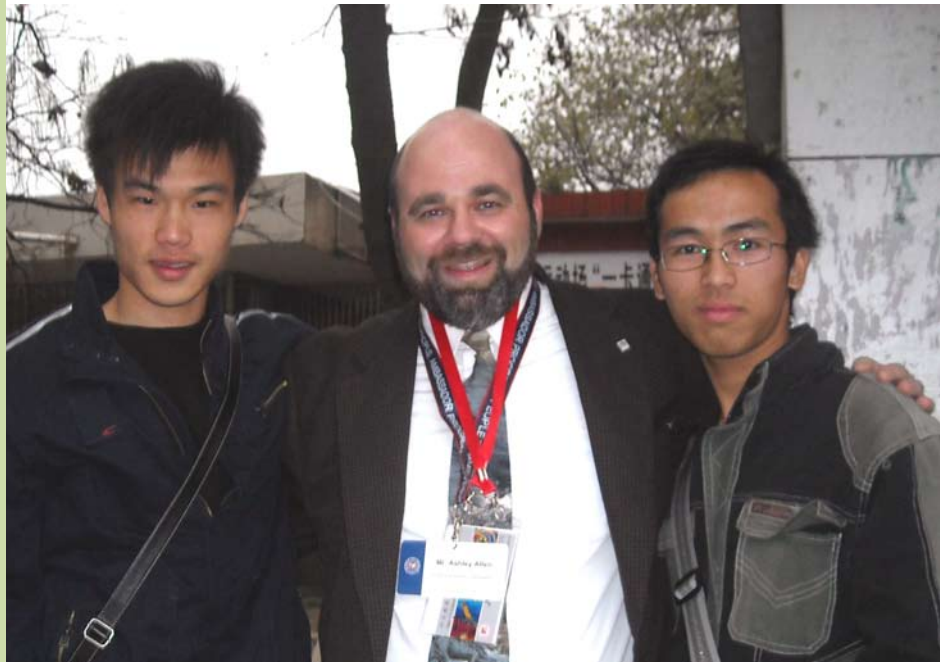


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## Science Education: United States and China

ASHLEY ALLEN, ALABAMA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Growing up in the waning years of the Cold War had an influence on my world view. As a young adult, I saw the fall of the Soviet Union and a change in our perception of superpowers. A new player began to emerge on the superpower stage – China.



Tourism students and me. I'm the guy in the middle.

The successful launch of Sputnik I triggered a push in science and mathematics education in the United States. Our national attention to science and mathematics resulted in a surge in not only the space race, but an overall unparalleled advancement in many other fields of applied and theoretical sciences.

Today, our superpower counterpart can boast more than a simple satellite as a potential wake-up call. Our friends in the East have a population of over a billion, have a staggering advantage in trade and economic matters, support much research that is having a global impact, and are surpassing the United States and many other nations in science education indicators despite having a much lower allocation of resources per family.

*Science Education continued on page 3*

# 2009-2010 Officers and Board of Directors

President–W.C. McDaniel • 2038 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN  
38104 • 901-274-7706 • w.c.mcd@worldnet.att.net

1st VP (Field Trips)–Vacant

2nd VP (Programs)–Paul Sides • 1062 CR 739, Wynne, AR  
72396 • 870-208-9586 • walter.sides@msgravel.com

Secretary–Carol Lybanon • 2019 Littlemore Drive, Cordova, TN  
38016 • 901-757-2144 • lybanon@earthlink.net

Treasurer–Doris Johnston Jones • 409 Bradford Trail Cove,  
Collierville, TN 38017 • 901-832-0437 •  
darjohnston@aol.com

Director (Asst Field Trips)–Dan Reed • 4728 Dillon Rd, Walls, MS  
38680 • 662-781-9299 • dr4538@comcast.net

Director (Asst Programs)–Sandy Ward • 5119 Whiteway Drive,  
Memphis, TN 38117 • 901-684-1819 •  
sandypepperspray@comcast.net

Director (Youth)–Alan Schaeffer • 6854 Corsica Drive, Memphis,  
TN 38120 • 901-753-8496 • dayday91@aol.com

Director (Asst Youth)–Kimberly Loveland • 3246 Tea Berry Lane,  
Bartlett, TN 38134 • 901-380-1886 •  
amazeyouu@yahoo.com

Director (Librarian)–Ron Brister • 3059 Old Brownsville Road,  
Bartlett, TN 38134 • 901-388-1765 •  
ronald.brister@memphistn.gov

Director (Membership)–Neville Mayfield • 7782 Bill Knight Ct,  
Millington, TN 38053 • 901-872-6761 •  
emayfiel@localnet.com

Director (Historian)–Nannett McDougale Dykes • 106 Maple  
Street, Stanton, TN 38069 • 901-412-9357 •  
redchesty@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor–Shelby Hartman • 5116 Whiteway Drive,  
Memphis, TN 38117 • 901-626-1920 •  
magsnewsletter@comcast.net

Web Coordinator–Mike Baldwin • 367 North Main St, Collierville,  
TN 38017 • 901-853-3603 • mbaldwin05@gmail.com

Show Chairman–Alan Parks • 831 West Powell Rd, Collierville,  
TN 38017 • 901-853-6898 • alan.parks@msgravel.com

MAGS Rockhound News is published monthly by and for the members of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. Please send your comments and articles to Shelby Hartman, 5116 Whiteway Dr, Memphis, TN 38117 or email magsnewsletter@comcast.net. ©2009.



## President's Corner WC McDANIEL

- Officer Changes: Ron Brister– Director Librarian; Alan Schaffer– Director Youth; and Kimberly Loveland–Assistant Director Youth.
- Field trips- The club is currently without a First Vice President whose duties include organizing and planning field trips. This is an

important function of the club and so it is time for you to help. A complete schedule through 2010 is available for someone wishing to lead one or all the field trips.

- MAGS membership meeting: In addition to the regular June program a report on the show will be presented.
- Your opinion: The club recently received a “request” that we cease using the term “Rock Food Table” as they claimed copyright ownership of that text. A review of copyright text dating back to 1978 did not produced any documentation. So, what is your opinion?
- Display: A portion of the MAGS collection of minerals from the Frank Thiebold collection will go on display at the Union Count Heritage Museum located in New Albany, Mississippi. The exhibit opens June 13 and will remain on display through the summer.
- Participate: MAGS will participate in the Fossil Road Show on Saturday, June 13 at the Union Count Heritage Museum. If you are not at Black Rock come on down.
- Auction: The July membership meeting will have an auction of minerals from the Theibold collection
- Driftwood Alert: The “Gulf of Arkansas” is in full display. After the waters recede check out the north part of Mud Island for driftwood. It is usually abundant.
- Rock swap: MAGS Rock swap season opened on May 23 with about 30 people attending the swap at the McNeil’s in Olive Branch, MS.
- Rain: It rained so much at a recent festival that I used a hair dryer to dry my rocks in time for the next festival

WC McDaniel

### Comments or Questions Regarding MAGS

Contact: W.C. McDaniel, MAGS President  
2038 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104  
w.c.mcd@worldnet.att.net  
(901) 274-7706

Or visit MAGS at [www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org)

## Announcements

### Two great field trips coming in June

DAN REED: Saturday, June 13, 2009 will be the MAGS field trip to Black Rock Quarry in Arkansas. This trip had to be rescheduled from May because of rain. If the quarry area receives heavy rain a few days prior to or on the day of our trip, the trip will be cancelled. The quarry fills with water and drains very slowly. You can expect to find pink dolomite, some calcite and occasional chalcopyrite at this location. If blasted conditions are right we should be able to collect a good amount of gem dig material for the 2010 show. This trip is limited to MAGS members 12 years old or older. In order to attend you will need a hard hat, steel-toed shoes, safety glasses and a signed release waiver from Vulcan and MAGS. Attend the June 12 MAGS meeting for final details.

PAUL SIDES: June 20, 2009 is the date for our Crowley's Ridge, Arkansas trip to collect agates, petrified wood, fossils, selenite and blueberries... that's right... blueberries. Bring any old buckets and bags you have to collect all the mineral and fossil treasures, but don't forget the clean buckets for picking blueberries. Crowley's Ridge is located about an hour west of Memphis. Attend the June 12 MAGS meeting for final details.

NANETTE McDOUGAL-DYKES: Stay tuned! The Rock Swap schedule for the rest of the year will be announced soon.

## Science Education: United States and China ...continued from page 1

My particular interest in China is in the area of science education. As a member of the Science Education Delegation with the People to People Citizen Ambassador Program, I took the opportunity to visit China and discuss educational matters with my Chinese counterparts. The roundtable discussions, tours, and interactions allowed me to learn from my Chinese counterparts as I shared with them aspects of American science education that they were curious about.

As the 2007 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching recipient for Alabama, I feel that it is my duty to help facilitate productive interactions in the area of science education whenever possible. This opportunity allowed me to gain a deeper insight into both the cultural and educational intricacies of China while sharing with my colleagues half way around the world about my own culture and educational philosophy.

## June Adult Program

PAUL SIDES: The MAGS program for June will be **Science Education: United States and China** presented by Ashley Allen, President of the Alabama Paleontological Society, Birmingham, Alabama. Ashley is also the author of this month's lead article.

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the MAGS June Membership Meeting, 7:30pm, Friday, June 12 at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church. Bring a display of your favorite archaeo-, paleo-, or geological treasures. Bring your favorite finger food or dessert to share after the meeting, and bring a friend [or two].

## June Youth Program

MIKE BALDWIN: The MAGS Youth program for June 12 will be presented by Mike and Sherri Baldwin. They will be helping you with several geology experiments. One experiment is called **Model of a Fault**. We will build a working model of a portion of the Earth's crust to simulate earthquakes. Building and using this model will allow us to learn some things about the cause and effect of earthquakes—although this model will obviously be on a much smaller scale than the Earth. Another experiment will be **Drilling for Oreos**. You will have to attend the youth meeting to find out what that's all about. So, while the adults are learning about science education in the United States and China, you will be conducting science experiments. Cool!

Get ready for a close look at fluorescent minerals in July.

# From a Grateful Show Chairman

ALAN PARKS: Wow, it seems just like last week we had the Show—the culmination of one year of planning wrapped up in two days. I think it is safe to say we made the move to the Agricenter with a tailwind! I have a three part thanks that I must reiterate before reflecting on this year's Show. First let me say thanks to our planning committee members for all your hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm. You wanted the Show to succeed and it showed throughout the year. Only those on the committee truly understand the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes, so a grateful chairman recognizes you for your service to the Club and our community. Secondly, thanks to all those in the Club who not only showed up, but showed all our customers what the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society is capable of doing when it's "Show Time." Finally, thanks to our customers: the dealers, sponsors, partners, and patrons who saw value in our Show, and made an investment with time and money.

Now, a few thoughts.... The one thing I have never seen before is the amount of discussion following the Show. It was amazing to witness all the discussion going on about where we are (or could go) with the Show. Keep it up! Of course, we made a few mistakes and already have a growing list of improvements. But no major issues were noted and the bottom line – the Show was a success by any measure. Consider the following:

- Our budget will be in line with expectations and we now know the Show is sustainable.
- We have commitments from all 30 dealers that they would like to return to next year's Show. This is a tried and true performance measure!
- We made the Show much more education-focused this year and as a result tapped into new audiences (i.e., customers), particularly Scout groups and local schools.
- Sponsorship provided a much needed boost in revenues, especially with the move. Sponsorship provides the contributor a way to engage the community, which in turn provides a secondary benefit to the Club with new customers.
- The idea of partnering with other non-profits is not a new concept for us, but this year we took it to a new level. We have laid the ground-work for expanding this concept in the future.
- We branded the Show with "The Earth Wide Open", which has transformed our marketing capability. Joining the Show with the Earth Day/Week celebration creates a mechanism by which we can target more people that share an interest in earth science. Having a stand-alone website creates a much needed tool to market the Show.
- Having professional speakers provided patrons' educational opportunities at a great value and reinforced our mission. I know two folks drove all the way from Georgia just to hear one of the lectures! The Scouts' Geology Merit Badge program was standing room only both days!
- The RockZone was planned and executed like none I have ever seen. The added room provided by the Agricenter makes it more attractive and comfortable. As a result more people were exposed to our hobby. Again, mission accomplished!

In closing I see our Show growing into one of the leading Shows in the nation. I believe our Show can become a destination show, one where people come to the Show as part of a vacation (Memphis offers this possibility). We just need to think big and make it happen. As my last official duty as Show Chair, I suggest we set a goal to double our attendance in three years! Are you in?



# Scenes from the 2009 Show

PICTURES BY NEVILLE MAYFIELD



## Welcome New MAGS Members

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 01 Michael and Ann Austen          | 12 Jennifer Lewis               |
| 02 Matthew and Tammy Bendele       | 13 Treat and Margaret MacDonald |
| 03 Jim Butcher                     | 14 Keith and Leigh Mathias      |
| 04 Stacy Carr                      | 15 Jimmy Matlack                |
| 05 Pamela Chase / Frank Horrell    | 16 Patricia and Roger Pickens   |
| 06 Frances and Jon Fabian          | 17 Virgil and Regina Richards   |
| 07 Steve Harkness / Melissa Salmon | 18 Roy and Stephanie VanArsdale |
| 08 Amy Hertz / Robert Shankman     | 19 Thomas VanArsdale            |
| 09 James Johnson                   | 20 Joaquin and Pam Villarreal   |
| 10 Maureen and Stan                | 21 Daryl and Tina Wallace       |
| 11 Christina Lagerson              |                                 |

## APRIL 24-28, 2009 IN MEMPHIS MAGS Annual Gem and Mineral Show Is a Great Success

FLOY AND BILL HAWKINS, NMGMS & MGMS [from May issue of The Nugget]: Being chairperson of a successful gem and mineral show is usually enough accolades, but being chairperson of a successful gem and mineral show in a new location is like finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

This must be how the chairperson of the annual Memphis gem and mineral show must be feeling after last weekend. We experienced this club's success last Sunday. The new venue compared to the old is like comparing a silk purse to a pig's ear. The crowds of rock and fossil hounds that we met also applauded the move.

Saturday's crowd was equal or better than last year's whole weekend crowd. We got the feeling that the show should have been open for a week instead of a weekend. We hope the American Federation is made aware of the success of this club's efforts.

There were 30 dealers with plenty of items for sale at reasonable prices. Club members were generously demonstrating their crafts while other club members had lots of activities for rock and fossil hound "pups". The noise wasn't deafening, it was joyous! Equally important was the roster of speakers listed for Saturday and Sunday. Among those speaking were Alan Parks and David Dockery.

It was nice to see other clubs represented in the crowd. We even managed to see members from our NMGMS organization and finished our visit talking with each other about how nice it would be to have our first gem and mineral show in Tupelo.

We encourage everyone to check out MAGS' annual show in 2010.

# June DMC Field Trip

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc  
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee  
An Official Field Trip of The Forsyth County Gem & Mineral Club (host)

8:00 am -12:00, Saturday, June 13, 2009  
Vulcan Materials Company's Morganton Quarry  
Morganton, Burk County, N.C.

**Children:** Over 12 years old can attend if supervised closely by parent or guardian. Must wear appropriate safety gear.

No Pets

**TRIP:** Vulcan Materials Company's Morganton Quarry

**COLLECTING:** This quarry has several rock types, which include augen gneiss, chlorite biotite gneiss, amphibolite, and pegmatite. The following collectable minerals have been found at this location: garnet, golden beryl, black tourmaline, apatite, sphene, feldspar, biotite and muscovite books, and siderite. The majority of these minerals are found in the pegmatite zones. Garnets are almandine variety and have been found up to silver dollar size. However, the majority of them are 1/8" to 1/4" in diameter imbedded in the pegmatite.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** This is an operating mine. All persons attending the fieldtrip will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement, take 15 minute hazardous training, and wear the required safety gear at all times. This includes a hard hat, safety glasses, and steel-toed boots. We will meet at the quarry office at 8 a.m., sign releases, receive instructions on boundaries and safety, and be lead into the collecting area. We must leave the quarry by 12 noon! In addition, all persons are asked to stay away from the quarry walls. There is plenty of material loose on the quarry floor. **VEHICLES WILL BE PERMITTED INSIDE THE QUARRY ON THIS TRIP and parked until leaving.**

**BRING:** Hard hat, safety glasses, rock hammer, and something to carry and wrap samples.

## **DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**

We will meet at the quarry at 8:00 am and be allowed to collect until 12:00. Vulcan Materials Company, Causby Quarry Road, Morganton, NC. Quarry's phone number (828) 437-2616.

**Directions:** From Interstate 40, take Highway 18 North at exit 105. At the fourth traffic light, turn right on Fleming Drive. Continue to end of road at Route 64/70 (dead end at Bi-Lo Food Store). Turn left on Route 64/70, travel under the railroad bridge. Immediately after crossing under bridge, at the Viscotec plant, turn right on Kirksey Drive. Make another right on Quarry Road. Quarry entrance is 1/4 mile off Quarry Road. Drive time to this location is approximately 1.5 hours from Winston-Salem, NC.

**Contact:** Jim Stroud, if you have any questions concerning the fieldtrip. Phone: 336-744-2940  
e-mail address: [stroudj@vmcmail.com](mailto:stroudj@vmcmail.com) . Mail address: PO Box 4239 Winston-Salem, NC 27115

*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.*



## Vanuxem Collection Research by Rhodes Student on Display in Rhodes' Barret Library through June

(Memphis, Tennessee): Rhodes College history major Nathan Corbitt '11, who is being called a “Raider of the Lost Archive,” has unearthed information about the collection of minerals and fossils that belonged to prominent mineralogist and geologist Lardner Vanuxem and that has been owned by Rhodes College since the 1850s.

Vanuxem died in 1848, the year the college was founded. With 18,000 specimens, “his cabinet of minerals and fossils was claimed to be the largest, finest and most systematically arranged private collection in the United States.”

The collection was acquired by William M. Stewart who became president of the college in 1853 when it was located in Clarksville, Tennessee. The Vanuxem collection is considered to be the college's oldest surviving teaching apparatus and even today is used in geology courses.

“Liberal arts colleges like Rhodes have put a high priority on providing the best scientific tools,” says Corbitt who himself completed a thorough field geology course while a student at The Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Georgia.

There are a few hundred items remaining from the Vanuxem collection, and with his 2008 fall semester history department internship in the Rhodes College Archives, Corbitt set out to find what happened to the other thousands of fossils, minerals and shells. He began an exhaustive examination of documents including early board minutes, presidential correspondence, insurance papers, and geology course listings in old catalogues from 1853 to 1925. As a result, he uncovered information about the collection as well as Rhodes' history such as:

- During the Civil War, the collection was nearly destroyed when the Union Army occupied the Clarksville campus.
- In 1896, the U.S. House of Representatives paid restitution to the college for wartime damage including the destruction of scientific apparatus and mineralogical and geological cabinets.
- In the early 1920s, some of the shells from the Vanuxem collection were destroyed or scorched in a fire that consumed Robb Hall dormitory (Clarksville campus). The collection was stored there before the college moved in 1925 to its current Memphis location.

Corbitt also found what is believed to be the college's earliest known catalogue.

With Rhodes staff members Bill Short and Elizabeth Gates and faculty member Dr. Jennifer Houghton, Corbitt has created an exhibition that showcases the research he conducted and its greater implications to Rhodes and the scientific community. The display currently is on view through June in the Barret Library during normal hours of operation (Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm; Closed Saturday and Sunday). The display cases are located on the main level near the staircase and also near the Rhodes Archives Room. The exhibition includes items from the Vanuxem collection such as quartz crystal, blue kyanite, white cryolite, barite, and some of the remaining scorched shells.

Contact: Dionne Chalmers, Communications Office, Rhodes College, 2000 North Parkway, Memphis, TN 38112, (901) 843-3470

## Board Meeting Notes

CAROL AND MATTHEW LYBANON: The MAGS Board of Directors met April 2 at the St. Clare Room in St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P. M. Those present were: Mike Baldwin, David Day, Doris Jones, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Neville Mayfield, W. C. McDaniel, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Alan Parks, Dan Reed, Alan Schaeffer, and Paul Sides.

W. C. McDaniel opened the meeting with the announcement that Barry Burns has resigned as Vice-President (Field Trips) due to health issues. We need to fill this position.

The March Board & Membership Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

**Treasurers Report:** The Treasurers Report was approved, subject to audit. Doris Jones said that she is working on filing an income tax return for the club.

**Membership:** Neville Mayfield introduced 13 applications. The Board approved membership for: Patricia & Roger Pickens; David & Petrice Gembala; Jennifer Lewis; Daryl & Tina Wallace, and son Gunnar; Keith Mathias & Leigh-Ballard-Mathias, sons Will & Ethan, and daughter Kaycee (complimentary—show sponsor: Advantage Stone and Hardscapes); Tomislav & Susan Prodanovich (no forms); Piroshka Spencer (no forms); Joaquin & Pam Villareal, and son Nick; Christina Lagerson; Treat & Margaret McDonald, son Whit, and daughter Mallory; Maureen & Stan Johnson, son Anthony Douglas, and daughter Caitlin Douglas; Frances & Jon Fabian, and sons Richard & Davie; Steve Harkness & Melissa Salmon, daughter Brittney Salmon, and son Chad Harkness. Mike Baldwin said he changed the address on the website's application form so applications will now come to Neville. W. C. McDaniel suggested that Ashley Allen be presented with an honorary family membership. The Board approved the suggestion. The membership will be presented to Ashley and his family at the May Membership Meeting. Neville reported we have about 35 Members who have not renewed for 2009. W. C. will send emails to those people. Neville suggested updating the application to include a renewal form. The Board decided to add a line that specifies whether the application is for

a new membership or a renewal. Neville wondered if some people did not renew for 2009 because of the economic problems, and suggested offering deferred dues. The Board decided to do this on a case by case basis.

**Field Trips:** On April 11 Marvin Nutt will lead a trip to Nonconnah Creek. On May 9 Dan Reed will lead a trip to Black Rock Quarry. Dan has not gotten anything in writing from his contact at the quarry. Dan will call the quarry one week in advance, to make sure everything is in order. He reminded us that any rain within 3 days of the trip would cause the trip to be canceled. Participants must arrive at the meeting place in time for a hat, steel-toed shoes, and safety glasses inspection. No one will be admitted late.

**Adult Programs:** Paul Sides reported that the April program will be on the Show. Ashley Allen will give the May program, on science education in the U.S. and China. Plans for June's program are still tentative. Alan Parks reviewed the agenda for the April program, and said he would have club tickets available at the meeting.

**Junior Programs:** Alan Schaeffer reported that he will give the April program, on fossils. Karen Schaeffer will give the May program, on minerals. Mike Baldwin will present a geode program in June. W. C. McDaniel reminded Alan that he needs to call a meeting to brainstorm ideas for the Junior Program. Alan will purchase 50 craft boxes, so the Juniors can begin a mineral and fossil collection. He also said he may be able to take the Juniors to visit a chalk mine in the Pickwick area.

**Show:** Alan Parks reported that marketing for the Show is at "full throttle." He said that he is making presentations at several schools, to promote the show and the "name the dino egg" contest. Alan will participate in Earth Day with the Scouts; he needs volunteers for April 19. The Boy Scout program is in place, and Alan is meeting with the Girl Scouts to complete plans for their program. Wayne and Ann Williams are coordinating the Friday night dinner. Alan is looking for someone to donate live entertainment for the Friday night dinner.

**Library:** No report.

**Newsletter:** Shelby Hartman is out

of town tonight. The newsletter will be out by Saturday.

**Webmaster:** Mike Baldwin has been very busy judging websites for the AFMS contest. After the contest is over, he would like our website to link to 5 other club websites he thinks are outstanding. Mike said he would send the Board links to the best sites after the judging is over.

**Historian/Rock Swap:** Nannett McDougal-Dykes reported the first rock swap will be 11:00-3:00 on May 23, at the home of Jimmy McNeil. David Day suggested that new members need an explanation of what a rock swap is. Alan Schaeffer suggested changing the name to something such as "Rock Swap Picnic." After some discussion the Board decided to leave the name as it is, and Board Members will send Nannett some new ideas to improve attendance. Paul Sides suggested that once a year the rock swap could be at a public park with a playground. Nannett will look into that for the September rock swap. She is busy scanning in the history. She has scanned 4 years of documents and has found some really fun pictures. She will share some in the newsletter.

**Old Business:** The Union County Museum in New Albany, MS, has asked MAGS to participate in their "fossil road show." We will set up an exhibit to stay at the museum for a few months, and participate in the road show on June 13. W. C. McDaniel will choose a title for the exhibit.

**New Business:** Neville Mayfield noticed several things missing from our newsletter: no web address or mailing address for the club. He will call Shelby and have that information added to the section that lists the Officers and Board.

Mike Baldwin researched the possibility of the club's purchasing a UV light. After much discussion there was a motion to authorize Mike to research and send the Board information on the purchase of a UV light, not to exceed \$800. The Board approved this. Dan Reed suggested soliciting donations toward the cost of the UV light at the Membership Meeting, and taking the remainder from the treasury.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P. M.

April 2009

## Membership Meeting Notes

CAROL AND MATTHEW LYBANON: The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on April 10. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 P.M. There were 53 Members and 3 visitors. The visitors were Brenda Winstead, Julie Lybanon, and Stacy Carr.

W. C. McDaniel welcomed everyone, and asked Members to renew their 2009 membership. He told Members that Barry Burns has resigned as Vice-President (Field Trips).

Neville Mayfield welcomed visitors and new Members (18, including a few from previous months). He asked Members to pick up their 2009 membership cards and new member packets.

Tomorrow's field trip, led by Marvin Nutt, will be to Nonconnah Creek. Meet at 8:00 A. M. in the baseball field parking lot near the intersection of Mt. Moriah and Mendenhall. On May 9 we will have a field trip to Black Rock Quarry, led by Dan Reed. Signup and information sheets are in the back of the room. Dan reminded Members that hard hats, steel-toed shoes, and safety glasses are required. Rain could cancel this trip.

W. C. said that we would participate in the Fossil Road Show that will take place on June 13 in New Albany, MS. We will also place an exhibit in the museum there, on loan for a few months.

Our first rock swap of 2009 will take place on May 23 at the home of Jimmy McNeil. More information to come.

Daryl and Tina Wallace, and Bebe Buck, described their agate displays. Dan Reed brought in a beautiful ammonite specimen that he collected in Texas.

Old Business: The proposed Bylaws change, to clarify the definition of a Youth Member, was passed.

Alan Parks presented a program that described the Show: "The Earth Wide Open." He told about all the new things that will be available at this year's gem and mineral show. The Show will take place April 25 and 26.

Dan Reed announced that we should start collecting materials now for next year's gem dig and grab bags, so that we will not be caught short.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P. M.

## June Birthdays

NEVILLE MAYFIELD: Birthstone for June is Pearl.

- 4 Maggie Gembala
- 5 Allen Thom
- 7 Patti Cherry
- 7 Edward DeVoe
- 9 Robert Junklas
- 9 Roger Pickens
- 10 Kristopher Helms
- 10 Brent Milton
- 13 Sherri McCalla
- 16 Gabriel Wheeler
- 16 Ann Williams
- 17 Rhonda Hidaji
- 18 Debbie Schaeffer
- 19 Norman Daniels
- 19 Dan Reed
- 20 Vivian Sharpe
- 21 Allen Helt
- 23 Ann Fields
- 25 Doris Johnston Jones
- 25 Danielle Schaeffer
- 25 Lauren Schaeffer
- 25 Leigh Ballard-Mathias
- 27 Sarah Easley
- 27 Priya Tummalapalli
- 29 Jennifer Baldwin
- 29 Cornelia McDaniel
- 30 Luciano Sejas



Pearls are very different from most other precious gems, for several reasons.

They are formed in oyster shells and harvested from the sea. A foreign particle (usually a grain of sand) in the lining of an oyster's shell causes it to secrete a calcium substance that coats the particle over and over, forming a pearl. Pearls do not need to be polished like other gems — they are naturally lustrous. Since pearls are much softer than minerals, they need to be handled carefully so as not to be scratched. Most natural pearls are found in the waters around the Middle East and Asia.

## Junior Member Defined

An April 10, 2009 revision to the MAGS By-laws defines a Junior Member of MAGS as an individual Member between the ages of ten and seventeen. Juniors under the age of ten must be part of a Family Membership. Each Junior Member must be sponsored by an adult MAGS Member. The adult Member will be responsible for the Junior Member at MAGS meetings, field trips, and other club activities.

## Web Site Statistics for April 2009

MIKE BALDWIN: Here's a brief look at our web site [www.memphis-geology.org] 01.21.02 through 04.31.09:

Visits .....	373,008
Hits .....	1,587,844
Visits in April.....	5,250
Hits in April.....	42,420
Top pages in the past 30 days:	
eris .....	1,230 hits
rocknews0409.pdf ...	630 hits
rocknews1005.pdf ...	570 hits
rocknews0107.pdf ...	480 hits

*A visit is every time someone comes to our web site. A hit is every page viewed once a user enters our web site.*

## 2009 Dates to Remember

Board Meeting	Membership Meeting	Due Date for Newsletter Articles
06.04	06.12	—
07.02	07.10	06.20
08.06	08.14	07.18
09.03	09.11	08.22
10.01	10.09	09.19
11.05	11.13	10.17
12.03	12.11	11.21

The main purpose of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society is to promote and advance the knowledge of the Lapidary Sciences in the mining, identification, cutting, polishing and mounting of gems, minerals and fossils to the utmost of our geological and lapidary capabilities.

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**AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:**

New Editor 7th-95 • Small Bulletin Honorable Mention-04 • Adult Article 10th-04 • Junior Article 3rd-98; 8th-03 • Special Pub 4th-03

**SFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS:**

New Editor 1st-86; 2nd-88, 97 • New Editor (Explorer) 4th-03 • Certificate of Excellence-89, 90, 91, 92, 93 • Large Bulletin 1st-87 • Small Bulletin 1st-04, 3rd-07, 4th-03 • Special Publication 2nd-03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 • Junior Article 1st-03, 07 • Adult Article 2nd- 89, 90, 04; 3rd-92; 4th-85, 04, 07; 5th-91, 03, 07; 6th-87; 8th-04, 07; Honorable Mention-03, 04, 07; Adult Poetry-07

DUES: \$20 (Family); \$16 (Single); \$8 (Junior)

## JUNE 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- June 4    6:30P    MAGS Board Meeting - St. Clair Room, St. Frances Hospital
- June 12   7:30P    MAGS Membership Meeting - Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5535 Shady Grove Road • Bring displays and refreshments •  
Adult Program: "Science Education: United States and China" with Ashley Allen  
Youth Program: "Geology Experiments" with Sherri and Mike Baldwin
- June 13   7:30A    MAGS Field Trip - Black Rock, Arkansas • see page 3
- June 13   8:00A    DMC Field Trip - Morganton, North Carolina • see page 6
- June 20   TBA        MAGS Field Trip - Crowley's Ridge, Arkansas • see page 3



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