

ROCKHOUNDS HERALD

920 Yorktown Road, Dothan, AL 36301-4372

www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

May 2014



Happy Memorial Day



Words from...

The President

If you weren't at the April meeting, you missed a great recap of just how well this year's show went. In fact, things went so well we've decided to make the Houston County Farm Center our new show home. It's already booked for the second weekend of April 2015. Mark your calendars.

In other business, longtime Show Chairman, Arnie Lambert, took his final bow, got a rousing round of applause for another job well done, and then handed off the chairmanship to me. While I'm honored that he and the club believe I can successfully follow in his footsteps, I know for certain just how big the shoes are that I'm being asked to fill. When I said, "mark your calendars", I was serious. I'm going to need all the help I can get.

To finish off this month's message, I just wanted to mention another couple of shows that are coming up. A while back, we received a special request from the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum in Marion, KY asking that we highlight their show in our newsletter, just in case any of our readers expect to find themselves in the area on June 7-8. In addition to the usual gem show activities, they offer digs and museum tours. This year they've also added a new Indian artifact display and beading class. For more information call (270) 625-4263 or email beclenent@att.net.

Closer to home that same weekend is the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society's show in McCalla. If you can't make it to Kentucky, McCalla is an easy drive from here and would make a nice, early summer day trip.

Our meeting is Sunday, May 25. For anyone in town over the holiday, I hope to see you there. Jeff

Announcements

May Meeting Program – Barbara and Gary Meredith will discuss some of their many travels and collecting adventures.

Upcoming Shows

May 23 – 25	Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society	Gulfport, MS
June 7 – 8	Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum	Marion, KY
June 7 – 8	Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society	McCalla, AL
June 14	Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club	Greensboro, NC
June 14 – 15	Rockfest at Tellus Science Museum	Cartersville, GA
June 20	Treasures Of The Earth Gem & Jewelry Shows	Boone, NC

Meeting Minutes – April 2014 – by Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff DeRoche at 2:10 PM. Jeff welcomed the 23 club members in attendance for the meeting and wished Happy Birthday to a long list of April birthday club members. Jeff asked if everyone got the newsletter and then introduced our newest club member, Ellen Rails. Jeff commented that pot luck refreshments for the meeting seems to be going well so we will continue that for our future meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE: The club received the usual newsletters from our fellow clubs and we also received a gem catalog from Heritage Auctions. Jeff brought a copy of the 1st edition of American Rockhound Magazine for everyone to look at. It is a quarterly magazine that is focused on promoting the hobby of rock, gem, mineral and fossil collecting.

OLD BUSINESS: Jeff gave a shout out to the Merino family for all the work they put in at the show. They made 200 grab bags—all of which were sold—ran the kids corner and helped out everyone. He thanked John & Ellen Webber for running the silent auction. They did a great job. Jeff also thanked Joe & Tina Polakoski for coming all the way from Minnesota to help. Joe & Tina donated all the balloons we had at the show and donated a flat of minerals to the club. The March minutes were approved without changes. Diane Rodenhizer presented the treasury report and a brief update on show figures.

Arnie Lambert gave a recap of the show and the group discussed what worked well and what might be tweaked next year. Despite moving to a new location and the local monsoons, we had amazing foot traffic. All the numbers for Sunday were not in yet, but we had over 400 people on Saturday. Everyone agreed that the new location was a good choice and we will be staying there. Arnie, Jeff and Garry Shirah spent quite a bit of time looking for the perfect location. You guys did a really good job! Everyone gave Arnie a huge round of applause for all the effort he has put in over the years as Show Chair. This was Arnie's last year, so he formally turned the reins of Show Chair over to Jeff.

Joan Blackwell gave a quick recap of the survey on our PR efforts that we collected at the show. It looks like the radio ad, newspaper, and roadside signs got the word out there. Chris Holderith's WTVY – Live at Lunch TV spot was also listed as one of the top ways people heard about the show. Hope everyone checked out the link to his interview. It was really, really good. We also had 50 people leave their email address to be added to the e-newsletter list.

NEW BUSINESS: Diane's basic bead stringing class has been rescheduled for Sunday, May 4th. The class will meet at Anne Trice's place at 1:00 PM. Bring \$\$ to the May meeting if you are interested in bidding on any of the items that Tina & Joe donated. The club has already booked the 2nd weekend in April at the farm center for next year's show.

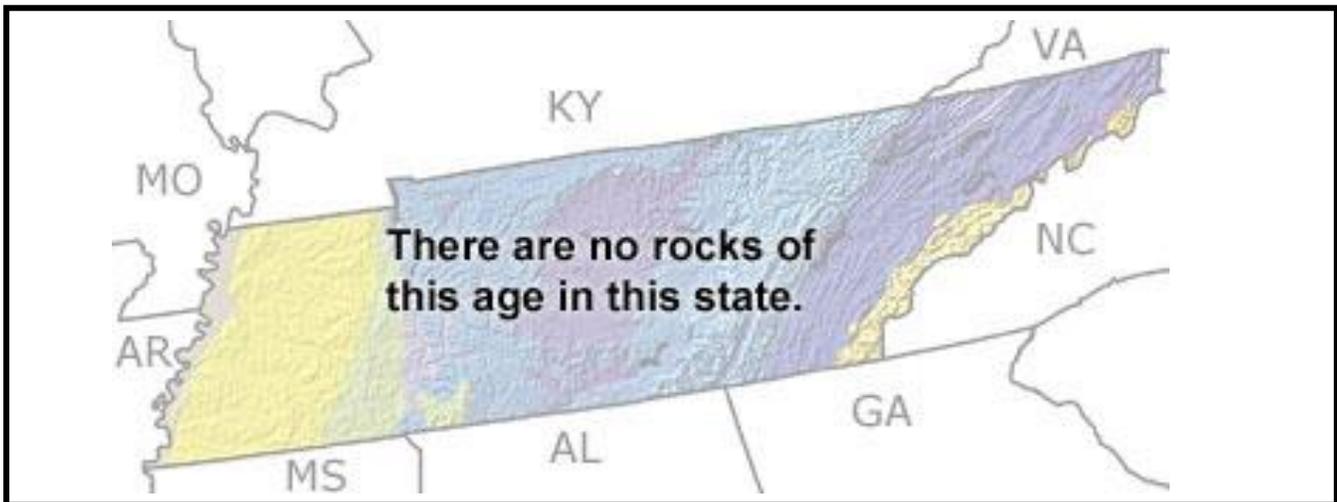
SHOW & TELL: Laural Meints started out Show & Tell by passing around a multi-colored tanzanite and a zultanite. Had to look that one up. Zultanite is a trade name. Its gemological name is diaspore and it is a hydrated aluminum oxide colored by manganese. It is really pretty. Our newest member, Ellen, brought a big piece of sphalerite covered with beautiful clusters of dog tooth calcite that she got in Carthage, TN.

Bruce Fizzell showed a double-sided miniature landscape cab he got from Arnie. Ken Wilson brought some spider jasper he got from Arnie and some emeralds from the Carolinas. He bought a bucket from someone and found emeralds and garnet nodules in there. Ben Childress brought a bunch of oyster fossils he got in Clayton. He had fossilized ghost shrimp and a stash of fossilized sand dollars. Ben gave a sand dollar to everyone who wanted one. Thanks, Ben. I love mine. It is on display in my cabinet of beautiful things.

PROGRAM: The club broke for refreshments and, as usual, we had enough food to feed a small army. After refreshments, we regrouped for a presentation on arrowheads given by Margie & Joe Cody. Margie talked about how much she enjoys being part of the club and showed several pieces of jewelry she had gotten from club members. Joe had a marvelous display of points. (See the pictures at <http://www.wiregrassrockhounds.com/April%20Meeting%202014.html>.) He had collections of finds made in water and on land and showed how the water finds were stained by the various minerals in the water. Joe had a great chart that laid out the changes in points from 9,000 BC to the recent past. He showed very early projectile points that did not have necks and were smooth at the bottom. He also had some points from Florida made from coral and some with rounded bottoms that, so far, have only been found in our local area. He said that the Moundville Archaeological Park here in Alabama (<http://moundville.ua.edu/>), has a prehistoric site, a museum with displays of artifacts, and an archaeological research center. Sounds like a great day trip. After the program, the meeting adjourned and we had a chance to examine the points that Joe & Margie brought.

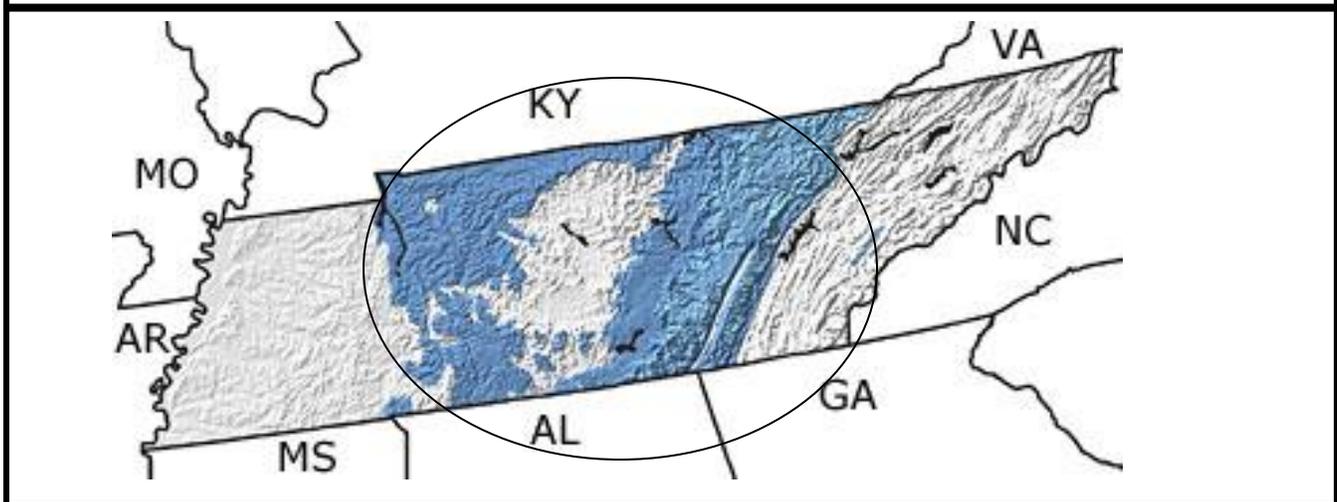
Respectfully submitted by Pat Leduc

Tennessee – Paleozoic and Precambrian Eras



Permian Period

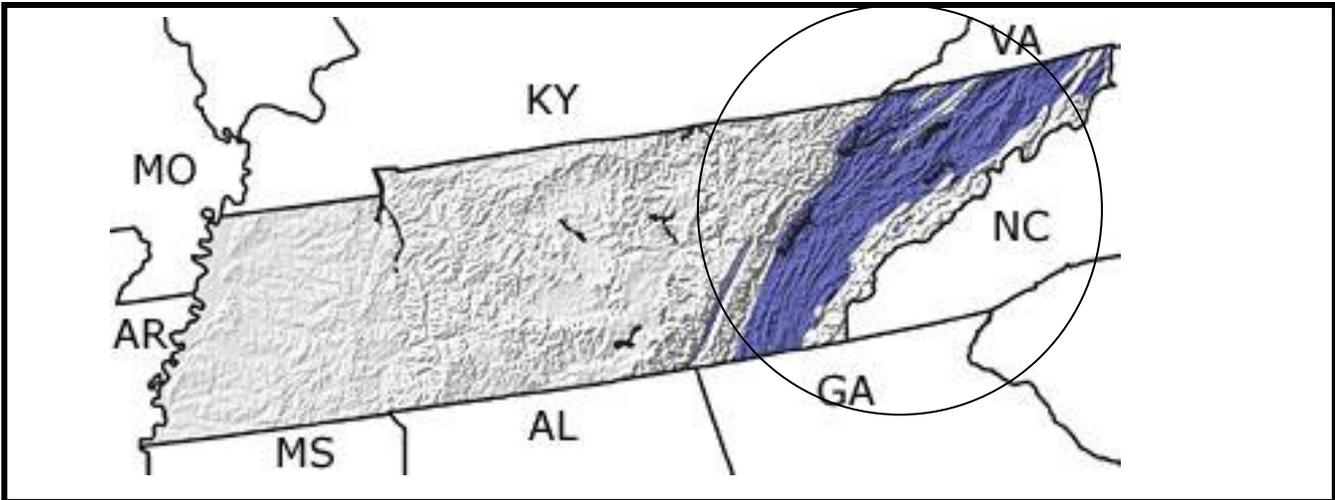
Most of Tennessee was above sea level during the Permian as a result of the continued building of the Appalachians, and no rocks of this age are found in the state.



Carboniferous Period

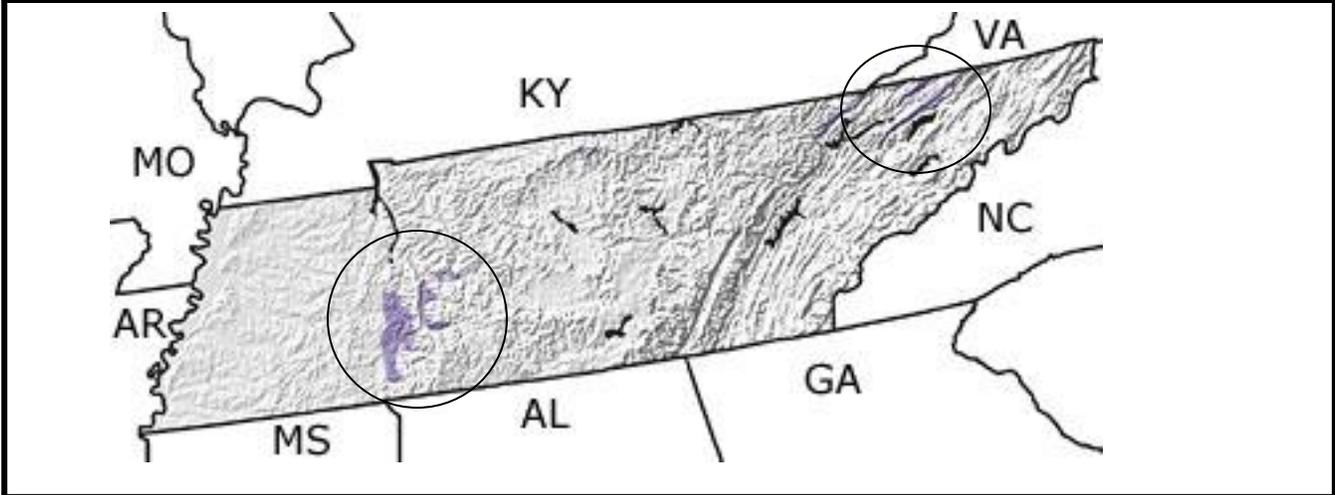
During the Early Carboniferous (Mississippian), Tennessee was covered by a warm tropical sea that supported an abundance of marine life. The limestones produced from the sediments that accumulated on the seafloor are rich in fossils of bryozoans, brachiopods, and crinoids (sea lilies).

By the Late Carboniferous (Pennsylvanian), mountain building to the east (the Alleghenian Orogeny) produced highlands that shed vast quantities of clastic sediment westward into the sea, forming vast deltas. Coastal swamps formed over these deltas and tall scale trees (lycophytes), horsetail rushes, and other plants grew in abundance. Plant remains in these swampy lowlands eventually produced coal seams that have been economically important in the state's history.



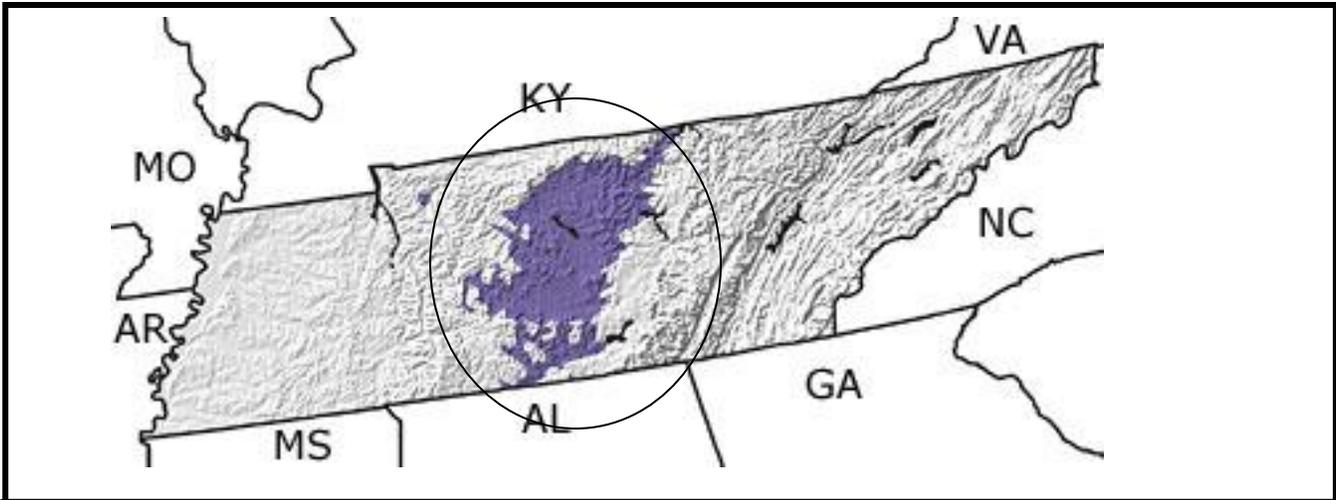
Devonian Period

Rocks of Devonian age occur in southeastern Tennessee and in several areas in the western and central parts of the state. Warm tropical seas covered Tennessee during much of the Devonian, and marine fossils include brachiopods, corals, bryozoans, crinoids, and trilobites. By the Late Devonian, a restricted water flow caused oxygen to be severely depleted near the seafloor. Few organisms could live in these conditions. The lack of oxygen prevented the decay of plant and animal remains, and organic-rich muds were deposited on the seafloor. One of the black shales formed from these muds, the Chattanooga Shale, is exposed in several parts of the state. The area highlighted is identified as undifferentiated rock units*.



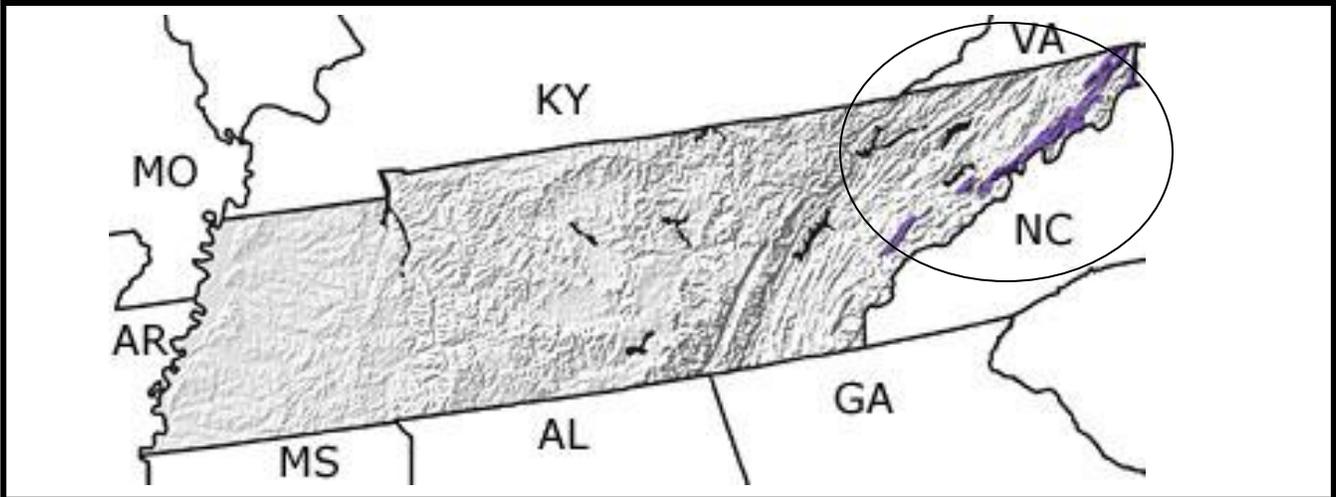
Silurian Period

Few Silurian-age rocks are exposed in Tennessee. The largest exposures occur in the southwestern part of the state, north of the Mississippi/Alabama border. Warm tropical seas covered Tennessee at this time, and the limy sea floor was home to a diverse fauna of marine organisms such as brachiopods, bryozoans, crinoids, corals, trilobites.



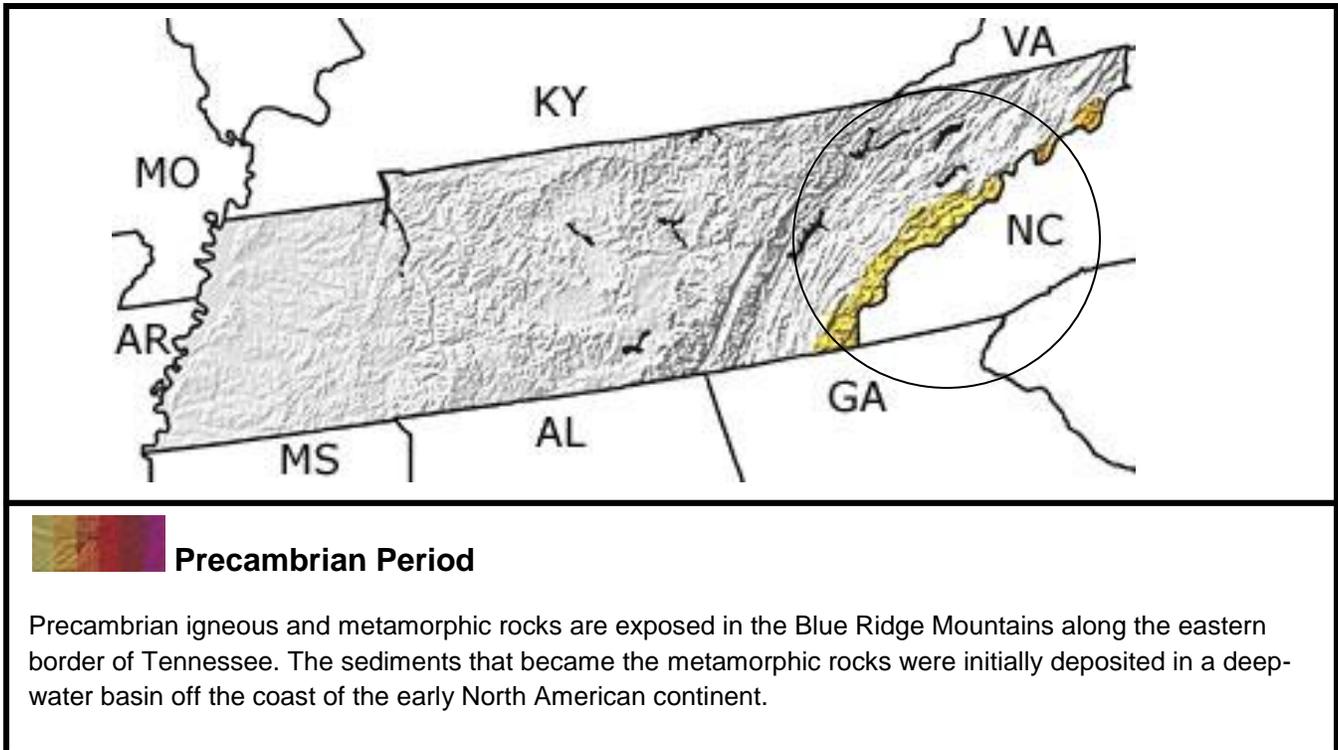
Ordovician Period

Ordovician sedimentary rocks cover a large portion of central Tennessee, in an area called the Nashville Dome. These rocks are primarily limestones deposited in the warm, shallow sea that covered the state during this time. Fossils of brachiopods, bryozoans, and crinoids are abundant in these rocks. Other Ordovician fossils in Tennessee include conodonts, trilobites, bivalves, sponges, and unusual echinoderms such as edrioasteroids. In the middle and later parts of the Ordovician, mountain building to the east (the Taconic Orogeny) caused the edge of the continent to warp downward into a deep-water basin. Sediments eroding off the rising mountains were carried westward into the sea, eventually filling the basin and pushing the shoreline toward the west.



Cambrian Period

Small areas of Cambrian rocks are exposed in the Valley and Ridge Province of eastern Tennessee. Shallow marine environments covered much of the state during this time. Thick layers of limy sediment built up on the sea floor. Stromatolites, trilobites, and other marine organisms thrived in the warm waters.



* Undifferentiated Rock Units

Some rock units on these geologic maps are not clearly assigned to one single period. We call these undifferentiated rock units. The default map for each period shows the rocks that **are** classified specifically as one period. However, there may be other rocks that are of the same age, but shown on an individual map as undifferentiated rock units, such as those areas shown on the Devonian Period map. Other geologic maps may show different interpretations.

Source: Photos and information courtesy of The Paleontology Portal (www.paleoportal.org)

Club Meeting – April 2014

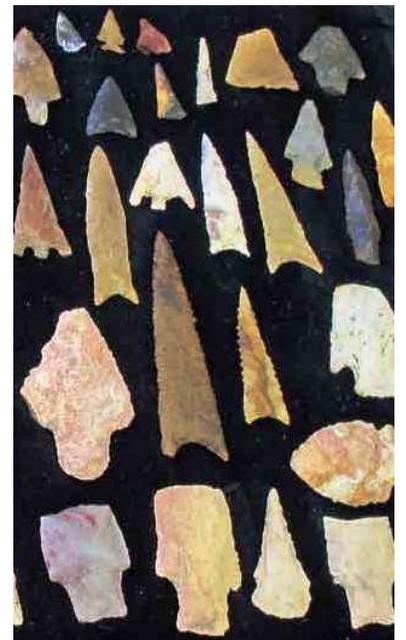
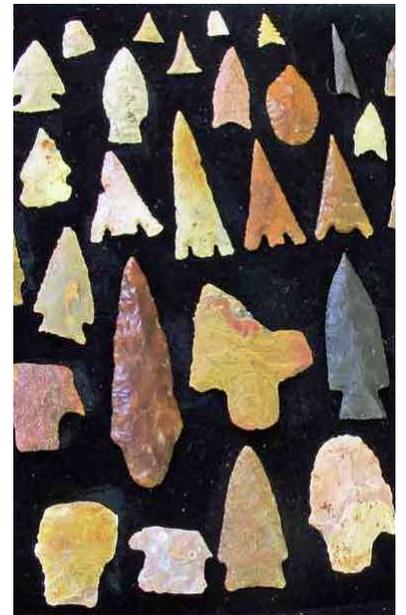
Photos by Pat



Pre-meeting chatter about the success of the recent show continued into the business portion where it was officially confirmed the new venue was a hit with the vendors. The afternoon was rounded out with a handful of diverse items for Show and Tell, refreshments that included Marilyn's Mac 'n Cheese, and the Cody's great "tool talk".

Meeting Program – April 2014

Photos by Pat



Joe and Margie Cody spoke about spear tips, arrowheads and other Native American tools. Diverse in material, age, and the respective maker's skill-level, their vast collection includes some items believed to have existed only in our local area.

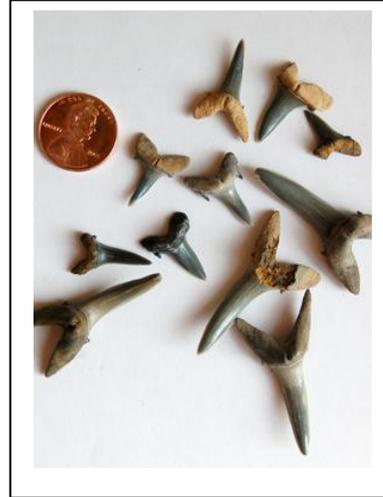


Watch Where You Step!

Here's a few fossils that have been found in Alabama. Keep looking down. You never know what you might find.

Eocene Shark Teeth

Teeth of a sand tiger shark found in Butler County, Alabama, of the Eocene epoch, about 50 million years ago.



Cretaceous Ammonite

A Cretaceous ammonite found in Wilcox County. Ammonites first appeared in the seas 400 million years ago and died out during the Cretaceous-Paleogene mass extinction about 66 million years ago. This specimen dates to approximately 70 million years ago.

Cretaceous Mosasaur Jaw

Lower jawbone of a mosasaur, a giant marine reptile, found in the Alabama Black Belt of the late Cretaceous period, about 80 million years old.





Cretaceous Sea Biscuit

Hardouinia bassleri, also called "sea biscuit," found in Montgomery County, of the Cretaceous period, about 80 million years old.

Sea Bud

Blastoid calyx, commonly called "sea bud," found in north Alabama, of the Mississippian sub-period of the Carboniferous period, about 320 million years old.



Eocene Snail

Snail shells found in Monroe County, Alabama, of the Eocene epoch, about 50 million years old.

Snails in Sandstone

Snails in sandstone found in the Alabama River, of the Eocene epoch, about 50 million years old.



Who What Where When Why How

May Birthdays

MAY 4 Joe Polakoski
MAY 6 Nancy Miller
MAY 8 Joe Cody
MAY 8 Laural Meints
MAY 10 Lory Hodges
MAY 14 Garry Shirah

Random Fossil Facts

Chattanooga Shale -- Brownish-black organic shale containing light to dark-gray sandstone and rare limestone interbeds near the base.

It consists of innumerable fine layers, or laminations, that can be easily separated and was first identified in Tennessee (where it received its name), but now is widely recognized from Alabama to Canada on the east coast, to Iowa and Texas, to Oregon on the west coast, and into northern Mexico and even offshore. The layer is enormous in a real extent; no modern analogy exists for such a deposit.

Sources: <http://mrdata.usgs.gov/geology/state/sgmc-unit.php?unit=ALDcfm%3B4>
<http://www.icr.org/article/7075/>

Meeting Information

Time: 2:00 PM
Date: Fourth Sunday of each month (except June, July and August)
Place: Fellowship Hall – Tabernacle United Methodist Church
4205 S. Brannon Stand Road
Dothan, AL

Website: www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

Objectives

To stimulate interest in lapidary, earth science and, when necessary, other related fields.

To sponsor an educational program within the membership to increase the knowledge of its members in the properties, identifications and evaluations of rocks, minerals, fossils and other related subjects.

To cooperate and aid in the solution of its members' problems encountered in the Club's objectives.

To cooperate with other mineralogical and geological clubs and societies.

To arrange and conduct field trips to facilitate the collection of minerals.

To provide opportunity for exchange and exhibition of specimens and materials.

To conduct its affairs without profit and to refrain from using its assets for pecuniary benefit of any individual or group.

Classified Ads

Looking for an item to round out your rock collection?

Got a specimen, tool or handicraft for sale or trade?

Submit the pertinent details to me by the 10th of each month and your inclinations will be made known to the membership in the next bulletin.

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Annual Dues

Single \$15
Family \$20

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334-806-5626

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Show Chair – Jeff DeRoche
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Field Trips Chair – Bruce Fizzell
334-577-4353

Hospitality Chair – JoAn Lambert
334-792-7116

Club Hostess – Laural Meints
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Club Liaison – Garry Shirah
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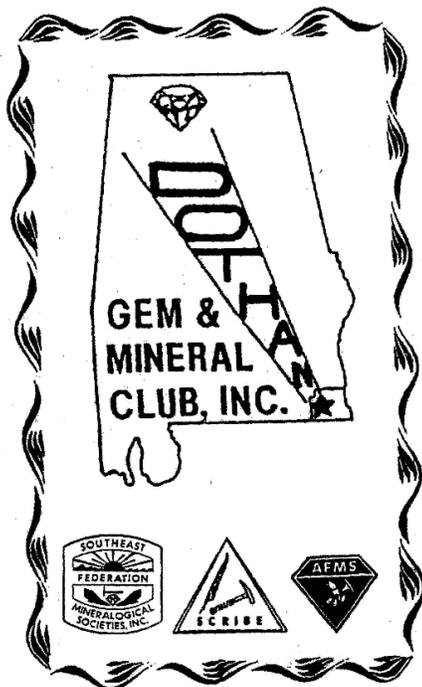
Refreshments

MAY 25 – Club Potluck

ROCKHOUNDS HERALD

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Where you might hear...

Fossils found in the Southeast's Inland Basins (2) Region may include:

brachiopods

mollusks:

clams, snails, cephalopods

corals:

rugose, tabulate

echinoderms:

sea lillies, blastoids, cystoids

stromatolites

trilobites

bryozoans

sponges

marine algae

graptolites



Source:

http://geology.teacherfriendlyguide.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=177&Itemid=199

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American Federation of Mineralogical Societies