



## *Rockhounding in Our National Forests*

CARL TALBOTT, LODESTAR EDITOR: There has been considerable uncertainty in recent years regarding U.S. Forest Service rules and regulations regarding rockhounding. Perhaps because of legislation enacted last year calling for Nation Forest districts to establish appropriate rules for rock collecting, some clarity has begun to surface. The (North Carolina) Nan-tahala and Pisgah National Forest district management have posted the following policy statement on their web site [www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc).

### **Update on North Carolina National Forest Rockhounding/ Gold Panning/Metal Detecting Policy**



Over the past year, forest managers have been working on a more detailed policy for recreational rockhounding, gold panning and metal detecting on national forest lands. Because some aspects of national regulations regarding Forest Service authorities are being reviewed and may be modified, we will defer revising our forest policy until 2010. In the interim, the current rockhounding policy will remain in place. This is a summary of those rules:

**Recreational rockhounding** may take place at areas where minerals are loose

and free on the surface, and the activity is not restricted by permit or in an area designated as closed for this activity. Mineral collection must be with non-mechanical equipment and result in no significant ground or stream disturbance.

**Recreational gold panning** is allowed where minerals are in federal ownership, using non-mechanized equipment, where no ground disturbance takes place, and where streams are not designated as closed to this activity.

**Metal detecting** is not allowed on national forest lands unless an area is designated open for this activity or an individual has obtained a formal authorization from the appropriate District Ranger (or their representative).

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### Comments or Questions Regarding MAGS

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[www.memphisgeology.org](http://www.memphisgeology.org)

## August President's Note

As the summer temperatures escalate and schools open, MAGS members will have ample opportunities to engage in rockhound activities and events during the remainder of 2010.

*Rock swaps:* Rock swaps continue with our August 13 membership meeting hosting the eight annual "A Mid-Summer Night's Indoor Picnic and Rock Swap." In September Lou White will host a Sunday rock swap and rumors have it that he may attempt to sell something cheap. In October the Parks will host their annual rock swap, catfish fry and launch our collecting efforts for the 2011 show.

*Field swaps:* August starts off with an archaeological tour of North Mississippi. Trip leader will be Ron Brister. In September members journey to Arkansas for a two day trip to search for diamonds and to collect crystals. October will bring us two trips. First to North Mississippi to collect at a Memphis Stone and Gravel Mine. In late October the club heads to the Cookeville area to collect geodes and fossils. November will also bring two trips. First we go the Dickson, TN area to collect slag glass and fossil coral. In late November we head to Missouri to collect Druze Quartz. We conclude our 2010 field trips with a journey to Richardson Landing near Millington. That trip is contingent upon the river stage being five feet or below on the Mississippi River.

*Special Events:* MAGS will participate in two community events. On September 25 the Rock Food Table will be displayed at the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis Big Scoop Ice Cream Festival. On Friday, October 1 MAGS will join forces with the Memphis Botanical Gardens to present "Memphis Rocks" at the Gardens. Both of these events will require a lot of help, so be prepared.

*Conundrum Events:* What if all or some of these events were your responsibility? Would they get scheduled or would the phrase in midtown that reads "Free Hamburgers Tomorrow" be rewritten to say "MAGS will go on a field trip tomorrow?" So as we start the officer nomination process do you want field trips, membership meetings, events, rock swaps and the show? It's your decision.

*W.C. McDaniel*

MAGS Presents the Eighth Annual

*“A Mid-Summer Night's Indoor Picnic and Rock Swap”*

**Friday, August 13 • 7:30 pm**  
**Regular Membership Meeting**

For the picnic [potluck], MAGS will provide the table coverings, plates and cutlery

Board members will provide the drinks

Members bring a dish or two and/or dessert to share- See below

If you plan on selling • Wear your selling attire and bring your own table

If you just want to swap • Wear your swapping attire and bring your goods

If you just want to buy • Wear your spending attire and bring your money

Other events and activities • Games • Door prizes • Surprises

Bring your dish (food). In an attempt to have a balanced picnic, members are requested to bring an item in one of three areas as determined by your last name.

You are welcomed and encouraged to bring other items.

**Entrees-Last Names-A-J**  
**Side Dishes- Last Names-K-S**  
**Desserts- Last Names- T-Z**

**MAGS field trips for 2010**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Aug 14	Mississippi	Auto tour of several North Mississippi Archaeological Sites and Museums <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Tunica Museum</li><li>• A small burial mound on Highway 61 near the intersection of Highway 61 and Highway 49</li><li>• The North Delta Museum in Friers Point, Mississippi</li><li>• The Winterville archaeological site and museum near Greenville, MS</li></ul>
Sept 25/26	Arkansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crater of Diamonds [Diamonds, agates and jaspers]</li><li>• Coleman quartz mine [Quartz crystals]</li></ul>
Oct 2	Mississippi	Memphis Stone and Gravel, specific site to be determined <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agate, chert, fossil gravel, petrified wood</li><li>• Possible rock swap with Mississippi clubs</li></ul>
Oct 22-24	Tennessee	Davis and Pharis Farms (fee) Ledbetter Farm (no fee) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Geodes</li></ul> Dale Hollow Lake <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crinoids and other fossils</li></ul> (will need to confirm exact dates with landowners for geode collecting)
Nov 6	Tennessee	Cumberland Furnace Dickson fossil coral site

## *Rockhounding in Our National Forests* [continued from page 1]

In another part of their web site concerning 'wilderness' areas, we learn that no rock or plant collection is permitted in areas of the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest designated as wilderness areas.

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest (Georgia) District management have a more explicit policy statement on their web site (found by going to [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us) and selecting Georgia forests) as compared to their North Carolina counterparts.

### **Rockhounding and Gold Panning in the Chattahoochee - Oconee National Forest (Georgia)**

**Gold Panning:** In most cases, stream-bed (placer) gold does not exist in sufficient quantity to constitute economically recoverable deposits. Usually no more than a few cents worth of gold can be panned in an hour; however, there's always a chance of finding a stray nugget or odd pocket of finer gold.

Recreational panning for gold in most stream beds is allowed. Special permission, permits, or fees are not required as long as significant stream disturbance does not occur and when only a small hand shovel or trowel and a pan are used. In-stream sluices and suction dredges are NOT allowed.

Contact the District Ranger office to be sure the stream is on national forest land. The district office can also give you information on road access and road conditions. Some forest areas are easily accessible by family autos while others may be inaccessible or accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles. Some roads close seasonally and remote areas may only be accessible by foot. You can find information on seasonal road closures on our Motor Vehicle Use Maps.

**Rock Hounding:** A "rock hound" is any amateur who hunts and collects rocks and minerals as a hobby. Within the Chat-tahoochee—Oconee National Forests, rock hounds may find a wide variety of sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rock types, along with many individual minerals. Recreational rockhounding may take place at areas where minerals are loose and free on the surface.

Before selecting a site, rock hounds should check with the District Ranger offices to determine the following: [01] the location is on National Forest land; [02] rock hounding is permitted in the area.

Special permissions, permits, or fees are not required to take a handful of rock, mineral, or petrified wood specimens from the surface of National Forest lands for personal use. You can collect a specimen if you can see all or part of it exposed on the surface of the ground. You can remove up to 6 inches of soil immediately around the specimen you are collecting. Do not dig so much as to cause significant surface disturbance that leads to damage of natural resources. You may collect reasonable amounts of specimens. Generally, a reasonable amount is up to 10 pounds. You can only collect specimens for personal use and non-commercial gain. Commercial use involves any trading, bartering, or selling of rocks and minerals from National Forest system lands.

Rock hounding must not be confused with commercial mineral activities which are governed by mining and mineral leasing laws. No mechanical equipment may be used and any collection must not conflict with existing mineral permits, leases, claims, or sales.

You can purchase maps of the Chattahoochee - Oconee National Forests online at your convenience. The best sources of information on minerals are State Geological Survey offices, university geology departments and libraries, mineralogical societies, and rock hounding lapidary clubs.

Causing ground disturbance or collecting for commercial gain without a permit is punishable by fines and potential restoration costs.

As other National Forest District Rangers publish rockhounding policy, be assured we will publish details so that you can approach your next National Forest rock hunting adventure armed with the latest in policy information.

# DISPLAY THEMES

## SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2010

We've had some good displays at Member Meetings this year. The August meeting will be the Indoor Rock Swap, and the December meeting will be the Holiday Party. But we're looking for some more good displays for September, October, and November.

Here are the themes for those months. There's no penalty for not following the suggestions (you're still eligible to win a prize), but these themes are keyed to MAGS field trips that are scheduled to take place not long before these meetings.

### September:

Arrowheads and other specimens found in Mississippi



### October:

Quartz from Hot Springs and Mt. Ida, Arkansas

### November:

Fossil Coral from Dickson, Tennessee, Honeymoon Island, Florida, and Tampa Bay



## DMC August Field Trip

An Official Field Trip of  
Carroll County Gem & Mineral Society, Carrollton, GA

Saturday, August 15, 2010 • 8:30am EST

Patty Construction Quarry, Chattooga County, GA  
Summerville Lace Agate

MEET: At the site, on US 27 in Chattooga Co. Ga. This is in the NW corner of the state of Georgia.

WHEN: August 15, 2010

TIME: : 8:30 AM EST

Directions: From Summerville, Ga. follow US 27 South for 2.20 miles. The site will be on the right between the county owned waste dumpsters and the US Forestry office. Coming north from the Rome area, the site will be on the left side of US 27, and approximately 3.0 miles beyond the intersection of Gore Subligna Rd.

Tools: Eye protection is a must for anyone wishing to break apart material with a rock hammer, or sledge. Chisels would be valuable, as would small ground shovels and rakes. A small cart or hand truck may be useful for hauling larger pieces of take home material. Much of the material is covered with a chalky white chert, and a pale of water is sometimes handy for dipping and identifying the better material.

Other: Bring plenty of fluids. This is a good site for children. Any pets MUST be on a leash at all times.

Facilities: In town about 2 miles away.

Special: THIS IS AN ACTIVE QUARRY. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE NEAR ANY OF THE MACHINERY ON THE PREMISES. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS RULE MAY JEOPARDIZES FUTURE FIELD TRIPS TO THIS SITE.

DMC CONTACT: Lori Griggs, Carroll County GMS President  
Home: (404) 538-7442 E mail: serenitygirl37@yahoo.com

***This field trip is for MAGS/DMC members only. No visitors. Children are welcome.***

## *In celebration of August birthdays*

The beautiful pure white sand beaches those of us who live in close proximity to the Gulf of Mexico have grown to love so much and are currently causing so much environmental concern, are actually quite rare when compared with beaches world wide. Sand and sand beaches in particular are a surprisingly complex geological subject.

However, those of you with an August birthday may especially enjoy this photo of some sand I scooped up while on a beach in the Galapagos Islands some years ago. With only volcanic, geologically relatively new materials as building blocks, sand of any sort is a real rarity on the islands. In particular they have no coral, the basic ingredient forming our white sand beaches. However the beautiful green grains you see in the photo are Peridot, the August birthstone. It is a form of Olivene a mineral consisting of magnesium iron silicate that has weathered from the volcanic rock making up these islands that formed over a “hot spot” on the ocean floor.

As the Galapagos Islands are one of the most protected places on earth, I only “collected” the photo, which I now share in celebration of your August birthdays.

*David A. Day*



## June 2010 Board Meeting Minutes

Carol and Matthew Lybanon

The MAGS Board of Directors met June 3 at the St. Clare Room in St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P. M. Present were: Mike Baldwin, Ron Brister, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Neville Mayfield, W. C. McDaniel, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, and Paul Sides. Excused: Doris Jones, Kimberly Loveland, and Alan Schaeffer.

Secretary: The May minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer: Doris Jones is not here, but W. C. McDaniel reported that she has filed IRS Form 990. He also had the May Treasurer's Report, which was approved subject to audit.

Membership: Neville Mayfield still does not have access to his computer (because of the Millington flooding), so it is hard for him to compile new information. There were no applications since the last meeting. W. C. McDaniel provisionally updated an old membership list, using new member information that was provided to him by Matthew Lybanon. W. C. did this so we won't get too far behind. He will check the membership list to remove all those who have not paid their 2010 dues. Paul Sides wants to know when the 2010 library cards will be ready. There was some discussion on how we could code the cards so we wouldn't have to print new ones each year. Mike Baldwin will print new membership and library cards and the Board will decide how to code them later.

Field Trips: No report (Field Trips chair absent). The June 20 field trip will go to Frankstown.

Adult Programs: Paul Sides reported that the June program will be presented by Bill Gilbert (pyrite from Spain), July program by George Swihart (phosphate minerals of Nonconnah Creek), and the August program will be the indoor rock swap.

Junior Programs: Ron Brister bought materials and made 12 paleontology kits, which he is donating to Junior Programs.

Show: W. C. McDaniel anticipates closing the books shortly after the end of June. MAGS donated \$2,100 of Show proceeds to the Ronald McDonald House (25% of admission income). The Show should be able to give about \$2,000 to the club. In 2011 the fourth weekend will include Easter.

Library: Ron Brister reported that two new bookcases were delivered to the church. He donated 60 new books, which were delivered today.

Newsletter: Mike Baldwin only needed to spend 1-1.5 hours preparing the newsletter, because the new format is so efficient. W. C. McDaniel has a couple of drafts of future articles that he will send to Mike.

Webmaster: Mike Baldwin plans to update the website tonight and tomorrow night.

Historian/Rock Swap: Nannett McDougal-Dykes called Mr. Hill to ask him to host the next rock swap, but was unable to reach him. W. C. and Cornelia McDaniel will host the July 10 rock swap (changed from June 19 because of the Charlie McPherson collection sale). It will be from 9:30 A. M. to 1:30 P.M. The August Membership Meeting's program will be the indoor rock swap (with pot luck dinner).

Old Business: W. C. McDaniel reported that the Memphis Botanical Gardens event will be on October 1, 10:00 A. M.-noon. He asked that MAGS Members set that time aside to volunteer. We will need lots of MAGS volunteers to man a variety of table activities. We should be prepared to handle sizable groups (around 30 kids) at once. MAGS will be allowed to recruit members.

New Business: The Charlie McPherson sale will be on June 19. The first phase will consist of selling the outside pieces. There is no inventory of the inside pieces, but we know there are 30 cabinets packed with material.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P. M.

## June 2010 Membership Meeting Minutes

Carol and Matthew Lybanon

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on June 11. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 P. M. by First Vice-President Paul Sides, in the absence of President W. C. McDaniel. 46 Members and 4 visitors were present. The visitors are Larry Griffin, Marilyn Hicks, Elise Schaeffer, and Will Schaeffer.

There was no old or new business. There will be a rock swap in Park Hills, Missouri, June 11-13. There are flyers with more information on the table. Carol Lybanon reminded Members that the next field trip will be to Frankstown on Sunday, June 20. Mike Baldwin said there was some information in the newsletter. He said he would call Mike Wheeler for more details.

Carol also reported that there will not be a rock swap June 19 because of the McPherson sale. The swap was rescheduled to July 10 at the home of Cornelia and W. C. McDaniel. Paul Sides said there are still some t-shirts for sale, and Carol gave a brief summary of other Show information. Someone asked how much was donated to the Ronald McDonald House. She reported that the donation was \$2,100.

Ron Brister announced the acquisition of 60 library books and two new cabinets. Alan Schaeffer reported that the July Junior program will be "Indian Artifacts."

Next, presenters described their displays. Adult: Donna Dick, "Lithostrocia Coral" (Tennessee River); Kim Hill, "Items Found At Last MAGS Fieldtrip" (Blue Springs); David Day, "Geode, Druzy Quartz With Orchid Palm Wood, Barite With Missouri Agate" (various); Donna Dick, "Rugosa Coral" (Tennessee River) Junior: Michael, "Petrified Wood And Different Rocks" (home); Juliet Buckholdt, "Shells" (Blue Springs). The winners were David Day (Adult) and Juliet Buckholdt (Junior)

Paul Sides reviewed future adult programs and introduced tonight's speaker, MAGS Member Bill Gilbert, who gave an enjoyable and informative program on "Collecting Minerals In Spain."

MAGS gained one new Member tonight, Deborah Brown.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P. M.

## 2009-2010

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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 Mike Baldwin, 367 North Main Street, Collierville, TN 38017 or email mbaldwin05@gmail.com. ©2010.

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AFMS NEWSLETTER AWARDS: New Editor  
7th—95 • Small Bulletin Honorable Mention—  
04, 05, 06 • Adult Article 10th—04; Honorable  
Mention—05 (x2), 06 (x2) • 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, 2nd—06, 4th—03, 3rd—07 • Special  
Publication 2nd—03 • Art 77, 80, 81, 82, 86 •  
Junior Article 1st—03, 07 • Adult Article 1st—  
06, 2nd—89, 90, 04, 06; 3rd—92; 4th—85, 04,  
07; 5th—91, 03, 07; 6th—87; 8th—04, 07;  
Honorable Mention—03, 04, 07 • Adult Poetry—07

DUES: \$25 (Family); \$20 (Single); \$10 (Junior)

## MAGS 100° Club

MAGS members are a brave and hardy bunch as thirteen rockhounds went south to Starkville, Ms. to collect a bunch of Marcasite and one mosasaur vertebrate bone. After a short and cool break the group traveled a few more miles to look for petrified wood. This was a short hunt as this creek has been heavily collected and had limited accessibility due to fallen trees. Many small pieces were collected but nothing over a couple of pounds. The MAGS 100 degrees participants were: Steve and April Gibbs, Kelly and Juliet Buckholdt, Heather Baldick, Matthew and Carol Lybanon, Debbie and Karen Schaeffer, Bob and Bonnie Cooper, Don Blalock and WC McDaniel.



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