



Mid-TENN Gem'ers

Newsletter of
The Middle Tennessee Gem
and Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1256
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Due to construction delays, the trip to the MTSU Geology Museum has been postponed. We are currently hoping to reschedule this for late March and more information including directions will be in the next newsletter.

Presidential Ramblings

I am excited about the possibilities for the coming year. We are starting the year off great. The show was very successful with a paid attendance of 1475. All of the dealers that I spoke with say the show was a good show for them. And the best news is that Mary Clyde has agreed to be next years show chairman. Mark your calendar. December 10 – 11, 2005 are the dates for the show.

At the Board meeting, it was announced that our membership is now over 220 members. We also discussed not only the BIG regional field trip in September, but also other possible field trips for our club this year. We have several members checking on them. We also plan to have a field trip to the new MTSU museum, possibly the last Sunday afternoon in February. If you have access to a place or a suggestion for a good field trip, please let John Martin know.

We are also working on ID cards and hope to have some for our members in the near future. Along those lines, make sure to pay your dues to "Smitty" Will Smith (\$12 individual, and \$2 for any additional family member). Ingrid Regen has graciously agreed to continue as the editor, so PLEASE send her articles.

For those who missed the January meeting, you missed a great program. Lewis shared with us part of his collection. It was fabulous. He gave us suggestions on how to care for and display specimens.

In February, we must remember the ones we love and also our hobby. For us to have a great year that we are capable of having, we need everyone's help.

Thought of the month. Memories are photos taken with your mind.

Bob King

Club Meetings - August 2004

FIRST, an apology specifically to Ingrid and in general to the entire Club for my lack of efficiency over the past several months. Since you decided to give me a second chance by re-electing me as Secretary for another year, I will try my hardest to live up to your confidence in me. Thank you for your patience.

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:

February 17th

March 17th

April 21st

May 19th

June 16th

July 21st

August 18th

September 15th

October 20th

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

GENERAL MEETING

As there was no quorum present for a Board Meeting, the General Meeting opened at 7:30 by Will Smith. He reported a handful of participants at the picnic in July. Tullahoma and Donelson clubs need slabs of any kind anyone would like to donate, as those programs are very full of eager students. Two shows are scheduled for August - Centerville and Franklin NC. Rumors have it that this Club may have an option for the AMFED show in summer 2006.

Joe Coddington and Barbara Fields were introduced as visitors to the August meeting. Stamp fund 3-ring circus was then conducted with many nice specimens donated by Norm Crocker, Stephanie Stump, French & Ruth Gothard, John Stanley, Cameron Byler, Paula to the Max, and Bill Jackson. Thank you all very much for your generosity.

As Bill Buckner was slated to present our program but was unable to attend this meeting, Will Smith taught us about specific gravity measurements, refractometers, REFLECTometers, various filters and testers as methods of identifying specimens. An interesting test was taught for determining the authenticity of amber: saturated salt water makes real amber float.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm for general socializing.

September 2004

(The secretary regrets to report that she was on an emergency trip taking mother to S.C. to see critically ill brother (beloved uncle). We got to see him the evening of arrival, however he passed away the next morning before anyone could return to hospital. The Creator has a

new angel at large, bless him. My apologies to whoever took minutes for this meeting.)

October 2004

As many of you recall, my husband Max passed away October 2003, and I was having a private pity party at the time of this anniversary, and yes, as the saying goes I was the only guest. Again, my sincere apologies to the Club, Ingrid, and whoever had to sub for me with no notice.

November 18, 2004

BOARD MEETING was called to order at 6:40 p.m. with a quorum present. Many new members were approved, including Bonnie Schmidt of Tullahoma, James & Sherry Mercer of Lebanon, Cynthia & Paul & Stephen Jalbert of Lynchburg, Mattie Lee Massey of Nashville, Frank & Patricia Holt of Lewisburg, Dean Hamilton & Sharon Calhoun of Nashville, Barbara Fields of LaVergne, Joseph Coddington of Sparta, Stephanie Varnacle for Nashville, Claude Weingand of Hendersonville, David & Wanda Fruehauf of Lynchburg, and Vic & Pam Bates from Columbia. Also welcomed were Marjorie Collier of Tullahoma, Sara Beth Smith of Franklin, Joe Kington of Lobelville. Whew!

Show Committee posed the question of the menu for the dealers' dinner, and it was decided to accept gratefully the services of Patsy Hilliard this year. Paula announced that the great Wire Wrapping magazine was ceasing publication. Ken announced that the Tullahoma club meeting site was changing to the Trinity Lutheran Church in Tullahoma, same date and time.

The proposed slate of officers was listed. Will reported that the club's 501C3 status was pending, hoping to be complete by first of year. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

GENERAL MEETING

President Steve Henegar called the meeting to order at 7:30, welcoming visitors Steve & Jane Olson of Chattanooga and Jim and Sherry Mercer of Lebanon. Lewis Elrod announced the proposed slate of officers for 2005 as follows:

(See left hand side panel on front page)

The slate was voted closed, with the above-named officers unanimously elected by acclimation.

Marty Hart gave the cub scout request of Murfreesboro for anyone who can do a presentation at their 11/30/04 meeting, the subject being "Collecting". Lewis announced that the AMFS has nominations open for a future rockhound of America.

STAMP fund was conducted by Will Smith, with donations from Bill Buckner, Norm Crocker, and Paula to the Max. Thank you all very much. Lewis then introduced Albert Ogden as our Program speaker, who gave us an update on the new MTSU Geology Museum where renovations are going well, and gave us a "needs" list. He outlined the various problems that still need resolving including parking, and provided a floor plan of the museum. It was suggested we have a weekend meeting or field trip early in 2005 for a tour of the hopefully ready-to-open museum. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

DECEMBER MTGMS: The meeting was a wonderful Christmas Dinner and socialization, with ter-

rific food, great conversations, and many gift exchanges.

January 20th, 2005

BOARD MEETING

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by new President Bob King. A quorum was present. Bob will remind the general membership at the meeting that DUES ARE DUE. Show Report included a final tally of 1475 paid admissions!! Best news of all is that Mary Clyde Sparks has agreed to take on Show Committee Chair responsibilities again.

Sites for our club's DMC field trip in September were discussed, with possibilities including Dale Hollow and Cannon County for geode hunts. Lewis Elrod was named head of arranging that field trip unanimously. Lewis stated the need for a new projector screen for club meetings, and was designated as screen appropriator. The 2006 AMFED show will have a brief organizational meeting after the Donelson Club meeting this Sunday.

Anyone who sent Tina/Bod anything recently by e-mail should probably re-send again, as Tina's computer died.

Authorization was given to Will Smith to pay the SFMS dues. Many new member applications were approved unanimously: Kelly Kite and Karey Hitson of Nashville, Bill Lorenz of Smyrna, Phyllis Bond of Murfreesboro, Phil Herren of LaVergne, Mike Franklin of Franklin, Joe Beasley from Haughton LOUISIANA, Bruce & Barbara Heflin of Clarksville, and Gino & Betty Deskins of Eminence MISSOURI.

Ken has established a working bank account in Tullahoma to han-

dle that site's financial affairs. The same idea was approved for Joe Powell at the Donelson site. The Board approved a contingency budget for 2005 based on last year's budget. Tina was approved funds again for her class Geology Dig which is VERY popular. The membership is asked to please think of ways to keep the club's Educational Display boxes from year to year, and help design a MEMBERSHIP card for our members. John Martin announced there would be a regular February meeting, with probable field trip to MTSU later in the month. John also proposed a Resource Directory for the club members which was unanimously approved for his development. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm (Hey not bad for a new President, especially such a windbag as our Bob!)

GENERAL MEETING

New President Bob King called meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. He announced the Show findings of 1475 paid attendees, and Mary Clyde's appointment as Show Chair again. Show will be the weekend of December 10-11, 2005. DUES ARE DUE. Mike Franklin and Phil Herren were introduced as new members attending this meeting.

The general meeting was reminded of Club policy for the winter months: if Rutherford County calls off school on the day of our scheduled meeting, the meeting will also be cancelled that evening for the safety of our members.

Joe Powell then hosted the Stamp Fund drawing - donations were given by Norm Crocker, Bill Buckner, John Stanley, Bill Jackson, and Paula to the Max. Thank you all for your consistent generosity to the Fund.

The idea of Person on the Rockpile was brought up again, as our "crystal" to be passed around disappeared a while back. Paula volunteered to donate a new crystal for the event and gets to present it to someone at the next meeting. Steve Henegar (illustrious past president) reminded everyone that he has a collection of cabs made by every person in the club, uh, except that we now have 220 members and he needs 190 more cabs. (hint, hint) Not greedy, is he?

Albert Ogden gave an update on the status of the MTSU museum, and proposed Sunday Feb. 27 as a field trip. Our new Vice-President John Martin was introduced so everyone would recognize him coming to ask them for a program and be able to run faster (just kidding, John, it's not an envious job). We need to support his efforts to bring us quality programs. John replied that he promised NO BAD JOKES are in his database. He talked to us about field trip possibilities, as well as developing the Resource Directory for club members. French Gothard will be presenting the program at the Donelson meeting on 23rd January.

Lewis Elrod then gave us a very enlightening program on the preparation and display of specimens for collections. He also passed around copies of a great sample to keep a complete documentation record of your specimens. Wonderful presentation, thank you Lewis. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Very respectfully, Paula Vance - Secretary

The "Rock Cycle"

Rocks needed for students' geo-dig

West Elementary has had an annual geological dig for the past seven

years. The MTG&MS has made a tremendous difference in helping bring Earth science to our students. Your support to help fund the dig, as well as your help to teach activities to the students on the day of our dig has made our dig a success each year. This year, we will have an area set up for the "Rock Cycle". The students will be using a dichotomous key to determine if the various rocks are igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic.

I wanted to check with the rock club members to see if anyone had a rock or rocks that would help teach this lesson. My thought: I would like to have one fist or hand-size rock that would be a good example to be used to teach the lesson. If possible, I would like for the students (about 90 students) to have a small golf ball-size rock to keep for a specimen.

I found a great activity with a dichotomous key in *Adventures in Geology* by Jack Hassard (ISBN 0-922152-04-7). It is published by the American Geological Institute, 4220 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22302-1507 (703/379-2480; 800/336-4764)

The dichotomous key in the activity called "Don't Take It for Granted" is a key to help the students classify rocks into three groups. (e.g., **1a**. The rock is made up of distinguishable minerals. If so, go to **2a**.) The students will follow the key until they determine if their rock should be classified as an igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic rock. I'm looking for rock specimens that are easily classified, such as a good specimen of granite that has distinguishable minerals.

Needed specimens:

Igneous: **granite, basalt** (I think I may have enough of this), **pegmatite, gabbro, pumice, obsidian** (I think Frances Mangrum and George



Cameron Byler set up a wonderful display of Elmwood Mine Minerals in our library at West Elementary. The students are so excited! He set up the display with calcite, fluorite, barite, and sphalerite. We will put books about rocks nearby, so that students can read about them. Below: Cameron with Principal Lisa Majors.

Jones have Apache tears).

Sedimentary: **sandstone, shale, limestone** with fossils (I think I have enough of this, but will possibly need to cut them into smaller pieces to give to students). I have enough hour-glass **selenite** to help explain evaporites. I would like a good specimen of **breccia and conglomerate** to explain



the difference. The students will have an edible cereal snack to also help explain the difference between the two.

Metamorphic: **gneiss, schist, marble, slate, quartzite**

If anyone has anything that would help with this lesson, please let me know. I am trying to get this together during February and March. I could get them from you at a rock club meeting either month, or please contacted me by email (kingt@wcschools.com). Thanks so much I appreciate any help you can give.

Tina King - West Elementary

Kentucky Agate Hunt

By Kenneth Swann

The weather was going to be beautiful for the upcoming weekend. I was anticipating a trip for some good old Paint rock and was trying to decide where to go and the phone rang. On the other end was a voice that said let's go to Kentucky. With some arm twisting, about a touch I said where do we meet.

Will said he would call Lamon Flynn and see if he would be able to guide us and that he would call back that afternoon. Will called and the trip was a go. I met Will and Joe at Waffle House in Cookeville, had

breakfast and we were on our way. Boy was it a beautiful day even if I did have to get up early which I don't normally do since I retired.

We arrived in Irvine, Kentucky about noon and Lamon was at the Motel waiting for us. We told the folks at the Motel we would be back that night and left for the agate fields.

Will had told me we needed hip boots or waders for the creek and tools and a bag for our agate. I do not have hip boots or waders (not needed for Tennessee agate) so I wore my hunting boots. When we arrived at the site I saw right quick we needed a boat!!!

Lamon told us we would probably not find much since it was late in the day and we needed to walk about six miles up stream and we probably would get there in time to turn around and come back. He was right. I found very little agate but did find two real nice fossils.

The creek contained lots of iron nodules and indicator of agate but as life would have it we ran out of time. We returned to the motel tired but excited about the next day. Joe told me to set the clock so we wouldn't be late. Guess what? The alarm didn't go off but luck was with us and we had time to eat breakfast at Hardee's.

We arrived at Lamon's about 8:30 and had time to look again at his agate collection, we were waiting on two ladies from the Lexington club to join us. They soon arrived and we were on our way to middle fork for Kentucky agate!.

Once again we were told the Red and Black was at the head of creek which was about a nine mile walk. We drove up the creek three miles and parked the truck got out and began our walk. This creek was very shallow compared to the river the day before, but I still had to walk along the bank.

We would pick up a rock and had to ask Lamon if it was an agate because they are different from Tennessee agate and most of the time the answer was no. Then I had to leave the creek because the bank became too steep to walk so I had to go around. So I climbed the bank to the road and had walked about twenty-five yards when what to my wandering eyes should appear a Kentucky agate that weighed in at 52 pounds. I hoisted the agate to my shoulder and hollered (slang for yelled) at Lamon and said is this what we are looking for and the words from his mouth were where did you find that and I told him.

I then knew I had to carry the monster back to the truck we still had a long way to go. I went back and unloaded the agate but I brought my truck back with me. I then went back to the creek and had walked about fifty yards and low and behold but what to my wandering eyes should appear but another Kentucky agate. This one was not as large as the other but I could see the color and fortification and I knew this was a good one. So once again I called upon Lamon and let him gaze upon this one and he told me I may need to leave.

We continued upstream for about three more hours and I ask Lamon how much further and he said we were about half way there. My pack was full at this point and I knew I could not carry anymore because my legs were getting weak and I was also getting tired. I told Will we were half way there and He said He was ready to head for Tennessee it was about 2:00pm and we had a five hour drive ahead of us so we decided to leave and return home.

The trip was very enjoyable and I look forward to another. Lamon was a very gracious host. Will, Joe and I will not forget this trip it was one to remember.

Part 2 By Will Smith:

It's always been a blessing collecting agate, since you never know what surprise God has placed inside for you. Those of you who are into Tennessee Agate know the state north of us has some different, but just as beautiful Kentucky Agate. If you've been to our show you also know that a MTGMS member Lamon Flynn from Irvine Ky, has been displaying a number of cases of beautiful Ky Agate the past two years

During the last show Lamon indicated if some of us wanted to drive up he would take us out hunting for that beautiful black and red agate. Since he had some from the Lexington Club coming to hunt this past week, Ken, Joe and I took him up.

Right off I saw a something in him that I see in Ken. We were hardly out of the truck at his house that he was ready to go and once at the creek, his words were "try and stay up with me". You kidding, Ken was the only one who could stay up and at times in front of him. For those of us who want more great agate, this could be a clue, rush to be the first to find the agate.

It was different in Ky, the creeks on the lower end look like rivers and much of the South Fork were swimming holes. We collected on the gravel bars. Wonder why his instructions was to only bring waders???

We got to his house about 1 and by 1:30 were in the creek. Us Tennessee boys had a hard time seeing what the good Ky agate looks like, since the creek was full of leaverite's who's skins looked just like some of our better Tn Agate. I don't think any of us found any quality agate that day and Lamon only came up with 3 or 4 small ones, just enough for us to realize we had been looking for the wrong rocks.

MTG&MS - Resource Directory

The purpose of this form is to develop a resource directory for all club members. The directory will be divided into several sections: Club Members business, recommended Vendors, Field Trip destinations, and anything you think others would be interested in.

Please mail to: John Martin, 1212 Firefly Road, Hermitage, TN 37076

Or Email to MBDJewelry@AOL.com or call 884-8128

Club Members business: In this section list your Company's information.

Your Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Products & Services: _____

Recommended Vendors: In this section list persons or companies that you have purchased from and feel that they provided you with good service or products:

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Products & Services: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Products & Services: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

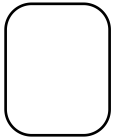
Products & Services: _____

Field Trips destinations: In this section list names or places to go to or write directions to locations that you would recommend to other club members to go “collecting. This can include: commercial mines that are open for collecting (free or fee), road cuts, streams, and any place that you would recommend for club members to go to look for rocks for cutting, specimens, fossils, etc.

To: _____

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

First Class
Postage



After a good dinner, we returned to the Oak Tree Motel where we were out-to-the-world by 9. About 10:30 someone moved into the room next door who must have been experimenting with Viagra. Needless to say we were up until about 3 AM. Gives a new meaning to Motelllll.

After oversleeping we got breakfast to go and hit Middle Fork Station Camp Creek. We were able to get the truck about 4 miles in to the 14 mile collecting section. Again the creek was full of what we see as agate, but all leaver-rite's. Given time you begin to see the real agate and we started finding poor quality. As you would expect, Ken who did not bring waders was walking up the road and found a 55#'er, what luck.

As we moved up the creek, it was cold and the creek gravel were frozen making it hard to get an agate out of the gravel. I had found a stick from the day before and was using it to collect the leaver-rite's. As we were walking up the creek, Lamon looked over to me and said "it's good you've got that stick because we have the deadly Snow Snake in this creek". He went on to tell me you could not always see them. Sure enough about a mile up I saw a nice agate. As I reached down to pick it up I could feel something cold go up my arm, then over to my chest, and sure enough, there on the spot I froze to death with a big Ky Agate in my hand. What a way to go!

Thanks Lamon, you're a great agate collector..

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



Next Murt Meeting:
Feb 17th
7:30 pm

Peggy Sides
a "bead craft
person"

Next Don Meeting:
Feb 20th, 3 pm

Next Tull Meeting:
Mar 14th, 7 pm

Swap and Shop -

For Sale: FOR SALE: Sandblaster-new \$50.00 Large selection of polishing compound. Call George Jones (615) 333-3781 5025 Franklin Rd Nashville, TN 37220 georgejones@comcast.net

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.

Swap and Shop is for members and friends to advertise goods and services for sale or swap & want ads. All ads must be submitted to the editor each month that you want an ad to run!