

The Secrets of Nonconnah Creek

Ryan Pudwell

July Program



Most people I meet don't know a lot about Nonconnah Creek. On any given day more than 160,000 vehicles will drive within a couple hundred feet of the creek while driving along I-240 South. Nearly 100,000 vehicles cross over the creek daily dri-

ving on TN-385. Yet despite regular proximity to the creek it remains an afterthought for many people. Nonconnah Creek Conservancy is working to bring a greater awareness and appreciation of the creek to the greater Memphis community.

Continued, P. 4

In this issue

The Secrets of Nonconnah Creek	P. 1
Father's Day Fossil Hunting	P. 1
MAGS And Federation Notes	P. 2
President's Message	P. 3
Somewhere North Of Murfreesboro	P. 3
Nonconnah Creek Finds	P. 5
Fossil Road Show	P. 5
Fabulous Tennessee Fossils	P. 6
MAGS Notes	P. 9
Born In Greenland	P. 9
May Board Minutes	P. 10
Jewelry Bench Tips	P. 11
Attention, Juniors!	P. 11
MAGS At A Glance	P. 12

FATHER'S DAY FOSSIL HUNTING

We enjoyed the day with a short hike to Nonconnah Creek to search for agates and fossilized goodies. We had fun finding a few agates and crinoids. Josh had the find of the day with a piece of bryozoan fossil. There were many fresh empty mussels and a chewed up stick, a sure sign that a beaver had been there before us. Bess, the Dalmat-



CHRISTINE ANDERSON
ian, liked that stick the best. Houdini, the Husky, enjoyed some dog paddling down the creek. We saw all stages of amphibious life—eggs, tadpoles, the tiniest of young frogs, and bigger adult frogs. My favorite part was the section of the creek where the fish were nesting, called redds. These look like little circles everywhere. There were

Continued, P. 5

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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MAGS AND FEDERATION NOTES

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, Memphis, Tennessee

The objectives of this society shall be as set out in the Charter of Incorporation issued by the State of Tennessee on September 29, 1958, as follows: for the purpose of promoting an active interest in the geological finds and data by scientific methods; to offer possible assistance to any archaeologist or geologist in the general area covered by the work and purposes of this society; to discourage commercialization of archaeology and work to its elimination and to assist in the younger members of the society; to publicize and create further public interest in the archaeological and geological field in the general area of the Mid-South and conduct means of displaying, publishing and conducting public forums for scientific and educational purposes.

MAGS Membership Meetings are at 7:00 P. M. on the second Friday of each month May-October, and 10:00 A.M. on Saturday after the second Friday November-April. The meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5530 Shady Grove Road, Memphis, Tennessee.

MAGS Website: memphisgeology.com

MAGS Show Website: <https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/rocks>



Please contribute articles or pictures on any subject of interest to rockhounds. The 20th of the month is the deadline for next month's issue. Send material to mlybanon@yahoo.com.

Go to <https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program> for the DMC field trip schedule and other information.

Links to Federation News

- ➔ AFMS: www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm
- ➔ SFMS: <https://www.southeastfed.org/>

President's Message

Agate Days and Agate Ways

MAGS Celebrates Agates

July 12

"Agate" is one of MAGS Members' favorite words, most collected and most appreciated rock in our hobby and nomenclature. Why? The most basic and simple answer—not sure if you need a complex geological or psychological answer—is that they are plentiful in this area and throughout the world, their colors and shapes are varied and wide, and they can be polished, shaped in a variety of ways, or just left alone. MAGS will celebrate the agate (jasper) with a display at the July 12 MAGS Membership Meeting.

July 12—Agate Displays featuring:

- Agates of the south—banded, fortification, river, stream, gravel bars, and parking lots
- Lake Superior
- Lace Agates
- Botswana
- Brazilian

Members are requested to bring and show off your agates whether it is one or a bucket load. Your favorite, your best, rough or polished. All displays will have the chance to win an agate.

Junior Program Returns

Attend and receive a special gift.

- July—Geode
- August—Choice of tumbled stone
- September—Choice of polished sphere
- October—Choice of Polished carved mushroom

- November—Choice of carved heart

- December—Holiday Party

Programs

- July—Mike Baldwin—Geodes. Also you get to crack your geode.
- August—Rock Swap and Picnic
- September—Mike Baldwin—Exploring
- October—To be announced
- November—To be announced
- December—To be announced

APW For MAGS Members

APW is a new program for MAGS Members, beginning July 1 and extending until December 31. Each and all current MAGS Members may participate. Here is an overview:

1. Attend any of the following events and you will be able to enter.
 - Membership Meetings
 - Board Meetings
 - Field trips
 - Rock swaps
 - Special events
2. Participate in any the listed events and you will be able to enter.
 - Help organize Membership Meeting
 - Bring an exhibit
 - Bring refreshments
 - Do a newspaper article
 - Help with a special event
3. How do I enter? When you attend and/or participate write your name on a provided slip of paper. You do this each time for the attending and participating events. You do this every month.
4. What do I win?

- Drawings at a time to be announced. December or January.
- If your name is drawn you win a rock related specimen. We will be inventorying club collection and selecting prizes from there.
- The exact number of prizes will be determined at a later date.

Found On Facebook

Cannon County, Tennessee, 1938...

Caption

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Wilchers, Route #2, Woodbury, Tenn. and the geodes they have plowed upon their farm on the highway between Murfreesboro and McMinnville.

Source

Tennessee Department of Conservation



W. C.

Somewhere North Of Murfreesboro

Michael Howard

This specimen was collected by Meredith York of Stephens, Arkansas, at one of the cinnabar mines north of Murfreesboro in Pike County, several years back. Unfortunately, my friend is not the best at record keeping, so all he could remember was that the locality was north of Murfreesboro. If you look on a

Continued, P. 8

The Secrets of Nonconnah Creek *Continued from P. 1*

When the conservancy was founded in 2016 one of their main purposes was to see a tract of land in the Balmoral neighborhood preserved as a natural space for the benefit of the wildlife that calls it home as well as for people to be able to visit and enjoy. In December of 2020 the property was acquired from the Felt family by TennGreen and is now protected by a conservation easement. The northern portion of that tract, known also as Christine's Woods (in honor of Chris Spindel, the first president of Nonconnah Creek Conservancy), is home to a remnant of the creek's historical flood plain. Several plant species that are not common in West Tennessee can be found there including, pale green orchid (a native bog orchid), leafy blue flag (*Iris brevicaulis*, photo on P. 1), and parsley hawthorn. It is also home to a great blue heron rookery that has more than 20 nests. The rookery is a busy place from January to June with the peak occupancy being from April to May with 80-100 herons present including young.



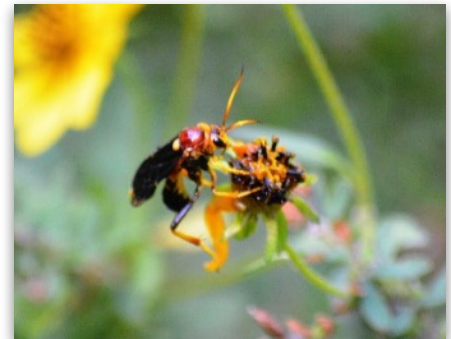
Agate from Nonconnah Creek

Part of making a case for long term conservation comes from learning more about what the creek and its watershed hold, both living and non-living things. On account of the gravels in the southern part of Shelby County being closer to the surface than they are further north, one can more easily find rocks and fossils along Nonconnah Creek as compared to the Wolf and Loosahatchie Rivers. Typical things you could expect to find in the gravels of Nonconnah Creek include crinoid fossils, a variety of corals, agates, banded chert, petrified wood, and occasionally geodes. Less frequently people also find Native American artifacts. There are also deposits from the Pleistocene Era exposed along some parts of the creek.

The Pleistocene deposits have been the subject of a couple studies. The first study followed the discovery of mastodon fossils in the area near Perkins Road when the Mall of Memphis was under construction in the late 1970s. There was some further study completed in the mid-1980s as well. From looking at organic material that was preserved in that layer we know that during the last Ice Age the area along Nonconnah Creek was home to a forest dominated by Oak and Spruce. There were also remains from a few insects and snails that have been found in that layer as well.

With regards to Native American artifacts, people still find them along the creek today. I know of at least 6 stone points that were found along the creek in 2023. In the 1950s Dr. James Kee

and his friends spent a good amount of time collecting artifacts along the creek. Dr. Parish recently met with a guy who used to visit a swimming hole near the mouth of John's Creek with his friends and while there they would sometimes find artifacts.



Agathilla bradleyi

Then there's the wildlife. In 2023 we spent a good bit of time documenting as many species of plants, animals, fungi, and other things living as we could along the creek and in its watershed. We recorded sightings of 1100+ species 2023 and in 2024 we have come across even more species that we previously didn't know were present in the watershed. Learning about the aquatic species that are in the creek is an interesting endeavor. Our count of native freshwater mussel species sits at eight and from what we saw last year, there are more native species of fish present in the creek now than when they were last surveyed about 50 years ago. We even found a species of wasp (*Agathilla bradleyi*) that is not documented very often, it may even be the first state record for this species.

As we look to the future, we hope to see more of the land along the creek preserved for future generations to enjoy. *Continued, P. 5*

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The Secrets of Nonconnah Creek *Continued from P. 4*

In the meantime, we continue to raise awareness of the Nonconnah Creek in a number of ways. One of our favorite things to do is to visit different natural areas along the creek and in its watershed. When-

ever the conservancy hosts field trips and when individuals visit creek, we encourage people to document the plants, fungi, and wildlife they see. By doing this we are able to better understand the biodiversity of the Nonconnah watershed. We also host clean-ups at least once a quarter and encour-

age people to be mindful of their impact on natural spaces. Another thing we do is show up for community events and give programs for groups that request it (like MAGS). I look forward to sharing more about some of the Secrets of Nonconnah Creek at the July meeting.

Father's Day Fossil Hunting *Continued from P. 1*

lots of redds in this colony or shoal. The males generally build the nests and tend to the eggs after spawning with a female. We even got to see a fierce battle for nesting territory!

We certainly were glad to celebrate Dad by participating in one of his favorite activities. Happy Father's Day to all our MAGS dads.



Nonconnah Creek Finds

Bill McManus

Here are my latest finds from Nonconnah Creek. I'd encourage everyone to join their Conservancy (Ryan usually attends MAGS meetings).



Fossil Road Show

On June 8 the Union County Heritage Museum in New Albany, Mississippi, presented its annual Fossil Road Show. George Phillips gave a talk on the paleontology of the K-Pg boundary in Mississippi, and there were a variety of other fossil-related activities.

MAGS was represented by Nannett McDougal-Dykes. You can see a few photos (thanks, Nannett) on P. 9.

Continued, P. 9

Fabulous Tennessee Fossils

*Dr. Michael A. Gibson,
University of Tennessee at Martin*

FTF 112

Connecting to Geohistory



Over the past nine years (yes, it has been nine years) that I have been writing Fabulous Tennessee Fossils, I have periodically commented on how serendipity has always fascinated me and how much the people and history of paleontology, especially in Tennessee, is as interesting to me as the fossils themselves. Many of my articles focus on the people and events of Tennessee paleontology rather than the fossils of Tennessee and this essay continues that train of thought. Although I retired in May of 2023, and moved to Mobile, Alabama, exactly one year ago this month, that year has not been nearly long enough for me to get my “home office and laboratory” fully established and functional. It has taken me all that time, and monthly trips back to my office and laboratory at UT Martin and my cabin at the Coon Creek Science Center, to pack up and move my library to Mobile to unload everything (I am a “paper packrat” according to my wife). Much of it is still in boxes as I do not have enough space (room space or shelf space in rooms—although I do have 25 shelves at this point). Our new home has an attached two-car garage; however, one half of that has been turned into my combination “office-lab-library-box storage” area—a.k.a. “paper packrat central”. As I slowly unpack books and papers from boxes and organize the chaos, I

am constantly surprised by my “archival discoveries”—so many things that I honestly did not remember having. Serendipitously, I was organizing my Coon Creek library when I made a discovery within my reprint collection, or should I say “rediscovery” for I know I recognized this salutation at the time I acquired this publication.

But first, I must explain why a single copy of a publication garners being classified as “significant”. In our digital day and age, pdf copies of published papers are commonplace and easily downloaded from the Internet and digital journals are “open access”; however, it has not always been the case (as I mentioned several years ago in an earlier FTF). There was a time when University libraries purchased expensive journals for their faculty and students to use. Usually these could not be removed from the building. To make publications more accessible, a researcher who published an article in a journal could also purchase a quantity of “reprints”, or standalone copies of that article, so that they could send them (by “snail mail” as we call it today) to colleagues. This was especially important in the days before copy machines. Usually, the author would personalize the reprint with something like “with compliments of the author”, or more personal comments, depending upon the

author’s and recipient’s relationship. Most researchers built vast personal libraries of reprints over the span of their careers, which also resulted in unique filing systems within offices and laboratories.

I was no exception and recall sending off for my first reprint in 1976 as a sophomore geology major at the College of William and Mary, having been told of the tradition by my paleontology mentor and advisor, the late Gerald H. Johnson. Over the years, I have been fortunate also to acquire reprint libraries, along with entire professional libraries, from other professional geologists and paleontologists upon their retirements or passing. Hmm, maybe my wife’s comment about me being a “paper packrat” is not so farfetched after all? I honestly do not know how many reprints I own, but they do fill six five-tier filing cabinets! My oldest reprints are from the late 1800s from European geologists. My reprint collection is important enough to me as is, after all, they are documents of history, but some reprints have more meaning to me than others. Especially those reprints that have commemorations on them. Also, many recipients of reprints used those reprints to write personal notes about the research or highlight specific portions that were relevant, or controversial, in their opinion. Reprints *Continued, P. 7*

Fabulous Tennessee Fossils
Continued from P. 6

can become an important “primary reference” in archival research.

In organizing some of my reprints on paleontology, specifically Cretaceous paleontology of our region, I came across a copy of a U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 274-E entitled *Owl Creek (Upper Cretaceous) Fossils from Crowleys Ridge southeastern Missouri*, published in 1955. Technically this is not a reprint per-se as the U.S.G.S. self-published their works so each author got multiple copies of the entire publication rather than standard reprints,

but the goal was the same. As it turns out, I have two copies of 274-E: the one I just serendipitously rediscovered (and had forgotten that I owned) and one that I obtained when the Paul Meek Library at UT Martin decided it did not need to archive paper copies of government documents anymore now that they were online. The Library tossed them into their dumpster, but an observant custodian who knows of my passion for books and papers contacted me in time that I could “dumpster-dive” and retrieve them!

The copy of 274-E that I want to focus on has a very specific “chain of custody” that, to me, is historic and provides me with a sense of being a part of that history as this specific copy is now part of my personal library. Figure 1 is a

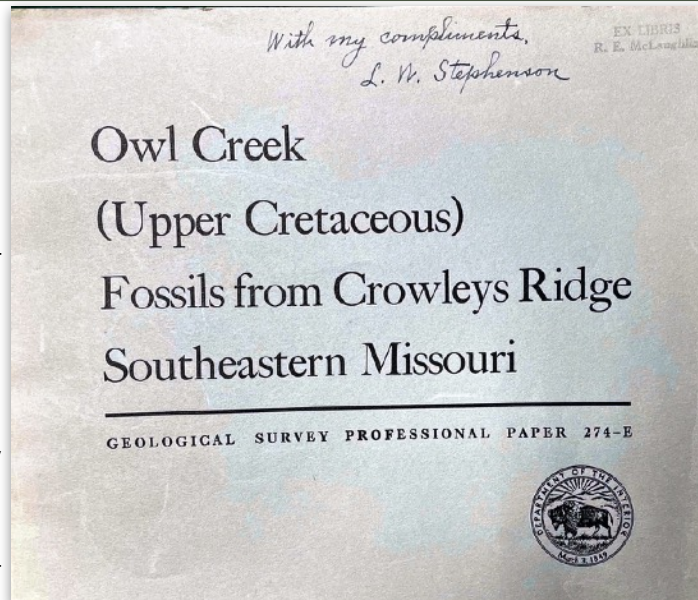


Figure 1. Cover of U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 274-E by Lloyd W. Stephenson in the author's personal library. Notice the handwritten personalization written by Stephenson at the top of the page and the *Ex Libris* stamp by Robert E. McLaughlin (UT Knoxville paleontologist). These names provide a definitive “chain of ownership” for these publications. (Photo Credit: MAG).

photograph of the upper half of the cover of my 274-E. First, notice the stamp “Ex Libris R.E. McLaughlin”. Dr. Mac, as he was called, was the paleobotanist at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville until his retirement in 1988. I met Dr. Mac the summer of 1988 when I began my Ph.D. studies at UTK. My first teaching assistantship job was to T.A. his summer Historical Geology course. I have mentioned Dr. Mac before and promised a more detailed essay devoted to him, which I am still researching and promise for the future (however, it turns out that Dr. Mac has been a very difficult person to acquire knowledge about). What is important for this essay is that this specific publication was Dr. Mac's personal copy and that he gave it to me that

summer when I helped him to pack up and clean out his office at UTK. At that time, I had never heard of the Coon Creek Formation, had never been to West Tennessee or Missouri, and had never even worked in the Cretaceous anywhere.

In Figure 1, you will also see handwritten in blue ink with a distinctive nice script the dedication “with my compliments, L. W. Stephenson”. In 1988, this meant nothing to me, other than I did recall the Stephenson name from my William and Mary days, but only vaguely. Clearly, Stephenson sent this specific copy of 274-E to Dr. Mac

directly. So, who was L.W. Stephenson? Well, let me just say he is a giant figure in the history and paleontology of the southeastern U.S. Lloyd William Stephenson (1876-1962) was a U.S. Geological Survey stratigraphic paleontologist (biostratigrapher) of the highest caliber who left a lasting legacy on stratigraphy that we use constantly. A detailed look at Stephenson will be the topic of next month's FTF; however, for the purposes of my current essay, I am sharing the sense of wonder I feel as the proud owner, even if by hand-me-down, of a personal copy of this work, placing me in the direct chain of custody of a specific document. It is akin, professionally speaking, to receiving a family Bible from a long-lost great-uncle. Stephenson pub-

Continued, P. 8

Fabulous Tennessee Fossils lished his first paper in 1907.
Continued from P. 7

In 1914—1917, about the same time that Carl O. Dunbar of Yale was working in the Devonian Ross Formation of Tennessee, and that Bruce Wade was working on our Coon Creek Tongue of the Ripley Formation in Tennessee, and again late in his career (1950s), Stephenson was working on correlation issues related to the Cretaceous of West Tennessee. Stephenson was influential to these iconic paleontologists who began their careers in Tennessee.

Stephenson's work on Crowley's Ridge was the result of his visiting the region, first in 1933, and then

again near Olmstead Landing ferry in 1936, followed up by a two-day collecting trip in 1938. Professional Paper 274-E, published 17 years later, was the result of these trips. In another historical twist for me, in the middle 1990s, I led several field trips to Crowley's Ridge for my Historical Geology class. I had obtained the location of fossiliferous outcrops to visit from a field guide that was published elsewhere and later; however, when I looked at my field trip hand-out for the class, guess what publication I had listed for them to read (I had put the Paul Meek Library copy on reserve, not remembering I had a L.W. Stephenson – Dr. Mac copy of my own). Don't you just love historical serendipity!

Somewhere North Of Murfreesboro
Continued from P. 3

map of the Mercury mining district, there are at least 10 mercury mines on the east end of the district, and all of them north of that community. Meredith was uncertain what the fluorescent mineral was so he sent it to me for examination and my opinion.

My best guess is first based on the mineral's fluorescent color ... orange in LW, MW, and SW, strongest in LW to the eye. Terlinguaite, another possibility, is always yellow in LW & SW. My guess is Calomel. My second basis for picking Calomel is that it is fairly widespread throughout the Arkansas Mercury District, reported by many of the previous workers. Terlinguaite is only reported from one mercury mine, which is north of Murfreesboro, and by the investigator who identified Artsmithite from its type locality, the Funderburk prospect in Pike County, Arkansas. I have visited that location and did find a specimen with cinnabar, native mercury, and calomel that fluoresces orange! So, Terlinguaite is just too rare and the specimen is

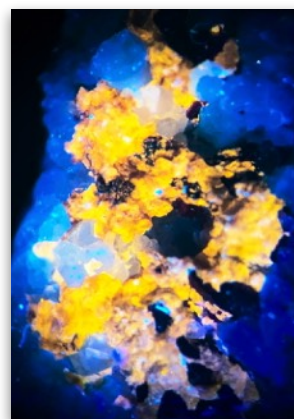
not the right color fluorescence to be that mineral.

Anyway, there are 6 photographs in this report ... the first two were taken at 10X with my Wilde-Heerberg Microscope and then cropping the round image to a squarish one, resulting in about 20X magnification. The first picture is in natural light, red cinnabar is scattered about with a fine-grained tannish green aggregate on a quartz druse with very fine-grained cream white dickite ... dickite and cinnabar are a common association on quartz in the Arkansas Mercury district. The second picture is taken using my LW 365nm lamp and the tannish green mineral (Calomel) responds with a strong orange color.

The second set of images consist of 4 standard photos, taken with my cell phone and cropped to have full images, with a 1 mm scale in each photo. First image of this set is in natural light, second image is in LW 365nm, third image in the set is MW 310nm, and the fourth image is in SW 254nm, taken with 3 SW lamps. All fluorescence is orange, not yellow.

Enjoy the pictures!

The following information is common to all six photos:
Cinnabar & tan fine-grained Calomel, east end Mercury District, Pike Co., AR, Coll by M York



10X, LW 365nm



10X, natural light

Continued, P. 9

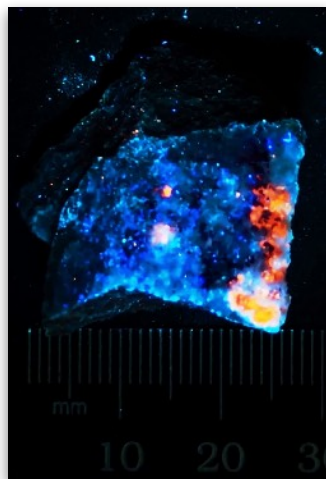
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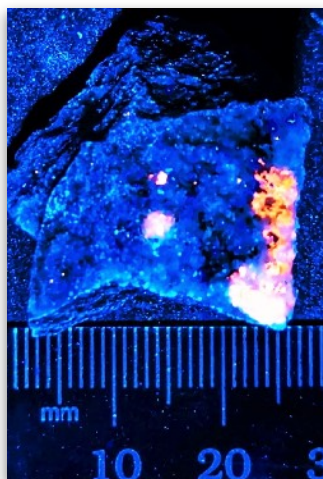
*Somewhere North Of Murfreesboro
Continued from P. 3*



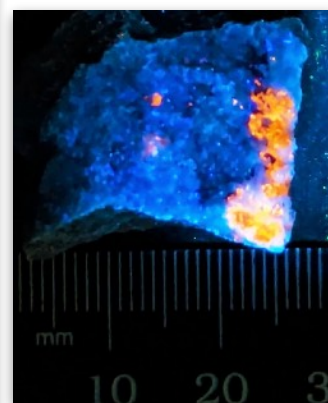
Natural light



LW 365nm

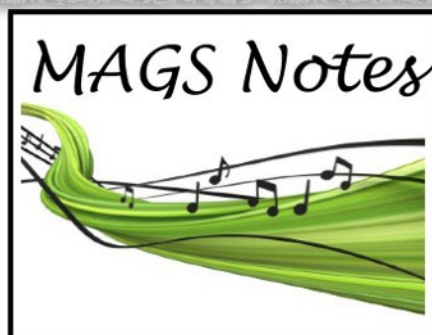


MW 310nm



SW 254nm

*Fossil Road Show
Continued from P. 5*



Adult Programs

July 12: Ryan Pudwell, Nonconnah Creek

August 9: Indoor Rock Swap

September 13: Kent Moran, CERI

Junior Programs

Junior programs are back!

July 12: Mike Baldwin, Geodes

August 9: Indoor Rock Swap

September 13: Mike Baldwin, Exploring

Field Trips

July/August: Arkansas



July Birthdays

- 1 Francie Collins
- 2 Rose Gregory
- 3 Wayne Williams
- 5 DeeDee Goossens
Clay Crumpton
- 8 David Day
Jorge Leal
- 9 Christine Anderson
- 10 Nannett McDougal-Dykes
- 21 Susan Vaughn
- 26 Devin George
Ron Budynas
Renee Lasater
- 28 Drew Buchner

Born In Greenland

Matthew Lybanon, Editor

Scientists who study the build-up of continental crust know that the initial crustal nuclei are commonly either destroyed by recycling or buried by younger rocks. Thanks to the chemical fingerprint of river sand and rock samples from a little-studied remote region of Finland, a

Continued, P. 10

Born In Greenland team of researchers from the University of Copenhagen were able to show that not only is the Fennoscandian geological region—which includes Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Finland—roughly 250 million years older than previously thought, but the entire region was born in Greenland.

By scouring the remote Pudasjärvi and Suomajärvi regions of Finland—an outcrop nestled between some of Northern Europe's oldest mountains—and analyzing the geochemistry tracers U-Pb, O, and Hf, the team was able to date the crystals and tie them to Greenland's crust. The researchers believe that the Fennoscandian region broke away from Greenland as a "seed," and shifted for hundreds of millions of years until it "took root" where Finland is today. Then, the plate grew around it, amassing new geological material in the process and giving us modern-day Scandinavia.

"The zircon crystals we found in river sand and rocks from Finland have signatures that point toward them being much older than anything ever found in Scandinavia, while matching the age of Greenlandic rock samples," Andreas Petersson, researcher at the university's Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, said in a statement. At the same time, the results of three independent isotope analyses confirm that Scandinavia's bedrock can most likely be linked to Greenland.

The study sheds light on the formation and growth of Archean



The study region is in central Finland.

cratons, the oldest parts of the continental crust that formed during the Precambrian's Archean era (4 billion to 2.5 billion years ago), when life first arose. The researchers believe that understanding how continents formed may help us comprehend why Earth is the only planet in the Solar System with life. Even the fact that our continental crust includes granite is unique when compared to other planets.

The study also offers a fresh way of thinking about how the continents grew in early days. "The most commonly used models assume that Earth's continental crust began to form when the planet was formed, about 4.6 billion years ago," Tod Waight (geologist in the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management) said. "Instead, our and several other recent studies suggest that the chemical signatures showing growth of the continental crust can only be identi-

fied about a billion years later. This means that we may need to revise much of what we thought about how early continents evolved."

Ref: *Andreas Petersson, Tod Waight, Anthony I.S. Kemp, Martin. J. Whitehouse, John W. Valley; An Eoarchean continental nucleus for the Fennoscandian Shield and a link to the North Atlantic craton. Geology 2023;; 52 (3): 171-175. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1130/G51658.1>*

May Board Minutes

Josh Anderson

Zoom meeting called to order 6:30. Present: W.C. McDaniel, Christine Anderson, Joshua Anderson, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Bonnie Cooper, Matthew Lybanon.

Secretary: Minutes submitted via email, presented to Board, and approved.

Treasurer: Report approved. 2023 Taxes submitted for filing.

Membership: 6 renewals.

Field Trips: May 4-20 Mile Creek, Joint trip with N. Miss. Club—expect bad weather. June 15—Chucalissa .MAGS will have family day event. July/August—Arkansas, Blanchard Creek Cave tour, fossil hunting in Sylamore Creek, possible side trip to Leslie. September TBA. October—DMC, date/site TBA, 12th proposed as date. November TBA. December no trip.

Youth Programs: Position .empty. Need chair. Adults and youths folded together for now.

Adult Programs: Actively pursuing speakers for next year. Will coordinate with W.C. for possible candidates. May—Dr. Julie Johnson, U. of Memphis Geology. "The Crystalline Chronicles." • June—Open. July—Ryan Pudwell, Nonconnah Creek. August—Rock *Continued, P. 11*

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May Board Minutes swap. September–Open.
Continued from P. 10 October–Dr.

Ryan Parish, U. of Memphis Archaeology.

Library: New book: *Everything Rocks and Minerals*–National Geographic. Reviewed and book report being submitted for newsletter.

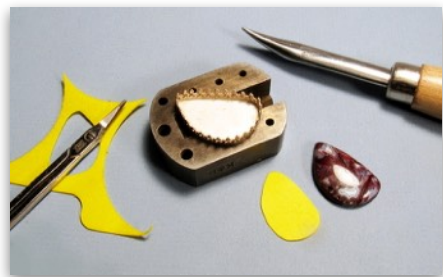
Editor: Requests 3 months of material and events be given to newsletter editor in advance of publication.

Rock Swaps: The White House and MAGS Memorial Day Sale, Saturday, May 25, 10 A.M.–2 P.M., Lou White, (901) 491-9508, 3805 Melanie June Dr., Bartlett, Tennessee. Rocks and minerals, fossils, geodes, petrified wood, jewelry and beads. Open to members and public. Bring your tables and chairs. Bring your drinks and snacks.

2024 Show Review: Dealers reported to be happy and satisfied with sales over weekend. Concessions need to move next year away from the main corridor, back about 20 ft. Will survey membership about Show. Checking account–procured replacement checks at a good price from Costco. We should be good for many years.

Old and New Business: None.
Adjourned 6:58.

Jewelry Bench Tips by Brad Smith



RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides a lot of the stone. The solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. But if you

choose to raise it up, the question is what is the best material to use?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now think that might be a problem when used in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose.

In any case, I now prefer to insert a flat sheet to boost up my stones. It can be a scrap of metal or some plastic from product packaging or old credit cards. In either case, just cut a piece to loosely fit into the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check its height.



TRANSPARENT CABS

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I usually cut out the back of the bezel to allow background light to show off the colors and patterns in the stone. If this is not possible or appropriate, I worry that the silver bezel will tarnish under the stone and will ruin its brilliance. What to do?

My solution is one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror

that will never tarnish. Mylar is readily available in craft and gift wrap stores, or in a pinch from a party balloon supplier. You may even want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

See Other Tips in my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Problems

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

Attention, Juniors!



MAGS is a member club of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS), a federation of clubs in 10 southeastern states.

The SFMS Youth Resources Committee is excited to announce a new annual contest! SFMS club juniors are encouraged to submit a photo of rocks, minerals, gems, lapidary, and fossil items in the form of the year “2025” to be used on the officer's contact lists page of the SFMS website. The deadline for entries is August 16, 2024. Please click the following link for rules and details:

<https://www.southeastfed.org/contests-awards/juniors-year-in-rocks-contest>

Each entry must be the work of one person, not a group. Only two entries per SFMS member club, so don't delay. More details in *The Lodestar* (SFMS newsletter).

Do you accept the challenge?

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

MAGS At A Glance July 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	 4	5	6
7	8 Zoom Board Meeting, 6:30 P.M.— NOTE UNUSUAL DATE	9	10	11	12 Membership Meeting, 7:00 P.M., "The Secrets of Nonconnah Creek"	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 DMC Field Trip
28	29	30	31	1 Coming in August ... Annual Summer Indoor Rock Swap and Picnic	2	3

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society
PO Box 880
Cordova, TN 38088

