



Mid-TENN Gem'ers

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

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Inside this issue:

Presidents Letter

DMC News

FL Field Trip

William Holland

Swap & Shop

Show Cards -

Please hand out
to your friends
and family. Feel
free to make
copies!!!

The Prez Rambles On...

As I write this I'm eagerly anticipating our show this weekend. Hopefully everyone remembers to come, not just to buy new toys and goodies but the help out with the production of the show. Since you may not get this before the show, I won't make too much of a fuss. However if you do get this before the show, please come out and help. You'll be glad you did.

Now the real meat of this message is the Christmas party December 16. That's the Thursday night after the show. Just in case you're thinking of skipping it, don't go there. While I can't eat what I used to, I can still take small samples of food, and I like variety. So make your plans to haul your variety (food that is) to Murfreesboro for a little eating, gift swapping, and some tall tales. If Marge White won't tell some, we'll get Lewis or someone to tell some on her. Here's what to bring -- food (some for you, some to share), your plates, silverware, and something drink. At the very least bring yourself. If we don't have enough food, I'll go buy some. Now here's the important part (ok it's not too important -- just fun) -- bring a gift if you wish. Don't go overboard - \$5 or \$10 dollar range gift is ok. Homemade gifts are nifty too.

Now I won't be offended if some of you bring an extra little gift for the outgoing president (that would be me in case you missed last month's elections) of a cab cut by you for my collection of member cabs. Some of you have already given me one or more so you're not obligated to bring more (although I won't turn them down). The reason I want cabs cut by members is the stories behind them. Almost all of the cabs in my collection have a little story with them. You've heard me say it before, it ain't the rocks that's important, it's the people behind the rocks that makes this hobby special. I'd like to see a lot of folks from Donelson and Tullahoma there too. I know it's quite a distance, but we'd love to have you. Have you caught the pun in the first sentence of this paragraph yet? MEAT of the message!

Another thing I am eagerly anticipating is handing over my job to Bob King. I've enjoyed the two years I've served as president, but I am looking forward to being a

~ 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:
December 16th

Meeting Dates 2005:
January 15th
February 19th
March 18th
April 15th
May 19th
June 16th

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

plain member again. The only thing I've got to figure out is how to get off the board. Might be kind of hard as past president is still a member. Can a past president be impeached? Maybe not! What this brings up is the past president heads the nominating committee for the next club officers. Look out your turn may be coming. I'm a good arm twister and don't understand NO! I've learned that trick from working with children too many years. So if I ask you to serve I expect you to say yes. Good news is you've got most of a year before getting too concerned. I just wanted to give you advance warning and a little early arm twisting.

I do want to take a moment to thank all of you for your support these past two years. While it's not usually smart to mention people's names as I may forget some, I do want to recognize some that have been particularly helpful to me. A lot of work goes on in this club outside our meetings. It takes a lot of work to get ready for the show and a lot of work to keep the shops in Donelson and Tullahoma going. Special thanks to Bob King for our meeting programs, to Will Smith for being a great Treasurer and working so hard to make our annual show a success. Thanks to Ken Swann and Joe Powell for all the work you do for the workshops. Thanks to Ken Swann, Joe Powell, Bill Buckner, Will Smith, Al Johnson, French Gothard, Mark Greenbaum, Paula Vance and others who teach our classes. Many thanks to M.C. Sparks and Will Smith for serving as show chair. Thanks to Ingrid Regen for doing our newsletter. Thanks to Tina and Bob King for promoting geology in the classroom to the next generation of rock

hounds, to other teachers, and for inviting us to participate in Tina's geology dig at her school. Thanks to all of you that help with setting up and taking down the show. I wish I could remember everyone's name. Thanks to those who serve on the board of directors, for giving you time and energy to make this club happen. Lastly, I want to thank Lewis and Anna Elrod. It's Lewis' fault I got involved in the club to start with. He and Anna have been some of the best supporters and encouragers I've ever had in my life. I consider all these folks my friends. THANKS FOLKS!!!!!!

Ok! Enough rambling! I'll see you at the show AND the Christmas party!!!!!!!!!!

Don't forget either event!!

Steve
shenegar@
net-serv.com



DMC News

The Northeast Georgia Mineral Society has renewed their membership in the DMC field trip sharing program by agreeing to host a field trip during July of 2006. The SFMS Field Trip Committee would like to thank the Northeast Georgia Mineral Society for their continued support of the DMC Field Trip Program. Now 33 clubs strong! *DMC*

CALENDAR - 2005

- January - High Point Mineral Club (High Point, NC) New Member
- February - The Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society (Macon, GA) New Member

- March - Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society (Huntsville, AL) *(Renewed for field trip year #3)*
- April - Cotton Indian Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (Stockbridge, GA) *(Renewed for field trip year #3)*
- May - The Western Piedmont Mineral & Gem Society (Conover, NC) *(Renewed for year #2)*
- June - Tennessee Valley Rock and Mineral Club (Chattanooga, TN) *(Renewed for year #2)*
- July - OPEN
- August - OPEN
- September 10 - Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society (Murfreesboro, TN) New Member
- October - Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society (Charleston, SC) (Returning member)
- November - Southern Appalachian Mineral Society (Asheville, NC) *(Renewed for field trip year #3)*
- December - OPEN

"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>

DMC is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Fieldtrip

SFMS Field Trip Committee

Internet website: <http://amfed.org/sfms>

Jim Flora - Field Trip Committee Chair

Ft. Drum, Florida – Rucks' Pit

Saturday & Sunday, February 26-27, 2005

8:00a.m. to sundown

FEE

WHAT: Fossil, calcite, and combination fossil/calcite collecting trip

WHERE: Rucks' Pit, Fort Drum, Florida.

WHEN: Saturday & Sunday, February 26-27, 2005 8:00am - sundown

MEET: If you know the way, proceed on to the quarry; otherwise, meet at Hwy 441, Ft. Drum General Store, Ft. Drum, FL 8:00 a.m. (not Ft. Drum Diner)

COLLECTING HOURS: 8:00a.m. until sundown (It is essential that everyone is out of the quarry before dark!)

ITEMS COLLECTED: There is an abundance of well-fossilized and calcified marine shells. The sand and shell matrix rock is in the Nashua Formation (Pleistocene) and is composed of well-calcified

shells. Any cavities within these fossils may contain calcite crystals. Honey colored calcite crystals up to 1" in length can be found within large fossilized clamshells. Small calcite crystals within shells are very common. Fossilized bone and teeth, although rare, can also be found at this location.

FEE: A \$15.00 fee (children 13 and under are free) will be collected. An adult must accompany children at all times.

Dr. Ed Petuch has written a book about the quarry with approximately 150 fossil shells identified that will be available for \$12.00/copy.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: It is recommended that you wear sturdy shoes or boots and gloves. Daytime temperatures can vary as much as 40°F, so layered clothing is appropriate. This is an active quarry and the sand/ rock along the quarry walls can collapse without notice. Be extremely careful working next to steep walls. Some areas may be marked off, so do not go into these areas for your safety.

WHAT TO BRING: Bring buckets or backpacks along with paper to wrap nice specimens, scratching tools, hammers, picks, shovels, chisels, safety glasses, sunscreen, maps, lunch, and plenty of fluids. Bring a change of clothes. Collecting conditions are considered easy; however, safety should be a primary concern.

**Contact: Eddie Rucks
Phone: 863-634-4579**

WHERE TO STAY: Okeechobee is the nearest town. I now know that it is very difficult to negotiate rates of stay due to fishing tournaments that often occur. Below is a

list of motels in Okeechobee; however, January and February are peak times for south Florida motels. There are also many inexpensive motels in the Kissimmee area and on I-95 south of Melbourne down to Ft. Pierce. Check ahead, some businesses are still closed due to hurricanes.

Motels

Budget Inn - 863-763-3185

Holiday Inn Exp. - 863-357-3529

Flamingo Motel - 863-763-4894

Travelers Inn - 863-763-3146

Economy Inn - 863-763-1148

Scottish Inn - 863-763-3293

DIRECTIONS: Ft. Drum is on Hwy 441 approximately 15 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 60 and 441 (Yeeshaw Junction). Go south of Ft. Drum General Store about 0.5 mile and turn east on 304th St. Go about 2.75 miles to the quarry entrance (north side of the road). There should be someone at the gate around 8:00a.m.

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

By Will Smith

Just received the new Class Schedule for next year and some great classes will be offered just about every week starting April 24 and running through November 5th. Go to <http://www.lapidaryschool.org> for more detail on classes or call 706-379-2126. If you want to get a quick start on a new hobby, spend a week in beautiful North Georgia and you will get a head start on everyone else. It's only \$260 including room and 3 meals a day plus what materials you use. What a deal.

~ cont'd on page 6

24th Annual "Earth Treasures"

Jewelry, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Sponsored by Middle Tn. Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

December 11 & 12, 2004

9AM - 6PM Sat. & 10AM - 5PM Sun.

Tennessee State Fairgrounds
Creative Arts Building
Nashville, Tennessee

Admission: ^{\$2 with this card}~~\$2~~ Adults, \$.50 Children
Under 12 FREE with Adult

Demonstrations: Silver Smithing, Wire Wrapping,
Bead Stringing, Knapping, etc

Exhibits: Minerals, Jewelry, Fluorescent, etc.

Saturday Silent Auction: Good Stuff

Hourly Door Prize: Donated by Dealers

Register for Grand Prize: Hand Crafted Item

For more information go to www.mtgms.org

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Name _____

Address _____

City, ST _____

Zip _____


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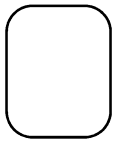
Address _____

City, ST _____

Zip _____


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The real reason for this article is due to their request for help. Over the years the school has increased in both number of weeks, classes, and students. The School has become so popular their classes are just about full by the first of January. Many have to be turned away. The problem is not the classrooms or instructors, it is dorm rooms to put them in. They recently completed a new building to house some of the instructors which freed up some dorm rooms, but it continues to be a problem. Their Board is starting a building fund to add 20 additional bedrooms. That would allow around 40 more students to attend each week. Those who donate \$100 or more will get their name on a plaque, but they will take what every you feel you can give. Your donation is tax deductible. You may make your checks out to William Holland Retreat Inc., and make sure you let them know your part of the Middle Tn Gem & Mineral Society. Mail to P.O. Box 980, Young Harris, GA 30582-0980.



First Class
Postage

To: _____

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

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





Swap and Shop - (CHANGE IN JANUARY!!)

PLEASE NOTE: All ads must be submitted to the editor each month that you want an ad to run, even if it's the same ad!

For Sale: Shop Clean-Out - Deals on 7 saws 4"-14", 3 cab machines, 3 laps, faceting machine, 2 15" vib laps, 7 tumblers, 2 torches, steamer, burn-out furnace, 3 GPS, etc. Will Smith 366-1022.

For Sale: Used Raytech Cabbing machine with 5 6" wheels and 1 6" disk polisher; 6" trim saw with motor; vacuum pump for gold, silver casting, etc. Armando: 822-3531.

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: 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; 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.

Next Murr Meeting:
Dec 16th
7:30 pm
X-mas Party
Next Don Meeting:
Dec 19th, 3 pm
Next Tull Meeting:
Jan 10th, 7 pm