



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Nancy? Photo by Jim Roberts



Notes from the President's Desk....April 2015

Well done, NMGMS! Not only did we mark off another stupendous year in the history of our fantastic organization, but we also had a fabulous display laid out at our March 21st birthday meeting. This display showed how much our members had accomplished over the past year; from Matthew Lambert's trophy winning science fair project that covers the Blue Springs otoliths, to Konrad Armstrong's phenomenal drusy specimen that he collected in Missouri, we had many wonderful things to admire.

The March meeting display also showed that NMGMS has some very talented lapidary/jewelry artisans; the bead, wire, and mixed metal work that was laid out for us to oohh and aahh over, was impressive. It just goes to show how much we can accomplish as an organization that stresses the educational side of our club's purpose, as well as pursuing our favorite hobbies and interests. Members at the March meeting also had a chance to admire the artistic pieces that several NMGMS members had entered into the library's NEMAA March art contest. Club members show talent in many forms!!

Every year I marvel at all of the things that NMGMS members have done and learned, and I keep wondering where we'll go from here. So ask yourselves, what would you like to do, over the course of our club's 15th year, as an NMGMS member? What new skills would you like to acquire, or what aspect of geology, mineralogy, and paleontology would you like to learn more about? Let your voice be heard, and hopefully, a program or workshop can be set up to help all of our club members accomplish their goals. Also, ask yourselves how you can participate more in the club activities and share your own talents and expertise with the other club members. Remember, you will get a whole lot more out of something, if you put a little bit of yourself into it. Ask any NMGMS member and they will be glad to tell you how NMGMS has helped them. (See Dana Armstrong's article!)

NMGMS is already involved in a number of community events, like the local summer camps, but we need to expand to the schools and area scout groups. Participation in these local activities with the youth of our community is a lot of fun and a great experience for both, the NMGMS members who help out, and the kids who come to the event. NMGMS has a great group of junior members and the Rockheads are doing a fantastic job with the American Federation's FRA badge program, so let's all of us get out there and spread the word! Nancy Roberts

The NMGMS annual club picnic and rock swap will be **Saturday April 18th** this year.

Note: We are planning to hold a field trip out to the crab site at Blue Springs later in the afternoon after the picnic. We usually wrap things up around 3:30 or 4, so we should have time to run out there and do a little collecting on our way home. Might as well, since it's so close!

NMGMS Picnic and Rock Swap

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is having its sixth annual Rock Swap Picnic **April 18, 2015**

It will be held at **Ballard Park , West Main Street/Highway 6, Tupelo, MS**

We would like to invite all rock hounds from the surrounding areas to join our members for a day of great fun, trading and fellowship. There is no charge. The area is located in a **large covered pavilion (on the west side of the lake)** with many picnic tables. There is plenty of parking available. Bring whatever you'd like to swap and trade with fellow rockhounds!

Indoor restrooms, bike path, outdoor skate park, lake, Oren Dunn Museum and children's playground are close by.

So, bring something to trade or just come by to join the picnic, look around and visit with fellow rock hounds. **The Swap starts at 1 p.m.** The Park closes at 10p.m.

We will be having a club auction, as well as other donated items for sale (donated items are most welcome!) with all proceeds going to the club, and a "Fishing Game" for the kids. NMGMS will have hot dogs, chips and drinks.

******* Members are asked to bring a dessert and folding chairs.**



Directions:

From Memphis take Highway 78 south and exit onto McCullough Blvd./Hwy.178 heading south. Go 1.4 miles to Coley Road. Turn right and continue 3.3 to West Main/Hwy. 6. Turn left and continue 2 tenths of a mile to Ballard Park. The large pavilion is located on the west side of the lake. Watch for the NMGMS rock swap signs!

If coming from the east, take Highway 78 to the Natchez Trace Parkway. Enter the Parkway and go south toward Jackson, MS and exit at Hwy. 6/West Main St.

Go west toward Pontotoc, less than a mile, to Ballard Park. The pavilion is on the west side of the lake.



My Science Project by Konrad Armstrong

I decided to do my project on freezing and thawing rocks. The three types of rock I'm using for my project are sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks. I found that the sedimentary rock was most effected by the process. I will be continuing my project by repeating the freezing and thawing process for a longer period of time, so I can have more evidence to confirm that my hypothesis of the sedimentary rock being most damaged is correct. Also I am going to regionals on April, 10.

Field Trips:

NMGMS Rockheads Field Trip for Saturday May 9, 2015

Hello fellow NMGMS & Rockheads Members! Put on your water shoes, grab your sieves and buckets and let's get out there for those shark teeth and have a splash of a good time too!

On **Saturday May 9th, 2015**, the NMGMS Rockheads will sponsor a field trip to the famous Frankstown "Shark Teeth" Site, the W. M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park (the Site), which is located on Twenty Mile Creek in Prentiss County, Mississippi. We will meet at the Site by **10:00 a.m.** Parking is on the eastern side of US Highway 45 in the flat grassy area, just off of the side road and includes under the bridge. We will be sifting through the creek's sand and gravel for shark teeth and other small Cretaceous fossils. Be prepared to get wet and take precautions to limit sun exposure! You will be down in the creek, so you need to be able to go down the bank and get in the water. There is a somewhat steep, sandy path leading down the bank on both sides of the bridge. So, wear shoes that can get wet and a walking stick is a good idea. Bring a screening device, like a colander, sieve, or homemade screen made out of hardware cloth and a wooden frame, or fiber screening put into a large plastic embroidery hoop. Also, you will need a small garden trowel or scoop. Small plastic jars with tight fitting lids, zip loc bags or pill bottles make excellent storage containers for the fossils. There are no facilities here. Be sure to bring plenty of drinking water, a hat, sunscreen, a towel, and dry cloths to change into. This is a wild site so watch for poison ivy on the banks and snakes at all times. You will find many different kinds of teeth here, shark, ray, bony fish, Mosasaurs, and crocodile; also some vertebrae, turtle bone, scoots, petrified wood and lots more. Many of the teeth are good sized, but most are very small, so be sure to check out anything that is black and shiny!

This will be lots of fun for all ages. If you plan to go on this field trip, please notify:

Robert Langford at 662-869-2278H

or at rlangford@cobbenv.com or thechainmailman@yahoo.com or

Nancy Roberts therockhoundlady@yahoo.com 731-689-5336.

Lunch: The Rockheads will provide Chips and Hot Dogs with all the fixings, which Mr. Jim will be preparing. A tip basket will be open for donations to defray costs. Please bring your own drinks and a chair.

Additionally: Robert will kick off his 20-Mile Creek Summer 2015 Program. The white pavilion will be set up on top of the creek bank near the Hot Dogs. He will have fossil identification books, fossil labels, and will assist you in identifying and logging your best finds.

Directions: From Tupelo, take Hwy 45 N, and head toward Booneville. After you drive passed the stop light in Baldwin, go about three miles and watch for the Hwy 30W, Wheeler exit. Do not take this exit! Go under the Hwy 30 overpass and continue on Hwy 45 for a short ways. There will be a hillside on the right with a metal building and tractor trailers on it. Directly ahead, there will be the Twenty Mile Creek Bridge. Cross the bridge and then immediately take the right turn. Then take the first right there by the monument and park.

If you are coming south on Hwy 45, the monument site will be on your left, just before you cross the Twenty Mile Creek Bridge and half a mile or so before the Hwy 30 overpass.

Other Upcoming Events



The May NMGMS meeting will be on Saturday, May 16th, at the Lee County Library from 1 to 3 p.m.. Pat Arinder will be our guest speaker and he will present his Stone Age Tools program.

Old Bones...

A place to share knowledge of fossil, gem, and mineral collecting.



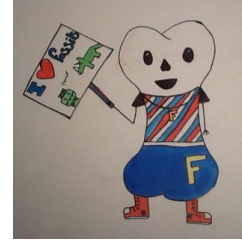
Rock Solid People by Dana Armstrong



I am a member of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society. I have been a member for a couple of years and I am very proud to be a part of this club. With this club, and many others like it, comes a love of rocks, minerals and fossils, and then there's the thrill of the hunt! So, rock hounds we are, but it's not the great finds that I write of, it's the "great people"!

I stumbled across NMGMS at a mineral show held at the Agricenter in Memphis, Tennessee. I took my son of ten, at the time, who was in awe. He was amazed and so was I. We have gone on field trips with the Memphis club and perfect strangers seem like good friends by days end. Our new found friends are so welcoming and considerate. In the rock world, there is that shared love for the wonder and the treasure that the earth has held secret. Prior hunts involved college students from Mississippi who spent time with my son, teaching him and making memories.

At every meeting or field trip, or any event that we have attended, we have learned so much from many helpful and kind people. Of course, my club, NMGMS, is special to my heart, but I must give praise to the members of all of the other rock clubs, and a special thanks to the field trip guides who make the field trips inviting, comfortable and fun. I have loved rocks and fossils my whole life and unlike NASCAR (which I also like!) or other sports, when rockhounds get together, there is no competition. Because of our love of rocks, minerals and fossils, there is not one team over another; we are all the same team, with the same goal...find those rocks and have fun doing it!



Rockheads: March 2015

March 21st meeting: As the Rockheads embark on their journey to earning badges, today they had a chance to earn the Earth in Space badge. The Rockheads drew the planets onto a piece of copy paper and used a measuring tape to draw a line where each planet would be.

Rockheads meeting attendees: Victoria Langford, Konrad Armstrong, Matthew and Brittani Lambert, Jake, Marion, and Alice Carr and Andrew Diaz.

They planned their May 9th field trip and hot dog cookout to Twenty Mile Creek.

New business: Visit a museum, caves, and a lead mine in Missouri

Submitted by Brittani Lambert, Secretary

Working towards being a "Junior Rockhound of the Year"



At the March NMGMS meeting, several of the Rockheads did a presentation of their project or collection, as part of the NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year program.



NMGMS "March Madness": Our 14th Birthday!



Another great show is coming soon....

Save the Date
 Saturday, April 25
 9 am-6 pm
 Sunday, April 26
 10 am-5 pm

Memphis Archaeological
 and Geological Society
 Presents
 The 2015

EARTH WIDE OPEN
 MINERAL, FOSSIL, GEM AND JEWELRY SHOW

Agricenter International
 7777 Walnut Grove Rd.
 Memphis, TN

THEEARTHWIDEOPEN.COM

Don't miss it!!

NMGMS will be setting up an exhibit/club information table again at the Memphis show, so if you are planning to attend, consider helping out at the club's table. Thanks!

NMGMS goes to Missouri! By Jim Roberts

We were all looking forward to our club's second field trip to the Park Hills area of Missouri to collect drusy quartz, when all of a sudden a late spring snowstorm hit. For the next few days we closely monitored how quickly the snow was melting, and made phone calls to our local guide in the area, Betty Marler, to check on conditions there. Finally the decision was made to wait one more day and then go ahead as scheduled and hope for the best. On the drive up, it didn't look good; the snow cover was pretty thick in north Tennessee. But as we drove further north into Missouri, the ground became more and more snow free. By the next morning when we left the motel for the first collecting site, snow was no problem and the weather actually was mild enough for some of us to shed coats, especially after hauling some of the huge specimens of drusy quartz up the hillside. We collected at two different sites, and by the end of the second day, everyone's pickup truck was just about loaded to capacity with first rate specimens of drusy, from tiny chunks to boulders that took two people to lift into the truck. At the end of the day, Betty led us to her house in Park Hills and showed us her collection; saying it was impressive doesn't do it justice. She and her late husband have lived in the area and collected for many years; her back yard was covered with hundreds and hundreds of beautiful specimens. All in all, it was a good end to what turned out to be a great NMGMS field trip!





Bead Soup! By Nikki Kenney

When straightening wire, place the end of the wire into your flat nosed pliers parallel with the jaws (facing in the same direction as the pliers' nose). That way, you will not crimp the end of the wire.

The plastic lid from yogurt, or deli meat, etc. makes a neat bead mat for small projects. Just cut a piece of felt or similar fabric to fit, and place inside the lid. The lip on the edge of the lid, and the fabric will keep you from having to chase those beads around the table or floor, and will make them easy to pick up with your needle. Those same lids, without the fabric, are great for holding small amounts of glue or resin that can be applied with a toothpick.

NMGMS 2015 Officers:

President/Field Trip Chair: `.....

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NMGMS March MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 21, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given and the January and February 2015 meeting minutes were approved.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance of \$ 2,743.10 Field Trips: No field trips are scheduled for April but there will be an impromptu trip to the Blue Springs crab site following the club picnic on Saturday, April 18th if time/weather allows. Publicity: The March Issue of Invitation Tupelo includes an article featuring Robert Langford's Twenty Mile Fossil ID station. Rebecca's "Rocks for Food" exhibit is at the Amory library now. Membership: There are 91 members total on the club roster. Check with John to see if your information needs updating, especially email address. Last call for dues. Hospitality: Nancy and Dana are responsible for refreshments in May. Website: Check us out at www.nmgms.org Newsletter: Drusy quartz field trip reviews needed. Note: Second Friday is the deadline for newsletter submissions and should be sent to Nancy at therockhoundlady@hotmail.com Youth Members: The Rockheads are hosting another 20 Mile Creek hotdog cookout in May. Watch emails/Nugget for more information. They are currently working on the FRA "Earth in Space" badge. Stamps: Historian: Cheryle Langford is gathering club related items for the yearbook. Geology/Kids Day: Meeting with Oren Dunn Museum to set a date for our next Geology Day is still pending. Safety: Safety articles/tips are welcome.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Specimens and grab bags are needed for our next Geology Day. 2. Club picnic/rock swap/auction will be held at Ballard Park on Saturday, April 18th in the large pavilion from 1pm until closing. Donations welcome with proceeds going to the club. Club provides hot dogs, chips and drinks with members donating desserts. 3. SFMS insurance premiums for 2015-16 have been paid, the rate for this year - \$1.90 per member. 4. Pat Arinder will be our speaker at our May 16th meeting; He will present his Stone Age Tools program.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Nancy has filed our 201 990-N ePostcard with the IRS and it has been accepted. 2. We will be setting up our club display/information table at the MAGS Rock and Gem Show April 25th -26th. Volunteers needed to work at the table. Nancy has geodes for sale. Baked goods can also be sold. 3. Club will be teaching the Copper Bangle Workshop for the West Point Arts Council on Saturday, April 11th from 10 to 4. Fee is \$40. Class limited to 15. Bring your lunch.

Motion to Adjourn.....

Brenda Manning, Secretary

For Federation news, please check out these websites:

<http://www.amfed.org/>

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>

FRA badge Program- http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

