



Volume 59 ♦ Number 07 ♦ July 2013 ♦ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

# Let's Go To the Beach!

*Fun With Geology, Paleontology, and Geoscience*

*Matthew Lybanon*



What's going on? MAGS Membership Meeting programs usually have titles like "Age of marine sediments and mosasaur paleoecology of the South Atlantic margin, Bentiaba, Angola," and they're usually presented by professionals with Ph. D.s. This one

will be presented by an ordinary rockhound, with the unscientific-sounding "Let's Go To The Beach" as the title.

What does that have to do with what MAGSters are interested in? That's easy—it's summer— *Continued, P. 3*

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## PATRIOTIC SAND

Many people think sand is nothing more than tiny brown rocks. The belief is so ingrained that companies market paint, cloth, and other products in a color called "sand," and everyone understands that to mean a sort of light brown, beige color. But there is so much more to sand than first meets the eye. I



started collecting sand many years ago and it wasn't until recent years that I learned I am not alone. There is a whole club devoted to sand collecting—the International Sand Collectors Society (ISCS).

Last year the Georgia Mineral Society (GMS) started a group just *Continued, P. 4*

LORI CARTER

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MAGS Rockhound News ♦ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hey, MAGS Rockhounds,

Summer weather is upon us, with the fragrance of flowers throughout the country of rockhounding. Take time to smell the roses, and pick some blueberries to pack while collecting rocks, minerals, and fossils. Take plenty of water while out and a little extra to share with a friend. Most of my dewberries are already gone, and the blackberries are on the way.

I do occasionally like to go to different places to collect. Sometimes you can find the unusual, rare, or just an oddity of nature. Being on Crowley's Ridge is like a real wonderland with a mix of rocks and minerals with a good amount of rocks. You just have to look.

MAGS President  
*W. Paul Sides*

**Do any of your friends (MAGS Members) complain that they don't get *MAGS Rockhound News*?** There's a simple reason: we don't have a good email address. We know that some of the addresses on the membership roster are bad, but there's nothing we can do if we don't get the correct information. Please help if you can.

Please contribute articles or pictures (everybody likes pictures) on any subject of interest to rockhounds. If it interests you it probably interests others. The 15th of the month is the deadline for next month's issue. Send material to [lybanon@earthlink.net](mailto:lybanon@earthlink.net).

## July DMC Field Trip

WHERE: Patty Construction Quarry, Chattooga County, GA

WHEN: Sunday, July 28, 9:00 A. M. EDT

COLLECTING: Summerville Lace Agate

INFORMATION: Kelsie Grizzard, (770) 328-1217 or [Kelsie.Grizzard@southwire.com](mailto:Kelsie.Grizzard@southwire.com)

## Links to Federation News

- ➔ AFMS: [www.amfed.org/afms\\_news.htm](http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm)
- ➔ SFMS: [www.amfed.org/sfms/](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/)
- ➔ DMC: [www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm](http://www.amfed.org/sfms/dmc/dmc.htm)

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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*Let's Go To The Beach!* time and everybody loves the beach.

Swimming, playing ball, reading a book, beachcombing, dancing on the beach in the evening, appreciating the latest fashions (bikinis), working on your tan (within limits—your dermatologist may be watching you), eating hot dogs and sipping lemonade. All these are good.



The beach is also where geology meets paleontology, with a side order of other geoscience. Some people take a surfboard to the beach. (Elvis did, in *Blue Hawaii*. At the other end of the cultural spectrum, *Einstein On The Beach* is one of the most important 20th century operas.) A MAGSter is likely to take a “Florida snow shovel” (see picture on P. 1). That’s a sifting screen on a stick. It makes it easier to find shark teeth and other fossils.

How do those fossils get there? And for that matter, how did the beach become a beach? What are beaches made out of (isn't it just silicon dioxide, or ...?), and why is the material different from the land just a short distance inland? “Wave action” is a partial answer to the latter question. But does anybody know what “wave action” actually means?

This presentation will help to answer questions like this. You'll find out some things you may not have known about beaches, and the stuff you can find on beaches. And as a bonus you'll also get to hear a little-known story from World War II.

If you've found some interesting items on the beach, bring them to show. Also, bring your beach sand collection. It may be better than mine.

## The Pit Of Pungo

Debbie Schaeffer

On a recent trip to North Carolina, we had the opportunity to visit the Fossil Museum in Aurora. Aurora, North Carolina, is a small town located about 30 minutes northeast of New Bern. The Aurora Fossil Museum, founded in 1976, is a non-profit fossil education resource center. The museum has a wide variety of Pleistocene, Pliocene, and Miocene marine fossils on display. Most displays feature specimens collected from the local Potash-Corp mine. This famous mine has been called the most important source of Pliocene and Miocene fossils in the world.



Unfortunately, you are no longer able to collect in the mine. However, in front of the museum there are a few piles of dirt that you are allowed to sift through to look for teeth and other small fossils. This "Pit of Pungo," as it is called, is an unlimited source of Miocene age fossils donated by the local phosphate mine. In these fossil rich soils, you could find the remains of ancient sharks, whales, bony fish, corals, shells, and other invertebrates. Although we didn't find any large teeth, we had lots of fun sifting through the piles finding numerous small teeth and fossils.



## Hosting Volunteers

Thanks to Bob and Bonnie for being the first volunteers for our new hosting program. We need more volunteers. If you would like to help call Carol at (901) 757-2144. We need hosts for November, January, and February. Your job consists of bringing a bag of ice, setting up and clearing off refreshment tables, and letting the Rock Swap Director know if supplies are needed. If you could sign up once during the year it really would help.

## MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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*Patriotic Sand* for sand collec-  
*Continued from P. 1* tors. This No-  
vember GMS  
and Tellus Science Museum in  
Cartersville, Georgia, are co-  
hosting ISCS SandFest 2013—a  
conference for sand collectors and  
anyone interested in sand. As a  
member of GMS and MAGS, I  
though MAGS members might  
enjoy learning more about sand, so  
from now until November I will  
attempt to lure you to SandFest  
with sand articles.

The topic this month is about  
the spectrum of sand colors. Sand  
can be any color seen in minerals,  
fossils, and even certain organic  
substances because sand comes

from these sources. The notion  
that sand is just tiny rocks is partly  
true, because sand can be eroded  
from rocks and minerals, but it  
may also be sea urchin spines,  
foraminifera tests, bits of shells,  
bits of coral, tiny fossils, bits of  
fossils, amber, precipitated miner-  
als—the list goes on and on.

Since we are celebrating the  
birth of our nation this month,  
let's look at some red, white, and  
blue sand. The red sand is from a  
creek in Arkansas. It is mostly red  
jasper and iron-stained quartz.  
The white sand is pyrophyllite  
from Glendon, North Carolina—  
yes, that Glendon, the place where  
we are invited annually to collect

pyrite. The pyrite is in pyrophyllite  
matrix and the whole floor of  
the quarry is covered in this beau-  
tiful white pyrophyllite sand. The  
blue sand is from a kimberlite pipe  
in Tennessee and is really more of  
a blue gray than a pure blue color.  
Other colors I have in my collec-  
tion include various shades of—  
green, orange, pink, gold (pyrite),  
black, amber, clear, brown... Have  
I lured you yet? All kidding aside,  
if you are interested in SandFest,  
please see the website at  
[www.iscs.sigmabookstore.com](http://www.iscs.sigmabookstore.com).

Next month's topic will be  
more about what sand is plus how/  
why someone would collect sand.

### Crow Creek Field Trip

*Kim Hill*

When my husband asked me  
what I wanted to do on our wed-  
ding anniversary I didn't have to  
think long. "I want to go on a  
field trip," I replied quickly. So on  
my 35th anniversary, on a bright  
sunny Saturday, four of my grand-  
kids—Angelia, Beto, Louis, Ricar-  
do—and I hit the road and headed  
to Crow Creek in Arkansas. The  
kids, those that stayed awake,  
were entertained on the ride there  
by several crop dusting planes.  
The ride was easy, directions  
great, and I just got new tires, so  
the truck doesn't shimmy at 60  
anymore. Before I knew it I was  
hitting 80. When I realized how  
fast I was going I started slowing  
down and was very lucky the state  
trooper we passed had already  
pulled someone over. After that I  
put my cruise control on. For a  
family that is chronically late—  
when we invite each other to fam-

ily gettogethers we actually give  
the time as 1 to 2 hours early so  
people get there when we want  
them there—we actually arrived a  
little early. I had left the husband  
at home so couldn't blame being  
late on him this time.

As soon as we arrived the boys  
found a turtle, a red eared slider.  
Since I had already rescued three  
that week out of the middle of the  
road I assumed this one was head-  
ing for the road too, so I had them  
take it back to the creek. It wasn't  
until later when the kids were ex-  
amining the area they found her  
they saw a hole. She was digging a  
nest for her eggs...being a mother  
I felt really bad for disturbing her!

We were told to bring sun  
block and bug spray. I forgot both  
but luckily this group of kidlets  
doesn't burn...the redhead is an  
altogether different story...and I  
was told the the bugs didn't start  
biting 'til the repellent was ap-  
plied. I didn't have any problem

with bugs and the kids were in the  
water, too much to be a target.

They actually collected a few  
rocks this time. But I had brought  
nets and the creek was full of little  
fish, tadpoles, and frogs. There  
were even some darters. I made  
them practice catch and release,  
except for Fred Crow, the land  
snail that went home with Beto.

The creek was shallow, clear,  
and cool, and typical of Arkansas  
creeks, beautiful. I was born in  
Arkansas and have been striving to  
get back forever. So I was proud  
when Beto came up to me and said  
"You know, of all the creeks we  
have been to lately I think this is  
my favorite." I smiled and said  
that is because it's Arkansas!

As usual I found a bucketful of  
pretty rocks, but only a couple of  
agates—agates are my favor-  
ites—some banded chert, and sev-  
eral of the sand and iron concre-  
tions (is that right?). I found some  
with neat abstract

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## Texas Fossil Marathon

*Bob Williams*

*Hospitality Chair Dallas Paleontological Society*

For MAGS this year Labor Day means collecting fossils in North Central Texas. The Dallas Paleontological Society (DPS) is collaborating with MAGS for a "long weekend" collecting trip which will include a Sunday hunt on a new site for large (eopachydiscus) ammonites near Valley View in Cooke County.

Other Cretaceous sites include Post Oak Creek in Sherman for shark teeth, North Sulphur River near Ladonia for marine inverts and verts, Old Toll Bridge Road in Gainesville for more ammonites, and Rayzor Ranch in Denton for heteromorphs, oysters, and brachiopods. We can also hunt in Pennsylvanian marine deposits at Lost Creek Dam in Jacksboro and at Mineral Wells Fossil Park.

You'll get to meet some of the great folks from DPS and we'll try to get some of the professionals along to help with technical questions. Then get ready for the invasion of the Texans when DPS has its TENNESSEE FOSSIL MARATHON some time in the future!

What could be a better way to celebrate Labor Day than to labor over a hammer and chisel in a cool Texas creek?



## Time to Sign Up for Texas Fossil Marathon

To sign up for this MAGS field trip or ask questions, contact Matthew or Carol Lybanon at (901) 757-2144 or [lybanon@earthlink.net](mailto:lybanon@earthlink.net).

Here are more details on this trip, which is described in the article on the left side of this page.

**Schedule:** Join us for all or any part of the trip.

- ▶ August 30, travel day
- ▶ August 31-September 2, collecting
- ▶ September 3, travel day

**Location:** Valley View, Cooke County, Texas, and surrounding area.

**What to Bring:** Rock hammer and chisel for removing excess matrix or removing fossils from bedrock. Knee pads would be helpful. Buckets or sturdy bags for hauling the finds out. Most places have some water to wade through or at least mud so old sneakers or even mud boots would be good. Screens for sifting out teeth would be useful for some sites.

**How to Get There:** Driving directions from Memphis: Take I-40 W to Little Rock. (Optionally) take the I-440 bypass to I-30 W. Continue on I-30 W into Texas. Take exit 199 onto US-82. Follow US-82 W until it intersects I-35 at Gainesville. Enter I-35 S and continue about 12 miles to exit 486. The total distance is about 500 miles.

**Hotel Information:** Motel 6 Valley View (formerly Valley View Inn & Suites), 1000 S Interstate 35, Valley View, TX 76272, (940) 726-3447. If you make reservations through the Motel 6 website make sure you pick the right motel. There is more than one Valley View in Texas, and if you aren't careful you may book the motel 100 miles away in Wichita Falls. You have to enter the motel's address or ZIP using the site's "Advanced Search" feature to find the right one. Calling the motel directly is simpler. Valley View (this Valley View) is in Cooke County, about 45-50 miles north of the beltway (I-635) around Dallas, on I-35.

This motel will be the meeting place. There are also motels in Gainesville (8-10 miles north) and Denton (about 25 miles south). There are a few motels in Sanger (10-12 miles south), but apparently none of the national chains.

Look for more details in next month's issue.

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*Crow Creek Field Trip* shapes, and some that looked like a seal, a dinosaur head, a face.

*Continued from P. 4* I brought my little 2-wheeled hand truck, which really helped with the heavy bucket until I hit the looser deeper gravel. I need to find something with big wheels because I plan on going back for some of the bigger concretions, and the good ones are always down the creek. And my mom said she would like to go see the creek.

Again on the ride back the kids that stayed awake were entertained by the crop dusting planes. I still don't know how those two figured out how to lie down and sleep back in the jump seat area. All in all another great field trip...a great way to spend time with the grandkidlets...hehehe...and get MORE ROCKS!



## May Board Minutes

*Carol Lybanon*

The MAGS Board of Directors met May 2 at St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 P. M. Present were: Mike Baldwin, Ron Brister, James Butchko, Bonnie Cooper, Bill Gilbert, Charles Hill, Carol Lybanon, Matthew Lybanon, Neville Mayfield, W. C. McDaniel, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Paul Sides, Bob Cooper.

**Secretary:** The minutes were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer's report

was approved as submitted, subject to audit. Bill was reminded that he must file Form 990-N with the IRS by May 15. Matthew needs to figure Show gross deposits for 2012 and give that number to Bill.

**Membership:** Neville stated that he has not contacted our 2012 Members to see if they would renew for 2013. He plans to do so.

**Field Trips:** The next field trip is scheduled for May 18, to Blue Springs and Frankstown.

**Adult Programs:** The program schedule is the same as Ron reported

last month. He asked the Board for ideas for future programs.

**Junior Programs:** Jim reported that, due to a scheduling problem, the June and July programs will have to be swapped. Mike Baldwin will give the June program, on tectonic plates.

**Show:** Jim reported that attendance was about the same as in 2012. Our challenge is to increase attendance on Sunday. W. C. said the best way to judge a Show is to see if the dealers want to return next year. So far we have 100% planning to return. The Board praised Jim and

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*May Board Minutes* W. C. for another great Show. *Continued from P. 6*

**Library:** Ron reported that we had a wonderful sale of used books at our Show. Maybe next year we can ask Members to donate more books to sell.

**Newsletter:** Matthew said the usual: everybody send articles and pictures.

**Webmaster:** Mike has posted the May newsletter but has not mailed the hard copies as yet. He has updated five more pages of our website. We got 40,000 hits last month.

**Historian/Rock Swap:** Nannett is beginning to work on the August indoor rock swap. W. C. thinks that the indoor rock swap needs to be reconfigured. He will share some suggestions when the date gets closer.

## Old Business:

▶ Paul brought in a copy of Robert's Rules of Order, to use as a guide in conducting our meetings.

## New Business:

▶ Carol brought up the need for some real help with hospitality at our Membership Meetings. While W. C. reminded us that each Assistant Director has this responsibility, according to the Bylaws, in practice this is not happening. Carol suggested that Members sign up to take responsibility for hospitality once a year. Their responsibilities will be to set up the refreshment table, help with cleanup, and bring bagged ice. Paul will make an announcement about this new policy at the next Membership Meeting. He will attempt to get people to sign up.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P. M.

## May Meeting Minutes

*Carol Lybanon*

The MAGS Membership Meeting was held at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church on May 10. The meeting was

called to order at 7:30 P. M. 40 Members and 2 visitors were present. BUSINESS:

▶ Treasurer Bill Gilbert reported that our rent has been paid through August. Charles Hill gave a short report on the MAGS field trip to Sugar Creek. W. C. McDaniel listed the May 18 trip to Blue Springs/Frankstown, along with the June 15 trip to Crow Creek, July 13 Pink Place behind-the-scenes visit, August 10 trip to the Rainwater Observatory in Bridgetown, Mississippi, the Labor Day Weekend ammonite field trip to Texas, and the October Graves Mountain open house event.

▶ Nannett McDougal-Dykes reminded Members that August is our indoor picnic month; more information will follow. She thanked the McNeils for opening their home for the April rock swap. Everyone who attended had a fun time.

▶ Newsletter Editor Matthew Lybanon asked Members to share their pictures and articles. As Show Treasurer he has a list of those who owe money for complimentary Member Show tickets that were used. James Butchko reported on the Show. He told Members that we sold out our grab bags. W. C. commended our Show volunteers and praised James for doing such a great job on our Show. The Show dealers filled out their evaluation forms. Every dealer is returning next year.

▶ President Paul Sides asked Members to volunteer as hospitality hosts for each monthly meeting. He asked for two people per month to sign up for this new program. He explained their responsibilities. It will make our refreshment time a little more organized.

DISPLAYS: There were four Junior displays and one adult display.

The MAGS Archaeology Interest Group will meet on May 25 at the C.

H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa.

The business part of the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P. M.

PROGRAM: Guy Weaver introduced Bill Lawrence, who presented an informative and interesting program on Reelfoot Lake Finds.

## On The Fourth Of July Say Thanks To Minerals

*W. C. McDaniel*



About dusk on July 4 many Americans will gather in their communities to watch the time-honored tradition of exploding fireworks with their myriad of colors and shapes. However, without an abundance and variety of minerals they would be all noise and no color. The following web page provides a good overview and description of those minerals:

[www.rocksandminerals.com/fireworks.htm](http://www.rocksandminerals.com/fireworks.htm)

FIREWORKS date back to about the same time as the discovery of gunpowder in ancient China. Americans use nearly 30,000 short tons per year—much of that in celebration of Independence Day on the 4th of July. Individuals purchase and use about two-thirds of the total. The remainder is used in public fireworks displays. About 85 percent of consumer fireworks and half of the display variety are imported from China, Japan,

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*Say Thanks To Minerals* Korea and such European countries as France and Italy.



Despite our use and exposure to fireworks, few people stop to consider the minerals that make them such a spectacular part of the festivities. Did you know that each basic color in a fireworks display is produced by a specific mineral or mineral compound?



- Bright GREENS are made with barium.
- Deep REDS are a product of strontium.
- BLUES come from copper.
- YELLOWS require sodium.

More colors can be created by mixing compounds:

- ORANGE is produced by a mixture of strontium and sodium.
- SILVERY WHITE by a mixture of titanium, zirconium and magnesium alloys.
- LAVENDER is obtained using a copper and strontium mix.

Special effects are created by yet other mineral products:

- Iron filings (from the ore mineral hematite) and small particles of charcoal produce GOLD sparks.
- Bright flashes are created by using fine ground aluminum powder. The use of larger particles, such as small flakes or granules, give a longer, shower-like effect.
- Magnalium, a magnesium-aluminum alloy, produces a tiny series of silvery-white flashes.



## MAGS Archaeology Interest Group

*Ron Brister*

The MAGS Archaeology Interest Group met 10:00 A. M. to noon on June 25 at the C. H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa. Attending were Walter and Peggy Davis, Thomas Jones, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Matthew and Carol Lybanon, and Ron Brister. Nannett inventoried a box of artifacts while waiting for the rest of the group.

After the others arrived we worked on the General Archaeology Exhibit Project. We had another good session selecting artifacts and discussing the content of the exhibit. Ron brought five boxes of the Robert Ford artifacts from the repository for the group to examine.

Thanks to Sam for giving access to the repository and providing paper towels to clean the tables.

The artifacts selected included drills, a petrified wood scraper, Poverty Point objects, a lanceolate point w/incurvate base, complete corner-notched and side-notched PPKs.

Walter offered to make a prototype 2 ft.x 2 ft. shallow exhibit case for stone artifacts. Ron offered to pay for supplies needed for the project. Ron will look for a projectile point/knife identification guide suitable to the Central Mississippi Valley

The next meeting will be on July 27 at Chucalissa.

## Field Trip Schedule

- ▶ **July 13:** Behind the Scenes Tour at the Pink Palace, admission required
- ▶ **August 10** (late day, night): Rainwater Observatory and Planetarium, French Camp, MS (admission required)
- ▶ **August 31-September 2:** North Central Texas, Ammonites and other fossils)
- ▶ **September 28:** Coon Creek (date tentative), admission required

October-December field trips are in planning stages. Trip bulletins will be published for all trips.

*MAGS Rockhound News* thanks Mike Baldwin, Lori Carter, Kim Hill, James Johnson, W. C. McDaniel, Marc Mueller, Debbie Schaeffer, Susan Thomas, Daryl Walker, and Bob Williams for photos that appear in this issue.

## **MAGS Members Participate In Area Camps**

### ***Shelby Farms Park Summer Camp***

Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Carol and Matthew Lybanon, and W. C. McDaniel helped with Summer Camp at Shelby Farms Park.



Campers participated in a dino dig and learned a little about rocks, minerals, and fossils.



### ***Collierville YMCA Day Camp***

Sherri Baldwin headed a section of the Collierville YMCA Day Camp, with the help of Mike Baldwin, Beth Day, Carol and Matthew Lybanon, and W. C. McDaniel.



Campers participated in a variety of activities: rock and mineral identification, fossil information, and lapidary arts.

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## MAGS Membership Meeting Display Schedule

Month	Display
July	1. Regular displays—bring some of your collections and recent finds 2. Display finds from field trip to Crow Creek
August	1. No Displays—Rock Swap/Indoor picnic
September	1. Regular displays—bring some of your collections and recent finds 2. Field trips finds 3. Special Display—Agates. Look for details in the newsletter.
October	1. Regular displays—bring some of your collections and recent finds 2. Field trips finds 3. Special Display—Fossils (no wood). Look for details in the newsletter.
November	1. Regular displays—bring some of your collections and recent finds 2. Field trips finds 3. Special Display—Arkansas Quartz. Look for details in the newsletter.

Here are some pictures of the June Membership Meeting displays.



### Jewelry Bench Tips by Brad Smith

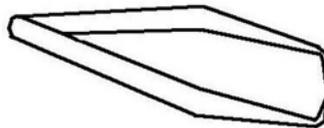
#### DRILL BREAKAGE

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it's in the hole.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work—Three

and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

#### FIND THE BALANCE POINT



With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.

*Continued, P. 12*

# MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MAGS Rockhound News ◊ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

## 16th Annual Missouri Mines Rock Swap

Nannett McDougal-Dykes and Marc Mueller went to Park Hills to represent MAGS at this event, held at the Missouri Mines Historic Site at St. Joe State Park, and brought back some photos. Here are two.



A couple of weeks before he went to Marion, James went to a quarry in Eminence, Missouri. This quarry is a great place to hunt for calcite. It's open, flat, and only a short distance from the road. James took MAGS there on a field trip in February 2013.



## James Johnson's Rockhunting Trips

*Editor's Note: James Johnson is a MAGS Member who lives in Missouri. You can see more of his pictures from his rockhunting trips on his website, [www.jwjrocks.com](http://www.jwjrocks.com).*

James and friends went to Marion, Kentucky, in early June. Rain had turned everything at the Eureka Mine into a gooey, muddy mess.

More rain was forecast. But a little rain doesn't stop rockhounds from doing what they like best. The picture at right shows fluorite a friend had found in a tailings pile. This helped others get an idea of what they should be looking for in the mud.



James started digging in the rubble and discovered a pocket of crystals. Here are a few crystals he pulled from the pocket.



Diggers were looking through the tailing piles on both sides of the pit, including this guy checking out the pile on the south side of the pit.

People came from all over to hunt for fluorite. Some even came from Memphis, including Steve and April Gibbs. Steve was walking around looking for treasures on the south side of the pit.



This dogtooth (below) had slight damage, but it isn't bad.



When MAGS went there in February, just about everybody got some dogtooth and "poker chip" calcite crystals. Who wants to go again?

# Jewelry Bench Tips (cont.)



### FINISHING PIERCED PATTERNS

After sawing patterns there's always a little cleanup to do, and the smaller cutouts can be a challenge. Needle files (7-8 inches) can get into the larger areas, and escapement files (4 inches) can get into some of the corners. But I often find myself looking for even

smaller files. Couldn't even find them at a watchmaker tools supply company, so I had to try something else. I ended up grinding down the tip of a 4" barrette file using a separating disk (or cutoff wheel) in your Dremel or Fore-dom.

Be sure to wear your safety glasses when using this tool. A flake of steel in your eye makes for a bad day.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book *Bench Tips for Jewelry Making* on Amazon.

### Calendar

**July 1, 2013**

Board Meeting, St. Francis Hospital, Library, 6:30 P.M.

**July 12, 2013**

Membership Meeting, Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 7:30 P.M.

**July 13, 2013**

MAGS Field Trip, Behind the scenes at the Pink Palace

**July 27, 2013**

MAGS Archaeology Group Meeting, Chucalissa, 10 A. M.

**July 28, 2013**

DMC Field Trip, Chattooga County, GA

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