MAGS Rockhound News

Volume 62 ◊ Number 10 ◊ October 2016 ◊ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

Fossils of Arkansas

Bill Prior, Geologist Supervisor, Arkansas Geological Survey



An overview of some of the different fossils found in the five major physiographic divisions of Arkansas that are the Ozark Plateaus, Arkansas River Valley, Ouachita Mountains, West Gulf Coastal Plain and Mississippi River Alluvial Plain (including

Crowley's Ridge. 500 million years of earth history in an hour or less. *Editor's Note*: Bill's recent work has involved coal and coal bed methane production in the Arkoma Basin in western Arkansas and the geologic remapping of northeastern Arkansas.

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MAGS LOGO CONTEST WINNER

MAGS Members selected a new logo at the September Membership Meeting. A committee narrowed the field from nine submissions to three finalists, and Members present at the September meeting voted. Sherri and Mike Baldwin created the winning design—congratulations!

The contest was announced to all

MAGS Members in July; the announcement was repeated several times. The contest v

repeated several times. The contest was open to all MAGS Members, who had to submit designs by August 30 that met several criteria: simple design, one color (or B&W) in addition to multi-color versions, and include the club's full name.

Thanks to all who submitted designs.



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MAGS AND FEDERATION NOTES

President's Message

Logo: At the September meeting MAGS members selected a new logo. The logo becomes MAGS's face and in many cases our first contact to the public. The winning design presented elsewhere in the newsletter was submitted by Sherri and Mike Baldwin. Special thanks to all who participated in the design and selection of the new logo.

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MAGS General Membership Meetings and MAGS Youth Meetings are held at 7:00 P. M. on the second Friday of every month, year round. The meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5530 Shady Grove Road, Memphis, TN.

MAGS Website: memphisgeology.org

MAGS Show Website: www.theearthwideopen.com

We aren't kidding when we say this is a newsletter for and by the members of MAGS. If an article has a byline the author is a MAGS Member, unless explicitly stated otherwise (we welcome articles by nonmembers). If there is no byline, the article was written or compiled by the Editor (a MAGS Member). 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.

October DMC Field Trip

WHERE: Memphis Stone & Gravel Co., Southaven, MS (MAGS is the host)

WHEN: Saturday, October 15, 8:30 A. M.-3:00 P. M.

COLLECTING: Chert gravels with fossils, petrified

wood, agate, conglomerate, quartz, more

INFORMATION: Alan Parks or Charles Hill (see P. 3)

Links to Federation News

- → AFMS: www.amfed.org/afms news.htm
- → SFMS: www.amfed.org/sfms/
- → DMC: <u>www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm</u>

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President's Message DMC: MAGS Continued from P. 2 will host the DMC field trip

on Saturday, October 15, at the Memphis Stone and Gravel Mine on Highway 51 in Southaven, Mississippi. The club hosts a DMC trip about every two years. Please make every effort to attend, not only to collect at new mine, but to help the club host participants from throughout the southeast. MAGS will be providing snacks, lunch, and prizes.

Field trips: Rumor is that the July field trip to Jonesboro, Arkansas, the August field trip to North Carolina, and the September field trip to Batesville, Arkansas, produced some really good finds. Please confirm those rumors by showing off and displaying your finds at the October meeting

Officer nominations for 2017/

18: The selection of MAGS Members to nominate for officers for 2017/16 is underway. Several positions remain available just for you to select.

W. C. McDaníel

MAGS/DMC Field Trip

Charles Hill

Hello again, all you MAGSters out there. The October field trip for our club this year is also the Dixie Mineral Council trip. Our host is Memphis Stone and Gravel. The details of the trip are covered in the DMC flyer, but briefly here they are: We will meet at 8.30 A. M. on Saturday, October 15, at Memphis Stone and Gravel, located at 3745 Highway 51 N. in Southaven, Mississippi (Desoto County). The field trip

host is Alan Parks, who will be on site Saturday. Memphis Stone and Gravel will be providing lunch—hamburgers and hot dogs. MAGS will provide picnic ware and other odds and ends. We will be hunting in oversized piles for chert fossils, banded chert, agates, jaspers, and petrified wood.

This will mostly be surface hunting with little, if any, digging. Wear comfortable, strong shoes and dress for the heat. Bring wet weather gear just in case. A pry bar and some containers will be necessary. A rule of thumb when working a quarry is to bring a hard hat. The hard hat may not be needed, but at some quarries they are mandatory. The DMC field trip is a chance for us to showcase MAGS, so come on! Let's show up in big numbers and strut our stuff.

Charles

Editor's Note: For information contact Alan Parks [(901) 481-9730 or alan.parks@msgravel.com] or Charles Hill [(901) 624-4232 or Hunter3006@aol.com].

Falls of the Ohio State Park Interpretive Center Reopens

Alan Goldstein



New hands-on exhibits can be seen at the Falls of the Ohio State Park Interpretive Center. The center closed for 13 months for a \$6-million renovation that included work in our auditorium to improve accessibility, and replacement of the center's roof.

The exhibits revolve around four themes that connect the center and the park's fossil beds. The themes are "An Ancient Sea," "A Changing Land," "Converging Cultures," and "The Falls Today." Visitors will walk through a Devonian sea, learn about archaeology, listen to one of the few modern recordings of the Shawnee language, hear the story of Lewis and Clark's journey from the Falls of the Ohio to the Pacific Ocean, and discover the Falls today.



The galleries also include exhibits and activities specifically for children in preschool to second grade. A life-sized graphic of a great blue heron used throughout the exhibits makes those children's activities easy to find. The old exhibits were largely text and objects behind glass, whereas the new exhibits offer an exciting, immersive learning experience with state-of-the-art audio, video and interactive elements.

Fossils that have never been on permanent display are featured in a display called

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Falls of the Ohio "The Best of Continued from P. 3 the Best." It includes a

complete *Odontocephalus* trilobite found by a fourth grade student and a small *Onychodus* fish jaw found by a visitor 20 years ago. Removing fossils from the state park and larger National Wildlife Conservation Area is illegal, but the park preserves rare finds found by visitors and staff.

Three types of collecting piles are maintained year round for rockhounds and visitors who feel obligated to take a rock as a souvenir. Close to 40 tons of Waldron Shale with its rich Silurian fauna and 20 tons of subsoil with Devonian fossils from the Sellersburg Quarry are labeled. A mineral pile from the fluorite mines of southern Illinois is also available for digging. It contains fluorite, barite, calcite, and sphalerite.

The Falls of the Ohio website (www.fallsoftheohio.org) contains on-line exhibits, brochures, interactive faunal lists, and more in geology and paleontology, as well as archaeology, current flora and fauna.

The Interpretive Center hours are 9 A. M.-5 P. M., Monday-Saturday, and 1-5 P. M.. Sunday. Admission is \$9 age 12 & up, \$7 age 5 to 7, under 5 is free. Parking is \$2 per vehicle in the lot behind the museum. Group visit reservations are suggested, especially if you would like a guided program on the fossil beds.

Falls of the Ohio State Park, 201 West Riverside Drive, Clarksville, Indiana, is located north of downtown Louisville, Kentucky, and 1 mile west of I-65. The expansive fossil beds are best seen from August-November, while the upper fossil beds are exposed most of the year, except when the Ohio River is higher than normal.

Editor's Note: Alan Goldstein is an Interpretive Naturalist at the Falls of the Ohio State Park.

Photo Credits:

- Child in front of the Devonian sea video wall—IDNR photo/ Frank Oliver
- Children in the 'Ancient Sea' exhibit playing with interactive horn corals—IDNR photo/Falls of the Ohio State Park

New Members

David and Crystal Bruce, daughter Mallie, and brother Chad Gill

Reneé and Jadie Crouch

Ivy Edwards and Steve Lewis

Kay MacLaughlin

Diana and Juergen Poppelreuter and son Alex

Mary Rauzi and nephew Camron England

August Board Minutes

Mike Baldwin

Called to order at 6:35 P. M. Present: W. C. McDaniel, Charles Hill, Leah Gloyd, Paul Sides, Marc Mueller, James Butchko, Bob Cooper, Bonnie Cooper, Mike Baldwin.

Secretary: Minutes approved, 2 corrections.

Treasurer: Rent paid through end of year. Show money will be transferred to club in September. Holiday party only near-term expense.

Membership: No new Members since last meeting. Bob distributed a plan for prorated membership fees for new Members only. Discussion followed about how this would affect Federation payments (dues, insurance). Paul *Continued, P. 6*

North Carolina Field Trip Pictures

MAGS Member Diana Poppelreuter sent some nice pictures of garnet-bearing rocks at Bridal Veil Falls, just east of Franklin, North Carolina.



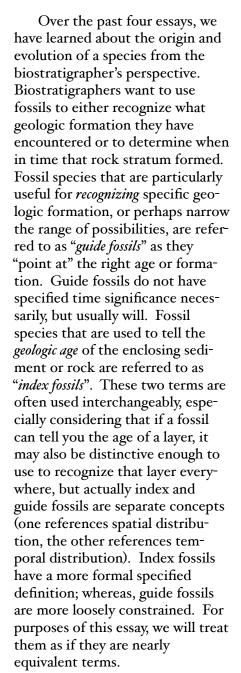


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Fabulous Tennessee Fossils

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

Index & Guide Fossils



To be considered an index fossil, the species needs to have certain basic characteristics, all of which work to enhance their utility as time indicators for anyone who is going to use them. First, the fossil species needs to be considered "cosmopolitan", meaning it has a wide geographic distribution. The wider the geographic distribution, the more useful the species will be for identifying strata or time in those places. Some fossils species are "facies restricted", meaning they occur within certain sediment types only or do not disperse far from where they are spawned. Such fossils are of great use in reconstructing local environmental parameters, but of little use for telling time or correlated. Consequently fossil species that are *pelagic* (disperse in the water column) are best as index fossils because currents distribute the larvae over great distances and they are not restricted by sediment type. Most index fossils are invertebrates (due to their great abundance) as compared to vertebrates and fossil plants which tend to disarticulate into parts and lack the same preservation potential due to erosion processes dominant on land. Microfossils are common index fossils, but macrofossils are more recognizable to most people and easier to use in the field. Secondly, fossil species that exhibit a rapid rate of evolution work best. Rapid evolutionary rates ensure that a species is in existence for a relatively short time geologically, thus its presence narrows the possible time range down to as small a range as pos-



sible. Another way to say this is that the species has a high rate of mutation and speciation. Thirdly, index or guide fossils are most useful if they are easily recognized. Specialists can be used to identify the minute details that separate species, but ideally, the index fossil should be recognizable even to the amateur to enhance its utility. Fourthly, and associated with ease of recognition, the fossil needs to be easily preserved, thus organisms with hard parts (shells, teeth, etc.) work better than soft-bodied organisms. Finally, organisms that can be easily recovered from their rocky tomb for analysis are more functional, hence again, organisms with hard parts are more likely to be recovered over soft-bodied species.

Although the internet has become the tool of choice for identifying fossils for most folks, there is a standard reference book that still if of great use. Published in 1944, Index Fossils of North America, compiled by Hervey W. Shimer and Robert R. Shrock, remains one of the most valuable tools for identifying index fossils and their time significance, even though it is now more than 72 years old. The 837 page book contains diagrams and reference information making it an invaluable starting point for all timerelated fossil issues. "Shimer and Shrock", as it is referred to, is an update of the original Amadeus Grabau and Harvey Continued, P. 6

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Fabulous Tennessee Fossils Shimer Continued from P. 5 North American

Index Fossils, published in several volumes beginning in 1909.

Indeed many the taxa names have been updated, as have the geologic ranges of many of the fossils, but this information is readily available in the scientific literature.

Tennessee has an abundance of fossils and many of these fit the index and guide fossil status.

There are no fewer than 15 index fossils identified in Shimer and Shrock with "tennesseensis" as a species epithet including:

Rhizophyllum tennesseensis, Calceola tennesseensis (corals), Centrocrinus tennesseensis, Euryocrinus tennesseensis, Homocrinus tennesseensis

(crinoids), Lampterocrinus tennesseensis, Periechocrinites tennesseensis, Pisocrinus tennesseensis, Leptellina tennesseensis, Merista tennesseensis, Strophomena tennesseensis, Trigonirbynchia tennesseensis (brachiopods), and Ceratopea tennesseensis (gastropod). Over the next several articles, I will highlight some of these individual index fossils.

August Board Minutes read the by-Continued from P. 4 laws concerning

payment of on-time dues. Motion carried for a new pro-rated schedule for the remainder of 2016 and years following. Mike will revise the membership application and bring standing rules to the September Board Meeting for revision.

Field Trips: No changes from last month. Alan Parks needs to provide information about the DMC trip so it can be submitted to the council. With a few weeks' advance notice Charles could create a Powerpoint slide with field trip locations to show at Membership Meetings. Paul suggested having programs relating to the field trip for the month. All field trips are scheduled to the end of Charles's term in office.

Adult Programs: Programs have been developed through the end of the year.

Junior Programs: September, dinosaur fossils. October, masks and costumes for Halloween. November, gems for the holidays. Programs are designed for all ages.

Rock Swaps: Leah asked how many people normally come; about 50-60. MAGS will provide dining tables but Members must bring their own tables for swaps. There should be games and door prizes. Leah has started a MAGS Facebook page and will post information every day. It would be good to post the new pro-rated dues and

information about the August Rock Swap. W. C. will check with Bebe Buck about the Kroger card that was given to MAGS. He gave Leah the codes to get into the Fellowship Hall to check supplies for the swap. W. C. suggested that we invite DMC members who go on the October 15 trip to join MAGS for our October 14 meeting. Leah is scanning MAGS archives and placing them on a terabyte removable drive; she suggested that the club buy a drive on Black Friday. **Library**: Marc will be out the next two meetings.

Web: Mike will update the website and mail USPS newsletters this weekend.

Newsletter: No report.

Show: We have received one contract for the 2017 Show.

Old Business: Mike gave a logo contest update. W. C. will form a judging committee, which will narrow the field to the top three entries.

New Business:

- MAGS@gmail.com will be created to collect Facebook email traffic.
- We will have a table at a Ronald McDonald House event for the patients and their families on August 27. May ask Members to donate a piece from their collection to this event.
- W. C. gave Leah two notebooks of drawings done by Charlie McPherson, who designed our current logo.
 Adjourned 7:44 P. M.

August Meeting Minutes

Mike Baldwin

Called to order at 7:10 P. M. This evening is the Annual MAGS Indoor Rock Swap and Picnic.

Following a brief review of upcoming field trips and a logo contest reminder to the members, W. C. explained the rules of the evening. He introduced a new game, which he designed especially for this evening based on Bingo. Using small polished stones as card markers, W. C. led the attendees in several rounds of play. An abundance of food was provided by attendees and a good time was had by all.

What's Happening At Chucalissa?

We say goodbye to MAGS Member Dr. Robert Connolly, who is retiring as Director of the C. H. Nash Museum. The following information comes from the Chucalissa newsletter, *Anoachi*"

'In his nine years as director of the C. H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa, Dr. Connolly made a tremendous impact not only on the museum but also on the many graduate assistants and student interns he mentored. Dr. Connolly involved his students in all aspects of

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What's Happening At Chucalissa? Continued from P. 6

museum management and constantly challenged them to perform at a professional level. During his tenure there were many enhancements to the museum, and he often said with great pride, "If you see anything here that is shiny and new, chances are a graduate assistant or intern or volunteer created it."

The museum also asked MAGS Rockhound News to include the following information about an upcoming event:

International Archaeology Day Saturday, October 15, 10:00-3:00

Fun activities for the entire family: flint-knapping and beadwork demonstrations, guided tour of the nature trail, crafts, and games

Free admissions for MAGS Members

Jewelry Bench Tips by

Brad Smith

REMOVING SOLDER FROM A BEZEL

Sometimes when you solder a bezel to a base plate, you end up with excess solder that needs to be removed before setting the stone. My choice of tool for this is called an "Inverse Cone" bur used in a rotary tool or flexshaft. It cuts on both the bottom and the side and is shaped so that there's less chance of cutting into the bezel wall than if you used the more



common cylinder bur shape. I find the 2 mm size useful for almost any bezel.

TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry. Is it silver or something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

Fine silver Red/Orange
Sterling silver Brick Red

80% silver 20% copper Dark red changing to gray
Brass Yellow changing to blue

Nickel Gray-green

Copper Yellow changing to blue

Steel Black

Stainless Steel No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

- ✓ Wear safety glasses.
- ✓ Do not get any testing solution on your skin.
- ✓ Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.
- ✓ Wash and clean up well when you're done.

See all Brad's jewelry books at Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith.

Earth Science Week

Since October 1998, the American Geosciences Institute has organized this national and international event to help the public gain a better understanding and appreciation for the Earth

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September MAGS Field Trip

A good group of MAGSters traveled to Batesville, Arkansas, on September 10 for a MAGS field trip. Many thanks to Bill Prior for leading the trip, to Midwest Lime Company for being a gracious host, and to field trip chair Charles Hill for ordering perfect weather.

A few pictures that show scenes from the field trip and some of the finds are below. Photo credits: David Hodge, Matthew Lybanon, and Anne Pinkerton.



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Earth Science Week Sciences and to Continued form P. 7 encourage stewardship of

the Earth. This year's Earth Science Week will be held from October 9-15, 2016 and will celebrate the theme "Our Shared Geoheritage." Geoheritage is the collection of natural wonders, landforms, and resources that have formed over eons and come to this generation to manage, use, and conserve effectively. Geoheritage locations are valued for many reasons, including scientific, economic, ecological, educational, cultural, aesthetic, artistic, and recreational purposes.

More information is available on the National Fossil Day website, nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/index.cfm.

October Birthdays

- Dave Shiffman
- 2 Christina Lagerson Shawn Herrington
- 4 Patsy Black Katherine Kitzmann
- 5 Michala Demo Matthew Lybanon
- 7 Jacob Blodgett Chris Vaughn
- 8 TaTanya Williams
- 9 David Hodge Charles Hill
- Fulton LedbetterJan GishFarrah Fowler
- II John Erickson
- 13 Andrew Helton Michael Baldwin
- 19 Aaliyah Thomas
- 20 Beto Ortiz
- 21 Steven Adamson

- 24 Cheryl Abel Keith Riding Ann Austin
- 26 Stanley Broadway
- 27 Peter Raccasi Arlene Oleartchick
- 30 Jadie Crouch

Displays

Debbie Schaeffer

Don't forget that there are only two months left to be entered into the drawing for our display "Grand Prize" that will be awarded at the MAGS Holiday Party in December. In addition to our monthly prize, anyone who brings a display will be entered into the December drawing. Don't know what to bring for a display, here are a couple of suggestions. Last month MAGS took a trip (led by Bill Prior, this month's speaker) to a new collecting site for MAGS. If you went on the trip to the Batesville quarry, please bring some of your special finds to show the club. Next month Ashley Allen will be speaking about the Union Chapel Mine site. Many of our MAGS Members have had an opportunity to collect at that site. If you have been there, please bring some of your favorite specimens to show the club.

October 1 Field Trip

Charles Hill

Greetings and salutations to all you rockhounds out there. I am writing this because some of our new members have asked about local areas to hunt for rocks and minerals. As most of you know, Memphis is not a great wellspring for rocks because of the geologic history of this area. So to be of assistance, I want to introduce anyone interested to several local public and private access hunting spots. All of these locations will be within an hour to an hour and a half from Memphis proper. This safari will start in Millington at 9 A. M. on Saturday, October 1. We will meet at the Popeyes Chicken in front of Wal-Mart. From there we will visit two places in that general area.

After sites one and two, we will travel south on Highway 51 to two sites in the Memphis area. Afterwards, I will introduce you to a site in north Mississippi. All of these sites will be mostly surface collecting, so the only tools needed should be something to pry with and something to put things in. We will not spend a lot of time at any of these places, but I think we can do some collecting. (If Kim Hill comes with us, someone will need to bring a rope so we can drag her away; or we will be there until midnight.) I think we can squeeze in 5 or 6 spots if we don't spend too much time at any of them. There is one place where the parking is \$3 a car. Other than that, the rest of it is free.

Now here is the address where we start:

Popeyes Chicken, Corner of Wilkinsville Road and Highway 51, 8449 US 51, Millington TN 38053, GPS: 35.356610, -89.895183

If you are going, call me after 2:30 P. M. weekdays at (901) 626-4232 or e-mail me at hunter3006@aol.com. If you e-mail me, put "Oct. 1st rock tour" in the header so I will know your e-mail isn't spam.

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MAGS At A Glance

October 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 MAGS Field Trip to nearby sites
2	3	4	5	6 Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, St. Francis Hospital	7	8
9 Earth	10 Science	11 Week	>	13	Membership Meeting, 7:00 pm, "Fossils of Arkansas"	MAGS/DMC Field Trip to MS&G Co., Int'l. Archaeology Day at Chucalissa
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society
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Memphis, TN 38016