

Meeting
Second Tuesday of each month
Van Matre Senior Citizens Center
1101 Spring Street
Mountain Home, AR

President/Editor	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer/Proof Reader
Brenda Johnson	Edward Hakesley	Janel Cotter	Dorothy Hess
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Members of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogy.

Sharon Waddell: Liaisons Officer - 417-256-8948

MWF Assistant Micromounter: Brenda Johnson

OBJECTS: To study and promote an interest in the earth sciences; Geology, paleontology, mineralogy, archaeology and the lapidary arts.

Meeting: On the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Van Matre Senior Citizens Center, 1101 Spring Street (Cooper Park), Mountain Home, Arkansas.

Dues: Active adults \$12.00 per year or family membership of \$20.00 per year. Junior membership is \$4.00 per year. Nonresident membership is \$8.00.

The President's Message

Our annual show is fast progressing but we still need help in many areas. There is a sign-up sheet that **Ed Hakesley** has that we need you to choose an area from. This is your club. You should be willing to help.

I hear from clubs all over the country. Often there are articles in their bulletins where someone is complaining about a "clique". I have even heard reference made about our club. I can tell you from first hand experience that there is no such thing in our club, and probably not in the others either. The problem is that only a few people always step up to do those many jobs. Everyone just takes for granted that those few will take care of it. That is why so many times people think there is a clique and no one else is invited in.

Please! We cannot be successful if all do not pull together and help.

Be safe.

Brenda

**Minutes of the May, 2010 Meeting
Janel Cotter, Secretary**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 by President **Brenda Johnson**.

Julia Blanchard provided refreshments for all.

Erica Doerr from Little Rock, Arkansas presented a slide show titled "*Geology of Arkansas: a Journey of Time and Change*". **Erica** had numerous examples of the different types of stones and minerals that can be found in Arkansas along with information concerning how the rocks are formed by different element over time.

Brenda Johnson for a motion asked to accept the minutes of the April meeting as published in the bulletin. A correction of field trip dates to the Park Hills, Mo Show and the Ozarks, Mo show was made.

Sharon Waddell made the motion and it was seconded and carried.

Dorothy Hess gave the Treasurers report: Club balance \$1547.20. She also reported that she had filed the annual report with the revenue service. **Dorothy** announced that the club received a \$100.00 donation from the Pheiffer Museum and a thank you letter was read by the president acknowledging the donation of the DVD by **Brenda** and **Harvey Johnson**.

Sharon Waddell gave updates on the upcoming Rock and Gem show. We now have more dealers requesting space. Arrangements are being made to accommodate as many as possible. **Sharon** had flyers and a banner printed to advertise the show. She also brought in illuminated 20x loops for anyone interested in buying one.

Sign up sheets for field trips were located by the attendance sheet at the front door.

The Micro Mount meeting is tentatively scheduled for after July 1, 2010.

Winners of the raffle drawing were: **Aradasa Johnson and Forrest Bebout**.

Show and Tell was presented by **Sid Johnson** with minerals and fossils from various locations being brought in by **Ed Hakesley, Sharon Waddell, Gretchen Neal** and **Harvey and Brenda Johnson**.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

**Minutes of the Executive Committee
By Brenda Johnson**

A short meeting was called to order by President **Brenda Johnson** at 6:15 p.m. to discuss the upcoming club show.

Executive Meeting continued -

Sharon Waddell presented the club with their new banner. It was decided to have another just like it made to use for a back up. **Sharon** also brought show bills and gave them to all present at the meeting and said more will be made for future use.

Ms. Waddell then informed everyone of the floor plan for the show and said that she has dealers wanting to set up that she doesn't yet have areas for, but that all possible effort is being made to accommodate them.

Field trip information was brought up and would be discussed in the regular meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The Safety Article for the Month

Ted's Safety Corner

By Ted Reith, AFMS Safety Chair

http://www.amfed.org/news/n2009_06.pdf (Via Aradasa Johnson, Safety Chair)

Clean Up Your Act – Safely, Please

The lovely, sparkly, near pristine specimens many of us 'collect' at rock, gem, and mineral shows hardly ever are found in that condition in Nature. Those who collect 'in the wild' will have some cleaning chores in front of them, whether planning to sell those specimens, or add them to a personal collection.

In almost any venture, simple is better than complex, and less hazard is better than more. However, if you truly know the specimen you have and the nature of the surface contaminant, then by all means use complex cleaning methods with hazardous chemicals (if that is the needed methodology), but do so safely.

An important key to any cleaning is to know your specimen and know its contaminant. This means to know each in terms of Mohs hardness and chemical make-up. Hardness will guide one in mechanical cleaning options, while the chemistry will dictate specific cleaning materials.

Cleaning methods, from simple/safe to complex/less safe, may be outlined as follows:

- Soak in or clean under running water, using a bristle brush.
- Same as above, but add a cleaning agent, such as household detergent, to the water. This will help 'wet' the surface contaminant and allow it to be flushed away more readily.

Safety continued -

•If appropriate, use a brass brush (Mohs 3.5 – 5) or steel dental pick (harder). This is where knowledge of the base mineral hardness is useful. The tool needs to be harder than the contaminant, but less hard than the base material. Of course, test on an obscure area first to confirm suitability.

One very interesting cleaning option I saw is to use Soft Scrub cleaner (ground calcium carbonate in a detergent base) and a battery powered toothbrush. To give credit, the following link provides an excellent write-up: home.page.mac.com/rasprague/PegShop/extras/brush/brush.html.

Use equipment such as ultrasonic cleaners (good for more fragile specimens) or small sand blasters to remove tough scale on minerals, while following all manufacturer use and safety recommendations.

Use an acid/water solution for those known, hard-to-remove contaminants. Oxalic acid and hydrochloric (Muriatic) acids are typically used for cleaning of quartz. Both are available in hardware stores. Another useful link for specific procedures using acids is at:

http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/john_betts/clean1.html.

The proper care and handling of acids can be accomplished using applied knowledge. The hazard associated with any acid is a function of the acid type and its concentration (% strength in water). If you put milk on your corn flakes this morning, and used oil and vinegar on your salad for lunch, you just ate two acids. Milk contains lactic acid, and vinegar is a dilute (5%) solution of acetic acid.

Several notes are appropriate regarding the two acids frequently used in mineral cleaning.

Oxalic Acid: Though classified as a weak organic acid, it is much stronger than acetic acid. Its primary hazard is skin irritation, with greater hazard if taken internally by mouth or breathing (classified as a poison). Recommended protective equipment includes gloves, apron, goggles, and respirator when used in poorly ventilated areas.

Full MSDS info at: www.jtbaker.com/msds/englishhtml/o6044.htm.

Muriatic Acid: AKA Hydrochloric acid – an extremely strong mineral acid with serious safety concerns. Severe damage can result from tissue or eye contact. Inhaling the fumes or ingestion may be fatal. I've used this myself, but wore butyl rubber gloves and apron, face shield, and used outdoors on a non-windy day to minimize inhalation concerns. Typically available commercially from 20 – 38% concentration, you MUST add the acid to water if dilution is needed, never add water to acid. MSDS:

www.jtbaker.com/msds/englishhtml/H3880.htm

When using any acid, note that spills or solutions remaining after use should be neutralized with an alkaline material. Some fairly common household items to do that would include soda ash, lime, or baking soda. How do you know when you have enough neutralizers? You can use the old high school chem. lab stand-by – litmus paper. Or, get some red cabbage at the grocery, and use the juice as an

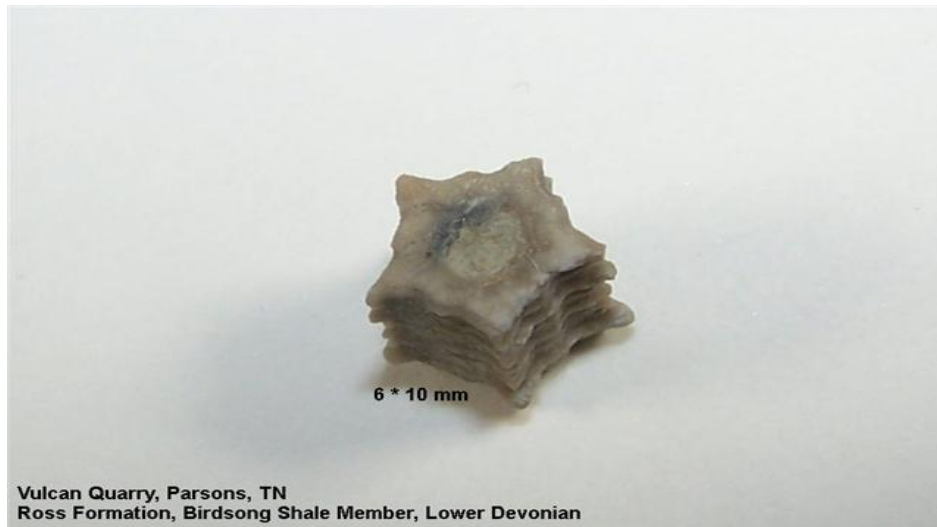
Safety continued -

indicator. At pH 2 (acid), it will be red; at pH 12 (alkaline), it will be greenish-yellow. At neutral pH of 7, it's blue.

Happy...and safe cleaning.

Exceptional Find

On our last field trip to Parsons Quarry in Parsons, Tennessee, **Aradasa Johnson** found the following and would like to have a positive identification if anyone can help her.



A note from your editor.

The following is a long article, and I usually refrain from including articles of several pages due to the fact that most people lose interest and quit reading. **I feel, however, that this is very important for you to read and hope that you will**, just in case you should every have this situation occur in your lives. I also encourage you, if you haven't, to designate someone in your will; someone in your family, or an institution, to receive your collection after your death. Keep a running catalogue of all of your specimens so that they will know what they are and where and who found them, including the present value of each item.

**Dispensing the Collection
What to Do When You Inherit a
Collection**

By **Bruce Siegfried** for *the Mountain Gem*

Often times, people contact our club members or the museum we sponsor, wondering just what to do with a collection they have inherited. How can they dispose of a collection that they know little, if anything, about? They are concerned with knowing:

1. How does one *identify* ‘boxes of rocks,’ perhaps even a profusion of them dumped together?
2. How do you assign *monetary value* to rocks, minerals, and gems?
3. Who would *buy* this collection, and how do I *find* that person? Even a surviving spouse who belongs to a club—and has been left with lots of stones wonders: “What will I do now?”

For sure, these issues are not easily addressed. Here is what we can say; these are some suggestions to help you find that illusive place to start. Adjust the plan to your situation, one that fits you best. When a long-time collector dies, with an extensive collection, it presents a difficult problem for the family. At first, just dealing with the loss of the loved one is enough. Eventually though, the time comes to “do something” with the collection. Now as a collector myself, I realize that most collectors have the same goal. They reason: “Having put much time, effort, thought, and money into my collection, (not to mention love), I would like to leave it ALL to ONE close family member, good friend, or worthy organization. Someone who not only appreciates it, but will keep it intact.” If you find someone like that, good, case closed, end of matter. Often, however, this proves to be a fantasy. Ideally we all would like to have that child who loves the hobby as much as we do, and would be happy to receive the collection. Seldom are such events so ideal. As you know by now, the real and ideal is usually not the same thing. Let’s face reality. Most who inherit a collection view the collection as someone else’s hobby. It is not their hobby. Their interest in it may be minimal at best. Thus, their feelings toward the collection are rarely the same as the person who put it together over many years, with much care and effort. Hence, they are not prepared to give it the room in their lives it would demand of them. (Not to mention the space it would claim in their homes.) Two easy choices first present themselves. And they come about from lack of action, from procrastination, more so than any conscious thought and decision making effort.

Choice # 1

Don’t do anything! Let the collection languish in storage. Maybe out in the garage, or down in the basement, or worse—in some rental storage unit, possibly for many years. This will usually result in losing the labels. As the boxes fall apart, leaves, dirt and dead bugs will pile up, till you end up with one big mess! A mess that someone eventually dumps outside, they throw it away, or give it away. I have seen several of these conclusions for nice collections. Some are put into a dumpster.

Choice #2

This one also takes place naturally enough. Dispense the collection among family and friends, and their children. Let them take what they want. They might want to keep a few as reminders of him or her; it may have been the collector’s favorite, or they may have dug the specimens themselves, or they cut and polished the stone. You can do this over some several months until

Dispensing collection continued - the collection just naturally wanders off. Somehow, somewhere, it is gone, and that takes care of that. Would a grandchild be able to handle the collection and appreciate it? Perhaps you will be satisfied with choice #1 or choice #2. But I feel there is a viable third option. You may consider something better. Far better is the day this idea presents itself—to dispose of the collection in an *orderly manner*.

But HOW?

Soon after making that decision, the challenge becomes evident. How will you do it? Some ideas follow; pick and choose, adjusting them to your circumstances. Ultimately you must decide what is best for you and for the collection. The problem so often starts with the fact that the collection and hobby was known by just that one person. The collection proved to be his or hers alone. This person knew all the details; what it is, where it came from, and the value as well. **BUT ALL TOO OFTEN, THE PERSON DOESN'T RECORD ALL THESE IMPORTANT DETAILS!** In my personal collection, I list all the names and locations of each stone in triplicate. Great, you say. On the other hand, I abhor values. To me, if it is pretty and I like it, I don't care whether it is worth fifty cents or twenty dollars. So no one knows the value of my thousands of specimens. Others do the same, omitting details, whether carelessly or purposely, they often leave scant information behind. As a consequence, surviving family members are left in the dark while trying to understand the collection. It is hard for them to relate to the fact the one 'pretty rock' is worth only \$1.00, while another, not near as nice, is worth perhaps \$50.00. Plain, dirty rocks may be very beautiful inside, and quite valuable. My first recommendation, (if you don't want to sell it all quick and cheap), is to divide it into three easy and practical parts. Simply put, here they are:

1. Keep some to remember the person by
2. Sell the best
3. Dispose of the rest; give away to interested person, or children, or throw in the woods, or line the driveway.

What follows is a more detailed explanation of this plan.

1. **KEEP SOME**—for yourself and other family members. You can do this in connection with having “something to remember him (her) by.” To remind you of him and his treasured hobby.
 - A. One mineral that each person views as their favorite.
 - B. Something the collector person was especially fond of.
 - C. Something he or she personally collected on a favorite field trip or vacation.
 - D. Something that person thought of as their favorite or special piece.
2. Now sell the best, those that have exceptional value or beauty. I will discuss several options for this in the rest of the article.
3. Dispose of the rest, the leftovers. Here are some good possibilities.
 - A. Sell it cheap and quick. **OR**
 - B. Even better, my personal favorite: donate it to your local club or museum. It's a tax deduction. They will be happy to get it and gladly put it to good use. Perhaps they will put a few specimens on display. Or in the gift shop to raise funds. Or use it as door prizes at the club meetings. At times they give some to young ones who are 'pebble pups', leading them into a lifelong hobby, all from the gift of a few nice specimens. Also, they occasionally auction items

Dispensing collection continued -

off to raise funds for their club. At times, generous souls donate an entire collection to a club or museum. But lets us now assume you desire to sell the entire collection yourself. This is the final avenue we will discuss. You will have two problems to deal with.

1. How do you find a buyer?

2. Just as important, how do you attach a dollar figure to the collection?

I have seen people selling such a collection at the local flea market, or at a gem and mineral show. However, the problem arises that the prices of many of the specimens are either too low, or too high. This results in the ‘good stuff’ that is priced too low rapidly disappearing. Now the best part is gone without much money in return. The rest may now be hard to sell. To avert such a disastrous outcome, could you invite one or two longtime club members/experienced collectors, to help out; a neutral third party to aid in pricing? Remember though, prices are not arbitrary for rocks and minerals. They are not set, at fixed rates or standardized prices. Proof of this is soon seen at shows. You often see a mineral or gem for sale at one price, but a few tables later you will see the same stone for a much different price. The price a mineral brings today often is not the price it will sell for tomorrow. Ten different collectors would value a stone at ten different prices. Values are subjective. To make matters more complex, it is likely that twenty different varieties of amethyst, from twenty different countries, in twenty different grades will fetch twenty different prices. So get those suggested prices from someone knowledgeable to begin with, then you can adjust them up or down according to what you think. Selling at a show may not be your ideal or practical solution. Here are some alternatives, along with their strong and weak points for consideration.

1. A dealer—He has an idea about what price specimens are currently bringing. However, because he deals in minerals and gems to make a profit, he may only offer you a fraction of their worth. To cover his expenses and make a profit, at most he might offer you a third of their worth. Probably less.

2. A collector—He might not know the exact worth of rocks, but he will usually pay a bit more because he usually buys at the retail level, and he wants the collection for his own enjoyment. You likely know several collectors in your area.

3. The Internet—sell it on eBay® if you want to, if you can do all the work. You must measure, describe and picture each item, and then post it. It’s good to tell what it is and where it is from, and you should have an ideal of its value. You must know exactly what you have and post it properly. You should get good prices for the really good specimens. The more common material may be harder to sell. You can sell miscellaneous boxes, but the Internet is probably not practical for large collections.

4. Ads placed in one of our hobby magazines or club bulletins—here you will find those interested in the very thing you have. You must prepare mailing information describing the material you have, and list it in accurate detail. You will deal with distant people over a period of many weeks to several months.

5. Estate Sale—try inviting hobbyists through several clubs, those within a few hours travel distance from your home. Invite them to come over for a ‘special day’. You must be ready for them. Price the material and put it out in the open. Select a day when the weather might be nice, and there are no local shows or field trips in progress. It must be advertised sufficiently, so let the clubs announce it at a couple of their meetings and put it in their newsletters. Give good

Dispensing collection continued - descriptions and accurate directions to your place.

The material must be clearly labeled and presented in an orderly fashion.

6. An auction—similar to last one, invite most clubs and collectors in your area and get a decent auctioneer. You must live in an area that has favorable numbers in the hobby. You must reach them with the news. Flyers sent to clubs for their meetings and at region shows work well for this purpose.

7. One man put all he had on a huge set of tables and said you could have your choice for eight dollars for any specimen. He sold all those worth that much and more real quickly. What he did with the rest I never heard.

8. Another person put an ad for a Yard Rock Sale—by appointment in club bulletin of a large club.

9. I am thinking of making up a series of Riker Mount Boxes that are several inches high. While still alive I can choose attractive specimens as gifts for my close friends and relatives. Any way you choose, be sure to properly promote what you have; specimens and equipment need clear and complete descriptions, or at least as much as you know, so buyers can be confident in what they are buying. Let people know way ahead of the planned event. I know of an older couple from Canada that sells minerals every year in Quartzite and a few other shows. They are steadily disposing of their huge Canadian collection. The children did not want it. To empty their backyard will take a while, they have already been selling for more than twelve years. They figured it would take twenty years to sell out their entire collection. My wish is for shows to allow collections to be sold on a “Consignment Table.” Maybe even a rock shop or dealer would be willing to do this, splitting the revenue with the collector’s family. Remember, it is good to team up with someone who knows rocks and minerals and the hobby. Make sure specimens are clean and orderly, displayed in boxes or trays. If only there was a book to look up how many were made, in what year, and the value, like so many other hobbies. So, whether you are disposing of a collection due to old age, ill health, financial need, quitting of the hobby, or inheriting it through the death of a family member, HOW are you going to do it? For many, the best course will be one of those mentioned or a mixture of these approaches. Remember that old rock hounds are sharp and limit their spending. Remember the simple plan: keep a few, give family members a few, sell the best, donate some, and get rid of the rest cheaply and quickly. Parts of this formula should work well for you. My wife always says that she’ll have jewelry made out of her favorite gemstones when she inherits my collection. I personally hope my two daughters will take something that is special to them. I brought them up around rocks and they know a good deal about them. Maybe one will want the amethyst crystals, and the other will take the azurite and malachite specimens she has always admired. May you live long and keep your collection for many more years. At this moment you at least have the beginning of a plan, as I have endeavored to answer the question: How to dispense of a collection?

**MIDDLE EOCENE BELOSAEPIA UNGULA (CEPHALOPODA: COLEOIDA)
(An ancient cuttlefish) FROM TEXAS**

**By Yancey, Thomas E, Garvie, Christopher L, Wicksten, Mary
Journal of Paleontology, Mar 2010**

BELOSAEPIID FOSSILS, an uncommon component of Eocene marine biotas in North America, have attracted attention and interest because of their unusual appearance. The fossils have a large curved projection that is shaped approximately like a blunt tooth or beak but is composed of calcium carbonate and is unlike the skeleton produced by any modern marine animal. Although the presence of a phragmocone on the fossil indicates a cephalopod origin, the tooth-like projection is posterior and has no obvious function. Previous study has shown that belosaepiid fossils are not mouthparts (Cossmann, 1907; Curry, 1955; Naef, 1921) but are endoskeletons of an animal related to sepiids. Although the typical belosaepiid fossil is more deep-bodied than modern sepiid skeletons, they share enough skeletal features to show the two groups are directly related. Characteristic belosaepiid features of the heavily calcified secondary skeleton can be recognized in diminished form on the vertically flattened sepiid cuttlebone and the characteristic sepiid feature of chamberlets and pillar structure between closely spaced septal walls is present in belosaepiids.

Most belosaepiid fossils are incomplete when collected, consisting only of the solid prong and adjacent strongly calcified posterior portion of the skeleton. Typically this comprises only 20-25% of the entire length of the skeleton. Because of this limitation, there is little knowledge of variation, ontogeny or function of the skeletal features. The recovery in Eocene deposits of east-central Texas of some nearly complete specimens and large numbers of well preserved specimens of *B. unguia* Gabb. 1860, the largest and most common belosaepiid in Middle Eocene deposits of the northern Gulf of Mexico, provides an opportunity to greatly increase knowledge of Belosaepia. Study based on extensive examination of external form and determination of ontogenetic change, combined with description of microstructure, provides comprehensive documentation of Belosaepia characters, expanding the character set available for reconstructing sepioid phylogeny. Microscopic examination has revealed microstructures not previously known or incompletely described. These observations are used to evaluate previously described North American species of Belosaepia. In addition to documenting the ontogeny and amount of variation within a species, this study presents a functional analysis of skeletal characters applicable for the genus.

**These fossils are much
like modern cuttlefish.**



Discovered in Southeastern Morocco

The team—led by Peter Van Roy, a Yale postdoctoral associate, and Derek Briggs, the Frederick William Beinecke Professor of Geology & Geophysics and director of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History—uncovered more than 1,500 fossils of soft-bodied marine animals in newly discovered sites in southeastern Morocco during a field expedition last year. Many are complete fossils, and include sponges, annelid worms, mollusks and horseshoe crabs—in particular, a species similar to today’s horseshoe crab, which appeared some 30 million years earlier than previously known.

Why This Discovery is So Important

“The early Ordovician was a critical moment when massive diversification takes off, but we were only seeing a small piece of the picture that was based almost exclusively on the shelly fossil record,” Briggs said. “Normal faunas are dominated by the soft-bodied organisms we knew were missing, so these exceptionally well-preserved fossils have filled in much of the missing picture.”

Condensed from <http://geology.com>

Field Trip News

Several of us went to the Mt. Ida/Jessieville, Arkansas area for quartz during the weekend of May 22. Collecting was sparse though those that I spoke with seemed to be happy with what they did find. Miller Mountain remains the best of the places we went to, but **Lenora Murray** found a nice large point at D & G’s that was water clear. However, while there **Harvey** and I spoke to the people who are sending collectors to Bear Mountain from both Fiddler’s Ridge and Judy’s Rock Shops. For your entry fee, \$20.00 each, plus \$100, they will dig into a vein and you can have a five gallon bucket full of quartz out of the vein. If you want more, of course, it costs more as you go. Everyone I spoke with who had done that assured me that they were well pleased with the results, and I bought a burr from there that I will display on Show and Tell at the upcoming meeting to give you an idea of what you might get if you were to do this in the future. Even though we didn’t hit the jackpot, just being out and enjoying the company of our friends and fellow rockhounds made the trip well worth it I think.

We have other field trips planned for the near future to other areas of the country, so if you intend to go, please get your phone number on the lists, at the meetings.

Dates to Remember

June

- 5 Murfreesboro, AR, Annual Show.** Crater of Diamonds State Park.
- 10-12 Park Hills, MO, Rock Swap.** Missouri Mines State Historical Site, Hwy 32, 1.5 miles West of US Hwy 67.
- 19-20 Ozark, MO, Ozark Mountain Gem Fair.** Finley River Park, Barn at Rodeo Arena.
- 25-27 Bloomington, IN, 45th Annual Show and Swap.** Monroe County 4-H Fairgrounds, Airport Rd and Hwy 45.

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