



Mid-TENN Gem'ers

Newsletter of
The Middle Tennessee Gem
and Mineral Society, Inc.
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2 year

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3 year

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Presidential Ramblings

While our illustrious President Bob is taking a little time off to travel and be with his family, so while he is away its my duty to take over the meetings and the article writing. I usually have a LOT to say in person, but when it comes to writing I tend to be brief. Hey Bob, if you get this while you're away; send me an email with the latest joke so we won't miss you too much while your gone. Anyone have a BAD PUNS joke book I can borrow until he gets back??

The May meeting (Show, Swap & Shop meeting) was GREAT!!! At least, I know I picked up some slabs I wanted so it was great for me. Thanks to everyone who brought something to Sell or Trade and thanks to those that brought some Show and Tell items. It is always good to see what others have to show off.

The field trip to preview the MTSU Mineral, Gem and Fossil museum on Saturday the 21st was a great success. We had about 20 members' who showed up and everyone had a great time looking at all the wonderful specimens. The museum is not yet complete; it's about $\frac{3}{4}$ complete (a few empty cases and wall hanging have yet to be hung) but what is there is incredible!! A number of our members have specimens on loan. We will plan for another field trip to the museum closer to the grand opening, which I believe, will be in September. THANK YOU Albert and Lewis for all the hard work to get this together for our preview.

Directions from the Farm Bureau building to the Museum: From the Farm Bureau parking lot turn left on to Church Street. Go approximately 0.6 miles, until you come to the Town Square. Turn right on to E Main and go approximately 1.5 miles to Womack Lane (NOTE: Womack Lane is second left after the stop light at N Barid Lane) Turn left on to Womack Lane and go to the Stop sign. Turn right on to Blue Raider drive and go to the Stop sign. Turn right on the Blue Raider drive, again (Blue Raider also turns at the Stop sign). On your left is Ezell Hall, turn left in to the first parking lot.

Currently there is no set hours of operation until September at which time we will plan another group trip.

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:

Saturday, June 18th!!

July 21st

August 18th

September 15th

October 20th

November 17th

December 15th

President Letter

JUNE picnic

Field trip

Paleontological
Resources Preser-
vation Act

And not a whole
lot more...

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

JUNE IS PICNIC MONTH!!!!

During the month of June there will not be a regular meeting at either the Murfreesboro or Donelson location. Instead we encourage all members to attend the Picnic!!! So that more can attend (more food, more fun) we are going to have the picnic between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. (let all eat about 12:30) on Saturday, June 18th at Barfield Crescent Park/Wilderness Station located at 697 Barfield Crescent Rd, Murfreesboro, TN. (615-890-5333)

Directions: If coming from Nashville on I-24 E, take exit 81A (Church Street) toward Shelbyville. Go about 2.1 miles and turn right on to Barfield Crescent Road. (This road is next to a WT gas station) Take a left into the park, then take the first right. Come to the Stop sign and take a left. Continue on that road to the Wilderness Station. There are small signs pointing to the Wilderness Station.

We want to see as many members as we can, so come on out and join us for Saturday of fun in the park!!!! So bring some food to share and your own drinks and let's all have a great time. SEE YOU THERE!!!

I am always looking for speakers and topic suggestions for both the Murfreesboro and Donelson meetings. If you have a topic you would like to speak on, know someone whom I should call and get to come to our meetings to speak, or would just like to make a suggestion about a topic you want to hear, please feel free to call me on my cell phone (615) 210-5385 or email me at MBDjewelry@aol.com. Please put MTGMS in the subject

or I might accidentally delete it without reading it :-). Thanks...

John Martin

Stand-in President

**DMC Program of the SFMS
Field Trip Committee**

*An Official Field Trip of The
Gem & Mineral Society of
Franklin N. C. (HOST)*

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

**8 AM till 5 PM, Saturday,
July 23rd, 2005
ROSE CREEK MINE
(rosecreekmine.com)
ClayCounty, NC
(Pay Site)**

COLLECTING: A special offering of native dirt, Rubies, Sapphires, Garnets, small Quartz, Feldspar and possibly Emeralds.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: A covered flume, restrooms, picnic area, screens provided at the flume. A special price of \$4.00 includes the first bucket of native or enriched dirt. \$ 3.00 for re-fills. Children and pets on a leash are welcome.

BRING: Bring your own food and drinks.

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE
TO MEET:**

Where we will meet: We will meet at the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum located at 25 Phillips St. in the " old Jail " in downtown Franklin at 7 A.M. And caravan to the site by 8 A. M. The Museum will be open for tours prior to leaving.

When: 8 am, Saturday, July 23, 2005 (Remember - everyone must meet and proceed to the collecting site together! - DMC)

The Rose Creek Campground is located next door to the mine. E-mail:

manager@rosecreekcamp.com or phone 828 524 3225.

There are also many motels in the area.

Contact: William (Wally) Smith
828-369-7695

<wallyanddoris5@juno.com>

Field Trip Chairman, The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin N. C.

DMC Field Trip Policies:

(DMC Field Trip Sharing Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee)

1. All societies which have agreed to host a field trip and join the DMC Field Trip Sharing Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee will be called an "associated" club.
2. Only associated clubs will be allowed to publish DMC program field trips as their official monthly field trip. (Benefit of membership!)
3. 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.
4. For insurance purposes, all associated clubs must publish all DMC program field trips as "officially recognized" field trips of their society. It is required that all persons who attend a DMC program field trip be a member, in good standing, of an SFMS club. Since a family membership covers everyone in a

family who can attend, your SFMS club will need all family member names on their membership roll.

5. All sites visited by the DMC field trip sharing program are not to be revisited unless they are on public domain property - road cuts, national forests, etc., or on privately owned land with the owner's permission. This is the quickest way to lose access to a host club's field trip location. Therefore, if an associated club or one of its members breaks this crucial DMC field trip policy, their future DMC program field trip information will be forfeited!

6. Please do not visit a site immediately before a DMC program field trip. Also, do not go to a site ahead of the group on the day of the field trip. Meet and convoy with the rest of the group so that everyone will have equal access to the site.

7. Do not park your vehicle where it is blocking the road, a gate, or another vehicle.

8. Always fill in all your holes.

9. Don't litter.

10. Never disturb buildings or other facilities at a collecting site.

11. Only take home what you can reasonably use!

12. PLEASE keep your vehicle locked at all times!

"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!"

www.gaminal.org/dmc.htm

Senate Bill 263 (S 263)

Paleontological Resources Preservation Act

"Here we go again!"

On February 2, 2005, *Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. INOUE) introduced the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. This bill has already passed out of this committee without amendments and is ready for action on the floor of the Senate. Plans appear to have this bill pass by a simple voice vote (something the Senate is not willing to do for federal judicial nominations!).

*[Daniel AKAKA of Hawaii was the same sponsor of this bill the last time it was introduced and failed. (108th Session of Congress-2004)]

The best plan now is to let your Senators from your state know about this strategy and request their help in blocking any passage of this bill by VOICE VOTE on the floor of the Senate without input from commercial and amateur collectors. This will give us an opportunity to provide some testimony in committee to again block Senate passage.

This is very bad legislation, and I ask that you do what you can to block passage by voice vote. There are many good reasons why, and they boil down to:

1. This bill masquerades as protecting fossils and academic inquiry. IT DOES NOT! To the contrary, it inhibits knowledge and inquiry. The majority of what is known about fossils has been gathered by commercial and amateur collectors, and most museum collections are

the result of commercial and amateur collections.

2. The Secretary of the Interior asked that academic, amateur and commercial fossil collectors be consulted in the preparation of potential legislation regarding fossil resources on public lands. We were not consulted, our input was not solicited, and there was never any opportunity for us to testify. If the bill is stopped, goes back to committee and we get our chance to testify, the bill will most certainly be scrapped, as it serves neither the resource nor the public.

3. This legislation is the product of the academics alone, in concert with BLM and Forest Service personnel through the aggressive, organized lobbying efforts of only a few powerful members of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, and would be a tragic mistake if enacted. It is elitist and exclusionary and was crafted and promoted in a strategy specifically designed to ignore and bypass those of us who would be most affected and the public at large.

Links to find your local House and Senate Representatives are listed below. You will just need to list your state and zip code, and the page will return the mailing address, phone numbers, and additional links for more information such as local offices, for your Representative. Make sure that you send copies both to their local office, and their office in Washington D.C., AND ALSO CALL THEIR OFFICE IN D.C.

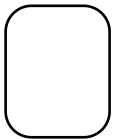
<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

NO Regular MEETINGS!!
Picnic
Saturday
June 18th
11am to 3pm

To: _____
 Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

First Class
 Postage



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

Thanks for your help in this very important issue. Remember that the loss in the passage of this bill may lead to additional legislation to further restrict the collecting of petrified wood and invertebrate fossils. Can mineral collecting restrictions on federal lands be too far behind???

Jim Flora

SFMS Webmaster and Field Trip Chair

Email: sfms@amfed.org
 website: <http://amfed.org/sfms>

Source of some of the above content was taken from <http://www.aaps.net/legislative-alert.htm> and the March 2005 issue of the AFMS Newsletter.

Swap and Shop -

WANTED: Information on a sources for green amber and someone knowledgeable about amber and how to work it. Please call Taran McCarthy at 931-433-2323 and I will return your call.

For Sale: Due to an eye problem I can no longer see to cut my rocks (any longer). For sale of my equipment are 1. 6" diamond Raytech saw \$150.00; 2. Some small uncut faceting material bought 20 years ago ready to cut; 3. Blow torch kit; 4. For capping, 1 5" Dimafast 600 lap barely used - make offer; 5. 2 heavy metal laps (6x1x1) (6x1x1/4) Several other laps & other laps for free. 6. Slab nipper (never used); 7. Index plates for measuring size to cut cabs; 8. Index plate for measuring facets; 9. A few finished cabs; 10. A few

sterling silver ring mounts; Mary Justice Pearson - 615-868-9403

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 \$.50/lb. Your pick, by appointment only - June Miller 931-598-9740.

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

Swap and Shop is for members and friends to advertise goods and services for sale or swap & want ads.