of the donations or loans will be next to the displays saying something like "from the collection of (your name)". Anyone who loans specimens will have the freedom to remove or replace them at any time. Dealers are encouraged to consider such loans as free advertisement. Your displays cannot have price tags, but an acknowledgement of the loan can have your company name and website address.

By establishing a Geology Museum at MTSU, we will have a unique opportunity to provide an important public service to teachers and school children in our region and help our education majors bet-

ter prepare to teach Earth Science. There are probably a million people within 50 miles of MTSU, so we expect to get a large number of K-12 visitors on school fieldtrips. We also plan to have one beginning geology lab exercise centered on specimens in the Museum. We teach nearly 2000 students a year in beginning geology, so this should help spread the word around the state. Please help spread the word to our fellow rockhounds. With the help of our club members and our contacts, we can make this Museum a place to be proud of. If you wish to help in anyway, please contact me. Thank you.

**November Speaker:**  
**Albert E. Ogden, Ph.D.**

**Topic: Plans and Needs for the new MTSU Geology (Rock, Mineral, and Fossil) Museum**

**Biosketch:** Albert Ogden is a karst hydrogeologist with 25 years of experience. He received his B.S. degree in Geology from the Pennsylvania State University and his Ph.D. in Hydrogeology from West Virginia University. His dissertation work in West Virginia included geologic mapping, ground water tracing, and water quality investigations. He was an Assistant Professor of Hydrogeology for the University of Arkansas from 1976-1981 where he conducted karst water quality and dye trace studies throughout the Ozarks. He then became the Assistant Director and Hydrogeologist for the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center in Texas. Then from 1985-87, Dr. Ogden was the Senior Hydrogeolo-

gist for the Superfund and RCRA programs of the Idaho Division of Environment. From 1987-1992, he was an Associate Professor for the Water Research Center at Tennessee Technological University where he and his graduate students performed ground water tracing and water quality investigations of Mississippian-aged limestones of the Highland Rim and folded Ordovician carbonates in east Tennessee. He now is an Associate Professor at Middle Tennessee State University working primarily on karst problems in the Ordovician carbonates of the Central Basin. Dr. Ogden has written over 100 professional papers and technical reports on ground water in karst terranes, and throughout the years, has been an active consultant helping to solve ground water pollution problems.

Dr. Ogden has been an avid rock collector since the age of 12 when he met a neighbor who was a retired geologist and serious rockhound. The neighbor took him rock collecting in quarries around Reading, Pennsylvania where there are a wild range of minerals in the ancient PreCambrian rocks. He has been collecting rocks ever since, particularly while on trips out west and down in Mexico. While a professor at Tennessee Tech, he was invited to bid on specimens at the Elmwood Mine. He used many of these specimens to sell and trade to obtain different types of minerals and fossils for his personal collection. He plans to donate most of this collection to the Geology Museum at MTSU which is slated to open in March, 2005.

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



### October 21, 2004 MTGMS Monthly Meeting

Pictured above: Dr Leimer presents the MTGMS with a Certificate of Appreciation in Recognition of Outstanding Contributions to Tennessee Tech's Earth Sciences Department.

Pictured left to right: Steve Henegar (MTGMS President), Dr. H. Wayne Leimer (Professor of Geology), Will Smith (MTGMS Treasurer), Lewis Elrod (MTGMS Past President)

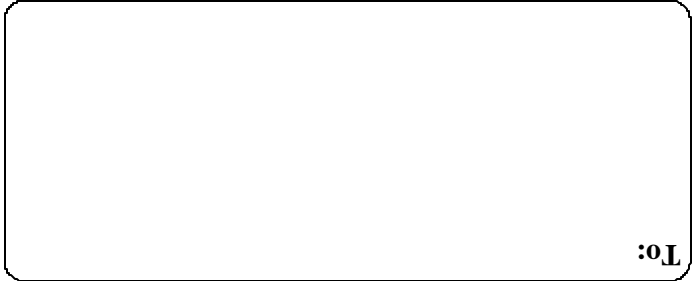


Tennessee Tech faculty and students attending the meeting. Pictured left to right:

Arthur Kis (UFMG Exchange Student), Luciano Araujo (UFMG Exchange Student), Karina Barbosa (UFMG Exchange Student), Dr. Leimer (Tennessee Tech Professor of Geology), Sara Beth Smith (2003 & 2004 LaVelle Smith Scholarship Awardee), Joe Kington (2004 David Shepard Scholarship Awardee), Rodrigo Faria (UFMG Exchange Student)

Note: UFMG stands for the Federal University of Minas Gerais located in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

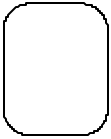




Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

To:

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Cont'd from previous page:

Pictured at the top right:

2003 LaVelle Smith Scholarship.

Pictured left to right:

Sara Beth Smith (2003 & 2004 Awardee),

LaVelle Smith (Honoree)

Picture on the bottom right:

David Shepard Scholarship awardees attending meeting.

Pictured left to right:

Marion Shepard (David Shepard's Widow),

Joe Kington (2004 Awardee)

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



Albert E Ogden, Phd.  
New MTSU Geology  
Museum

Next Murr Meeting:  
**Nov 18th**  
**7:30 pm**

Next Don Meeting:  
Nov 21st, 3 pm

Next Tull Meeting:  
Dec 13th, 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, Ag-  
ates, 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

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