



Mid-TENN Gem'ers

Newsletter of
The Middle Tennessee Gem
and Mineral Society, Inc.
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Presidential Ramblings

This marks the beginning of my presidency. Keep in mind that being a math major, you won't see the literary prose that you have seen in the past. Speaking of the past, we all need to thank Steve Henegar for the wonderful job he did as president.

We have a new vice-president, John Martin. John has some great ideas about programs and field trips. He is looking for people to help with field trips. He will need everyone's help to make this successful. Ingrid also continues to need help with articles for the newsletter. We appreciate her taking on this job again. You might also ask her the reason that she couldn't stop smiling at the show.

I want to congratulate everyone on a job well done with the annual rock show. All of the dealers that I spoke with said it was a very successful show for them. I visited with some of the attendees, and they were very impressed and planned to come back next year. Tina had several students attend the rock show. They had a great time and received extra credit in the process. I was proud of all of our members. It's always nice to see what can be accomplished when everyone pitches in and helps each other. It was a great sight to see! I am also happy to announce that Mary Clyde Sparks has agreed to be the chairperson again next year. She did a great job this year!

On to this year's plans-We need someone's expertise in making membership cards. If you have the ability, please contact me at home or at the next meeting, so this can be done as soon as possible. This would be especially helpful for the new MTSU museum. Lewis said there would be no museum entrance fee for MTG&MS members.

This September we are scheduled to be the host of the DMC field trip. More information on this and other field trips will be forthcoming.

Finally, you don't have to run from me anymore now that I am not in charge of the programs. Although, I will need everyone's help in making this year a success. I wish everyone a great New Year!

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 2005:

January 20th

February 17th

March 17th

April 21st

May 19th

June 16th

July 21st

August 18th

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

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and more...

Thought for the Month: Each man can interpret another's experience only by his own.

Bob King

Donelson Club Meeting December 2004

The year has managed to seemingly fly by and we have already had our yearly gem and mineral show and all of us can see the New Year right around the corner. The December meeting for the Donelson group was held on December 19th at the Donelson Senior Citizen Center. Attendance for the Donelson chapter is slowly growing and an update from Joe and Will confirms that the classes in silver smithing and lapidary at the center are filling up very quickly.

Reviews from the show have been great. The Silent Auction did very well this year, there were new vendors and overall, the feedback has been very positive from both vendors (old and new) and the general public on the quality and professionalism of the show. A round of applause to all who volunteered their time and energy toward the success of this year's show.

Our outgoing president, Steve H., has decided that in order to acquire a finished cabochon from club members requires a bit of bribery. So he has decided to offer slabs for cabs as an enticement in hopes of seeing his collection grow. Help poor Steve out and add to his collection

Our Monthly Program was *Metaphysical Properties of Stone* and was presented to us by Allen Garrett. Allen gave us an excellent condensed version of the insight

behind understanding the beliefs and observations concerning the magnetic vibrations and properties that have been attributed to the vast variety of stones that cover our planet.

Stones have long played a major role in the healing and treatment of various maladies throughout history and Allen touched on this briefly during his presentations. We probably all know that rose quartz is called the "love stone" but I doubt many of us know why it is referred to as such. Allen tweaked our interest and curiosity and was soon looking up different stones for club members and relaying their meanings and attributes to all of us. For further reading, Allen has suggested the following book:

The Crystal Bible by Judy Hall
ISBN-1-58297-240-0

Crystal User's Handbook by Judy Hall
ISBN-1-4027-0028-8

Michael's Gemstone Dictionary by Judithann H. David

A big "thank you" goes out to Allen (and Barbara) for a great topic for our monthly club meeting. Our next meeting will be January 23rd.

Tullahoma Club Meeting January 2005

The Tullahoma MTG&MS met on Jan.10th at Faith Lutheran Church. Joseph Maierbacher called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. First on the agenda was upcoming rock hunts with more on dates and places.

Ken talked about the budget and passed out copies. The fees are \$12.00 plus \$2.00 for each additional member of the family, and are due now. Ken mentioned how

clean the shop was after a crew cleaned it up last Thursday.

Angela Arnold did "man on the rock" telling how she got Paula interested in lapidary. Next month will be Heloise Kendrick "on the rock".

The question was asked, Could we get membership cards or name tags? Ken will check on prices etc.

On the subject of money makers: shows at fairs, and at the Ultralight at the airport on Memorial Day weekend were some of the possibilities. Also a yard sale to be held at Ken's place when the weather is warmer. Maybe set up at the "News" yard sale. We are looking for more possibilities to be brought up at later meetings.

Joseph mentioned a good magazine "Rock and Gem". Said it had many good items in it.

We made \$7.00 on ticket sales for our shop.

Dick Gross had a very interesting program on Geodes. He told of where to find them and what to look for. Everyone got to "open" one and he cracked a new one open.

Next meeting will be Feb.14 . Same time, same place.

Respectfully, Patty Gaden

2004 Show a Success!

I hate to try to thank everyone for all the work done on the gem and mineral show, as so many do so much I am sure to miss someone. From organizing dealers, mailouts, facilities, to tickets and sales, staying overnight, and providing food. The show went well, and the dealers I heard from all were pleased. Attendance was up, with approxi-

mately totaling 1475 in attendance on the two days.

Those in the club who shall remain nameless (Bob King) started asking me on Friday to be show chair again..."we wanted to catch you before you got tired and thought twice". Of course, I hope everyone knows though I love to complain that I was caught in a vulnerable moment, I enjoy working with the show. having great helpers who do so much make it seem easy. We will soon have a meeting to recap and begin to plan for the 2005 show. Thanks to all involved!!!

Mary Clyde Sparks

Show Chair

Letter of Thanks

Tina King
West Elementary
9315 Lebanon Road
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

December 16, 2004

A Special Thanks to the Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society

On behalf of the Tennessee Earth Science Teachers, I would like to thank you once again for helping to fund our "Tennessee Rock Boxes". Your generous donation has provided the plastic sectional containers that house the rocks, fossils, and mineral specimens. For the past few years, the Tennessee Earth Science Teachers Association has collected, collated, and pulled together a rock box with correlated activities to be handed out to teachers each fall at the Tennessee Science Teachers Association Conference. Thank you for helping bring Earth Science to

teachers and students in Tennessee through this effort. This year, we collated 150 rock boxes with the focus being on the "Economics of Natural Resources in Tennessee". The Tennessee Earth Science Teachers hosted two all-day workshops taught by Dr. Don Byerly (K-5 teachers) and Dr. Michael Gibson (6-12th grade teachers), and one hour long workshop, which enabled teachers the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities related to the rock boxes. A CD with activities, web links, and information accompanied the rock boxes on the rocks and minerals in the box.

This CD may be found on-line at the Tennessee Earth Science Teachers web site:

<http://www.tnearthscience.org>.

(Click on "TN Minerals". Instructions for making a CD is also listed on this page.) Our goal is to update the information on this CD as needed in order to keep it current.

Thank you for believing in teachers and educational outreach. I know first-hand that I have grown tremendously as a teacher and a person from my association with the Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society. I feel that the rock club and my participation with the Tennessee Earth Science Teachers have made a huge impact on my life and learning.. The Tennessee Earth Science Teachers would like to thank you for your support. It means a great deal! Thank you for reaching out to make a difference in education.

Sincerely,

Tina King, President of the Tennessee Earth Science Teachers

The complete SFMS 2005 Workshop schedule is as follows:

Session 1, Wildacres -- April 18-24

Session 2, William Holland -- June 12-18

Session 3, Wildacres -- Aug. 22-28

Session 4, Wildacres -- Sep. 19-25

Session 5, William Holland -- Oct. 9-15

Please note that all Wildacres sessions start on Monday and end on Sunday while both William Holland sessions start on Sunday and end on Saturday.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
An Official Field Trip of the Mid-GA Gem and Mineral Society
(Host)

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

**9:30 AM, Saturday,
February 12, 2005
Jackson's Crossroads
Amethyst Site**

Jackson's Crossroads, Georgia
Wilkes County

(A FEE Dig)

Children: OK, Children allowed only under close adult supervision. Please be careful of holes.

Pets: OK, if they are well mannered. Pets allowed at this site on a leash.

Fee: This is a fee dig; There will be a **\$15.00 charge per adult** and this allows you one 5-gallon bucket full of goodies to take home with you. Children under 18 are free.

Contact information: Jay Batcha

Phone: 478-784-1965 (Day of dig if needed cell# 478-319-2859)

E-mail address: rocky1s@cox.net

Mail address: 4220 Cyndy Jo Circle

Macon, Ga. 31216

TRIP: The new Wilkes Co. pay to dig amethyst site is located in Northwest Wilkes county, Georgia, between the communities of Rayle and Tignall in an area known as Jackson's Crossroads (abbreviated to "JXR"). In 1920 Tiffany Jewelers mined for amethyst near the site and around 1970 some guys digging a hole to hide moonshine also made a discovery of amethyst near the area. In approx. 1988 the area was clear cut logged and a fellow by the name of Plemmons rambled across the Clearing and discovered excellent gemmy deep purple amethyst. As the pine thicket grew up, deep in the woods along a winding path, people dug for the incredible specimens. Some had permission but most did not. As is typical with hand dug sites, those that dug reached a depth of 9 feet. A mere scraping of the surface, but considering it was hand dug it was an amazing feat of human strength, determination, and perseverance. In the year 2000, I was granted permission to bring a small machine to dig a test hole. As time went on and the property changed hands I was able to bring progressively larger and powerful equipment to bear prospecting the area. Although most times after digging I would grade the area flat, boulders remain near the surface and just under it. These boulders contain vugs that are drusy lined and some have gemmy deep purple amethyst. The quality of these are sometimes of incredible water clear clarity and

have a deep purple color that is quite unique.

By: Rodney Moore (Rodney will have specimens, and faceted stones as well as faceting rough for sale.)

A Special Note: *A Note from Rodney Moore (operator of dig site):* I have had folks from all over the United States visit the site. Everyone has been delighted with his or her visit except for one group that visited, which was the Georgia Mineral Society. This group was under the impression that there was going to be a lot of boulders on the surface and this was not the case on their arrival. These digs are planned months in advance and I can't guarantee what the surface of the place will be like in February, so hope for the best (that there will be boulders on the surface), but prepare for the worst (that you may actually have to work and dig for them). There is plenty of amethyst on the property, as crystals in boulders and as free crystals in the soil, however they are NOT like apples just hanging from a tree, and NOT like snakes that will leap up and bite you. I will try to schedule a machine to dig the area up prior to the DMC visit but I can't guarantee that this will happen. The absolute cheapest that I can get a machine in is \$550 and obviously I can't do this just for the dig, but I will try to schedule some work to be done prior to the field trip. Everyone is invited to visit www.dixieuhedrals.net for information about the place."

COLLECTING: Amethyst Crystals, facet grade Amethyst, and Clear Quartz crystals. Some of the finest Amethyst in Georgia and the Southeast.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Allowed one 5 gallon bucket full a material for each person.

BRING: Sledgehammer, safety glasses, rock hammers, chisels, shovel, pick, scratching tools, and bucket with something to protect your finds such as newspaper, bubble wrap, or, etc. We will have food and drinks to buy. Dress for the weather can be cold this time of year! If you would like to bring stuff to trade, that would be great addition to this field trip!

Where we will meet: Dollar General Store in Tignall, Ga. (Tignall, Ga. is between Washington, Ga. and Elberton, Ga. on Hwy 17)

When: 9:30 am to 3:30pm, Saturday, February 12, 2005

Directions to our meeting place:

Coming from the South: on I-20 take exit 172 which is Highway 78 and head north to Washington, Ga. In Washington take Highway 17 north to Tignall, Ga. The Dollar General Store is on the left in Tignall.

Coming from the North: on I-85 take exit 173 which is Highway 17 and head south to Elberton, Ga. Continue on Highway 17 on Elberton to Tignall, Ga. The Dollar General Store is on the right in Tignall.

Note: There are many other routes to this meeting site. Depending on where you are coming from. But this location is near the Graves Mountain Location

Drive Time: Depends on where you are coming from!

Accommodations:

Days Inn Elberton, 302 Elbert St. Elberton, Ga. 706-283-2300

Shoney's Inn, 14227 Jones, St.
Lavonia, Ga. 706-356-3300
Jameson Inn, 115 Ann Denard Dr.
Washington, Ga. 706-678-7925
Howard Johnson, 1847 Washington
Rd. Thomson, Ga. 706-597-9097
Holiday Inn Express, 1893 Wash-
ington Rd. Thomson, Ga. 706-595-
6500

From <http://www.thegemshop.com>

Ocean Jasper

Every year new rock and gem finds are brought to the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show in Arizona. The year 2000 was no exception. I was in Tucson early, packing my truck to go to Quartzsite when Paul Obenich of Madagascar Minerals came by and said, "Gene, look at this new rock."

My friend Owen was with me and he saw the samples also. On the way to Quartzsite I could not get the image of those two rocks out of my mind. I recognized the pattern as similar to that found in a rhyolite flow. Other rocks of this type have been in the market before, most notably Rainforest Jasper from Australia, Leopard Skin Jasper from Mexico and the famous Poppy Jasper from California. But my brief encounter with this rock led me to believe that it far surpassed the quality of the others. So much so that I kept asking Owen..."Were those 2 rocks we saw coated with something or were they polished?"

New discoveries brought to market are usually new deposits of an already known material. It is rare indeed that a really new material is found. Ocean Jasper fits the description of a truly new jasper.

Rhyolite is an igneous rock, rich in silica. As it cools, sometimes the silica starts to precipitate out of the

magma, forming little spherical balls. This type of formation is easily recognizable in the aforementioned jaspers. If these balls or "globs" of silica-rich magma are allowed to grow larger before the whole mass becomes solid, they can crack and shrink forming what later may become Thundereggs.

Ocean Jasper has a typical rhyolite formation except that the entire mass has somehow been converted to pure silica (agate, jasper, quartz). The descriptions "silicified rhyolite", petrified rhyolite, or agatized rhyolite are non-sensical but take on a generally understandable meaning when viewing this rock. To my knowledge, there has never been a material like this available before.

The Name -- Ocean Jasper®

Paul Obenich and I discussed at length the name of this rock. The material is characterized as an orbicular jasper. That is because whenever a rhyolite has been found with enough silica in it to be polished, it has been sold as a jasper. Thus the rhyolite patterns have been associated with the word "jasper".

Ocean Jasper is an agate by the standard definition (agate being translucent and jasper being opaque). Ocean Jasper is rarely opaque. It was decided to call the material a jasper because rhyolitic patterns have been associated with the jasper category in the past and because "jasper" is listed as the mineral resource in the mining

claims owned by Madagascar Minerals.

The word "Ocean" comes mainly from the location at the edge of the sea, along the northwest coast of Madagascar where the deposit was found. The forms in the rock itself are also suggestive of the bubbling surf of the sea.

"This new rock has been found along the northwest coast of Madagascar after years of unsuccessful searching. The deposit formed as a rhyolite flow but has been completely silicified. The rhyolitic eyes or orbs come in an astonishing array of colors and color combinations. The background can be white, pink, green, red, or yellow. Botryoidal formations as well as white and deep green druzy are also common.

Small pieces of this jasper have been brought to market over the years but no one could identify the source until Paul Obenich organized a systematic search of the northwest coast of Madagascar.

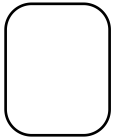
The deposit has been discovered at the edge of the ocean. It can only be seen and collected at low tide. The area has no road so the material must be transported to civilization by



To: _____

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

First Class
Postage



boat. This wonderful new lapidary material is available from The Gem Shop, Inc. through Madagascar Minerals."

Eugene Mueller, pres.
The Gem Shop, Inc.



From John Martin:

Murfreesboro meeting is January 20th and the Donelson meeting is January 23rd. At the Donelson meeting on January 23rd, French Gothard will be telling about and showing us pictures of one of his many trips out west.

In late February, we are hoping to make the trip to the new Geology (Rock, Mineral, Fossil) Museum at Middle Tennessee State University. There will be more information on this trip in the February newsletter.

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



Next Murt Meeting:
Jan 20th
7:30 pm
Lewis Elrod
Prep and display
of minerals
Next Don Meeting:
Jan 23rd, 3 pm
Next Tull Meeting:
Feb 14th, 7 pm

Swap and Shop -

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 - Used equipment. Will Smith 366-1022.

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.