



Mid-TENN Gem'ers

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

OFFICERS

President

Bob King
615-754-0095

1st VP &

Program Chair

John Martin
615-884-8128

2nd VP &

Newsletter Editor

Ingrid Regen
ingrid@dimp.com
615-463-2163

Secretary

Paula Vance
931-393-2491

Treasurer

Will Smith
615-366-1022

Board Members:

1 year

Ken Swann
931-857-3435

2 year

Lisa Trail
3 year
Lewis Elrod

Past President

Steve Henegar
615-896-1472

Presidential Ramblings

Spring has finally arrived, even though we didn't have much of a winter. This is only the third winter (first in over 50 years) that there was no measurable snow at the airport since they have been keeping records. Spring-time means rock collecting. Be sure to participate in the upcoming field trips. Remember the importance of following the rules, so that we can come back to collect again.

The membership cards are scheduled to be ready for the next meeting, which will be in time for the MTSU museum opening. They hope to have it open the end of April or the first of May. There will be more information as soon as it is available.

We had a great meeting in March, with the possible exception of me telling a couple of stories while we waited for the stamp drawing. Since Al wasn't there, I thought I could get away with it. We had our own "Tool Man", John Martin, give the program. It made you want to go out and buy some new "toys". If you would like to present a program or if you have a suggestion, please contact John Martin.

We received information that Motlow College had awarded their scholarships and that MTSU had split their scholarship between two individuals. Dr. Leimer was nice and mailed a box of the Tennessee Tech "Going Beyond" publication, which had a nice article about the scholarships with a picture of Dr. Leimer, Steve Henegar, Will Smith and Lewis Elrod. They hope to have the camera repaired soon. It was nice to have enough copies for each member.

Have a great spring!

Bob King, President

Board Meeting: March 2005

Several new members were voted into to the club. I apologize before hand if anyone's name is misspelled. Jenny Vogus , who happens to be a teacher of Earth Sciences, is from Nashville. Stanley and Romona Adams are from Readyville, TN. Susan Trautman is from Spring Hill and Nancy and Maggie English are from Bowling

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:

April 21st

May 19th

June 16th

July 21st

August 18th

September 15th

October 20th

November 17th

December 15th

Dues:

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

Contents:

President Letter

Meeting notes

Membership

Directory

**Horse Mountain
Agate Success**

**Open Studio in
Murfreesboro on
April 30th
and more...**

Green, KY. Also voted in were Fred Hembree and Debbie Church from Murfreesboro.

Lewis indicated that the member I.D. cards would be ready by the next meeting and that progress is being made on the new geology museum. The flooring will be laid on Monday and cases are to be delivered from Cookeville soon. We hope to coordinate a field trip to the museum around the end of April/beginning of May. It was also noted that Joe Powell will be putting together a display case for the museum. Lewis also revealed that the recipients of the newly appointed M.T.S.U. scholarship have been chosen, unfortunately we do not know their names at this time.

Other points to mention are that Steve is working on the Rock hound of the Year and Lewis is organizing the field trip to take place in September. Joe also asked about a members list being published. Will suggested that the directory be the focus of next year and this was motioned by Joe and seconded by Bob and moved. Will is to be given the funds to accomplish this. It was then noted by Steve that the MTGMS was mentioned in the TN Tech newsletter for the scholarships awarded last year. Board Meeting was then adjourned.

General Meeting

Copies of the Tenn. Tech newsletter that Dr. Leimer sent to the club were handed out to the members. Evan Bloomer and Laura Deerr were pointed out as new members. Lewis then spoke about the progress made on the geology museum on the campus of M.T.S.U. He has spoken to Dr.

Ogden who says that finishing touches are being made and that it should be completed by the 1st of May. Requests for display pieces are still being made as the installation of cabinets will be made around the end of April. It was also noted that a local newspaper is going to do a story on the museum at it's opening and that city school officials will be present.

The drawing of the stamp fund was then done and Bob told a corny art joke. Stephanie Stump, so sorry you weren't there Paula, was the person on the Rock Pile. She gave a brief description of her fascination with rocks, which began at an early age, explaining how her lack of a strictly scientific understanding turned into a genuine passion for the beauty that rocks hold as works of art and then passed the pile to Steve Henegar. Ken Swann then talked about the field trip on March 26th to the working horse farm to search for agate. He advised to only bring a bag to store pieces in and a rock hammer or screw driver to pry pieces out of the surface of the ground. He specifically noted that there will be no digging permitted on the sight.

John Martin, our V.P. of Programs, then gave a description of upcoming presentations. Al Johnson is to speak at the Donelson meeting. He will be talking about fossil hunting in South Dakota. At the April Murfreesboro meeting, Nancy Stetan, otherwise known as the Nashville Fossil Lady, will be giving a program. Also debuting in April at the Donelson meeting, will be Mimi Walsh and she is going to speak about enameling.

John was then featured at the meeting as the presenter of the

March program. I personally refer to his program as the Confessions of a Toolaholic. He gave a very educating display of different tools that can be used in the lapidary arts as well as the historic journey that hand tools have made. Many useful tips were offered for making tools yourself and other cost effective techniques. John also revealed some stores to visit locally and on the internet to purchase a wide variety of useful equipment for making beautiful works of art from your home. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Stephanie Stump,
Acting Secretary

Studio J Open House April 30, 2005

Bill Jackson and his daughter Elesa Phares will have an open house at their studio and gallery from 10 am to 3 pm Saturday April 30, 2005. The open house will feature a gallery with supplies and finished jewelry for sale. Elesa will demonstrate wire wrapping techniques and PMC. Bill will be available to discuss silversmithing, lapidary, intarsia, channel inlay, and answer questions about tools, supplies and sources. Guest artist, Sylvanye "Sam" Roh will demonstrate glass fusing. She will also have examples of her handmade glass jewelry, glassware and wall art along with supplies for sale. You can also sign up for classes in wire wrapping and PMC with Elesa or glass fusing classes with "Sam".

We wish to extend a special invitation to club members, friends and family to visit with us on Saturday April 30th. Studio J is located at 5964 Manchester Highway in Murfreesboro. From Nashville or

vicinity, take I-24 south to the Joe Jackson Parkway. It is the new exit a few miles south of the US 231 Church St. Exit. Take the parkway north ramp which goes under the interstate and loops back to the left. The parkway will deadend at Highway US 41 or Manchester Pike. Make a right turn, go about a mile, and we will be on your right. The caution light for Buchanan School is at our driveway.

If you questions or need help, call Bill at (615) 890-1048 or e-mail: wdjacksn@bellsouth.net.

Letters from Scholarship Recipients

Hello, my name is Doug Hayes. I am humbled and honored to receive this year's Bill Buckner Scholarship Award. My thanks and gratitude goes to all who made this award possible. This will serve as a great help to me in my pursuit to become a geologist. For all of you that helped me out, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I am a native Tennessean and attended Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro. After graduation I traveled to Florida, met a girl who is now my wife, and attended my first year of college in St. Augustine. I soon moved back home, got married, and started at MTSU. My wife and I moved into a farm house where we would spend our time gardening and raising chickens. During the summers, we would travel out west to places like the Grand Tetons, Sierra Nevadas, and the Sawtooth Mountains. Weekends were often spent searching for rocks, such as Woodbury quartz geodes and Kentucky blood agate. I soon discovered that I wanted to make a career in the earth sciences.

Through the help of the MTSU geology program and its professors, I hope to graduate in a year and a half. The Department was even gracious enough to send me with Dr. Ogden to Tuscan, Arizona's rock, gem, and fossil show to purchase specimens for MTSU's upcoming museum. For a rock hound like me, this was a dream come true. They have also allowed me to do undergraduate research and studies, such as dye tracing around Rutherford County. I plan go on to get my masters somewhere in the central Rocky Mountains. Through your efforts, you are helping students such as myself to have the power and confidence to achieve these goals in the earth sciences. Thank you very much.



Dear Members:

I am very appreciative for the recognition and monetary contribution I recently received as part of the Bill Buckner Scholarship Fund. This award is encouraging and a source of pride for me. It is my pleasure to spend a few moments providing some information about my goals and aspirations. I look forward to the opportunity to meet wise, local rock hounds as a new member of the Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society. I would like to express my gratitude for the one year membership.

My name is Matthew Fahner, and I am a native to Middle Tennessee. Currently I am pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Geology at Middle Tennessee State University. My passion for Geosciences began

at an early age as my Grandfather spent a lot of time describing natural river processes while fishing together, and he also sparked my interest in collecting rocks as he had done for many years. Within the last year I have developed a passion for Hydrogeology, and hope to serve as a professional in the field after graduate school. My favorite gemstone is ocean jasper, a variety of chalcedony. I enjoy nature photography, hiking, fly-fishing, canoeing and fly tying.

All of you at the society are to be commended for your generosity. Thank you again for your contribution.

Sincerely,
Matthew Fahner



"SUCCESS"

By Will Smith

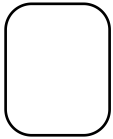
For those of you who did not make the search for horse mtn. agate, you missed a great outing. It was a great day, great place, wonderful members, and most of all "SUCCESSFUL". Three big cheers for Ken Swann who put it together and to a real Southern family, the McCalahan's who's farm we were on. I believe everyone found rock. Most everyone found HM agate. One or two found it on their shoes in it's early stage of becoming agate.

We have a new member, Fred Hembree, who is Pastor of the Methodist church at MTSU. My thinking was that he would have special guidance so I decided to

To:

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

First Class
Postage



stay close to him hoping some of his special luck would rub off on me. Most everyone else followed Ken down the road. Fred was guided down and around a creek. First thing he found a nice honey agate in the creek. Another 100 feet he dropped to the ground saying "thank you Jesus". I thought that he was really pleased to have me share the day with him. Never realized he thought so much for me. Well in front of him was a large 4" x 8" carnelian agate for which he was thankful. I was proud for him, but disappointed when he would not allow me to throw it away for him since it was all brown banding. I'm thinking he was really lucky. Wrong, he goes another 5 foot and found the other half of his first agate. Yes we had to go through the same "thank you" and again he did not trust my advice to leave it behind. As we moved around another 100 feet, he found the large one the size of a truck tire. Fred could not get it in his bag and I did talk him into leaving it.

As we returned everyone enjoyed telling their special experience and showing their finds. Stephanie Stump also found a very large carnelian that should become a great agate for the show case.

HM agate is known for its clear banding which when cut thin will give you a beautiful rainbow of color when viewed in front of a light or up to the sun. I cut a couple cabs this week and got some great color. Only problem though, people at Kroger's think you a little strange when your walking around the store holding a little rock above your head looking at the light. I was lucky, security did not call the police.



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

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. 1 case is 21x21x4; 1 case is 19x21x4 1/2, each is \$25.00. Call Francis Mangrum to setup a time to visit: 228-8577.

For Sale: Rough Rock \$.50/lb. Your pick, by appointment only - 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!