



Photo by Jim Roberts
Blue Springs.



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

April 16, 2012

Volume 12 Issue 1

Happy Easter! I started writing these notes while on the way to Chicago to spend the Easter holiday with my family there. Seeing all of the crabapple, cherry and lilacs in bloom as we headed further north, definitely put me in the mood for colored eggs and chocolate bunnies! Actually though, by the time you read this missive, you may be frantically trying to complete your tax return!

Well, NMGMS members did it again! At our annual March birthday meeting, we were presented with an amazing display of collections and lapidary creations; from gemtrees and jewelry, fossil bones and quartz crystals, to shark teeth and crab claws! What a talented group of lapidary artists and avid collectors we have. We even had several displays presented by the junior members of our club, including Matthew Lambert's regional winning science project. The fantastic array of items on display showed just how busy and active our members had been since our last birthday. It also showed how well the field trips and workshops have helped to add skills, knowledge and increased interest to our members' repertoires. A big "thank you" goes to all who brought something to show. I would also like to thank everyone for their participation in and support of the brown bag auction. It was a lot of fun for all and many interesting surprises were revealed when the bags were opened.

On another note, at our past several board meetings, there was discussion concerning the possibility of NMGMS holding its own rock and gem show or another Kids' Day event or a combination of both. Presently, information on available spaces, sizes, costs and other pertinent details are being gathered. Over the past year, I have been asked by dealers and members of other rock and mineral clubs as to when we might start to hold our own show and at what time of the year we would consider doing so. We are now in the process of investigating whether or not this is a viable possibility for our club. We would also like to investigate the possibility of holding our own lapidary classes for the public somewhere in Tupelo. If we are to continue to grow as an organization, we need to consider all possible ways of raising revenues and increasing membership.

Another area affecting our organization is the possible loss of fossil collecting sites and how we can continue to provide locations for the club field trips. Finding locations and securing permission to collect there is becoming more difficult. Many private locales are being sold and built upon; quarries and mines are closing their doors to collectors due to regulations and insurance concerns, while state and federal properties are virtually now "off limits". There are still collecting places open and available to us through commercial enterprises, the Southeast Federation and joint trips with other clubs, but many of these are out of state and with gasoline prices approaching the \$4 mark, it would be nice to have collecting places much closer to home. We all need to research possibilities and be on the lookout for new places where we may get permission to have our field trips. In the meantime, continue to enjoy those sites still available and don't forget to hunt for those elusive colored eggs!

Sincerely,
Nancy Roberts



Dakotacancer crabs from Blue Springs, MS. Photo Nancy Roberts

April 21
Tupelo Library from 1 to 3pm
"The Fascinating World of
Fluorescent
Minerals"
NMGMS Member Floy Hawkins
Refreshments: Roger Loyd,
Peshani Herath

What's Inside

- Meeting Minutes p 2
- Calendar p 3
- Mt Ida Field Trip p 4-5
- Blue Springs/
Frankstown Field Trip
p6
- Safety Tips p 6
- Mea Culpa p 6
- Workshop p 7
- Rockhead News p 7-9
- Birthday Meeting p 9
- Read the Footnotes p 9
- Links p 9

Nancy and VP
Roger at Blue
Springs.
Photo Jim Roberts



NMGMS

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Nancy Roberts and Remy Collins.

Guest, Dennis Wommack and new member Dave Haynes were introduced.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting as printed in the Nugget was APPROVED & seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of today \$1571.25. The Federation insurance has been paid, the P.O. Box has been paid and the web page has been paid for the next 6 months.

Review of the Committees:

Field Trips: Our next field trip will be on **Saturday, March 31st to the crab site at Blue Springs in Union County MS.** We will be collecting fossils from the Coon Creek formation. We will meet at the site at 9:00 a.m. This is a joint field trip with a group from KY and IN (MAFIC, associated with Falls of the Ohio St. Park). Bring any fossils that you would like to trade. (See email and handouts for details) The group will then move to 20 Mile Creek on Hwy 45 near Frankstown in the afternoon of the 31st. There was discussion on the closing of the Vulcan Quarry to fossil hunters. Nancy is hoping it is temporary and will continue to check on the status of the closure.

Publicity: (Bob Reinhaus)

Membership: (Ann Byzet) We have sixty four (67) members for 2012 so far. Nancy encouraged all members that haven't paid to pay their dues. Unpaid member will be dropped from the roster by the end of March. Members who need only pay half price: Jackie Murry, Angela Mott, and Ed Haskely

Hospitality: **April:** Roger Loyd and Peshani Herath
May: Floy Hawkins and Justin Hobart

Website: (John Byzet) Website has been updated.... Check us out at www.nmgms.org

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) Nancy reminded the Rockheads to make up a logo for their section of the newsletter. Floy suggested each member Google images for a creative idea and submit for a vote by the group. Does anyone have a name suggestion for the "Lapidary tips, etc." section that is being added?

Youth Members: (Bernice Burkeen) Working on completing FRA Badge #1, Rocks and Minerals

Stamps: If there are any to turn in, give them to Mary Reed or Kathy Westbrook

Historian: (Susan Curry) It's time to start saving for the 2012 yearbook. If you take photos at any NMGMS event, please print out a few to submit to Susan for the yearbooks. Nancy asked for those who attended the MGMS Rock and Gem Show, the Fossil Road Show or the Mt. Ida trip to please turn in any related paraphernalia for the yearbook.

NMGMS
P.O. Box 1445
Tupelo, MS 38802

www.nmgms.org



Old Business:

During the February meeting, the club voted to make Dr. Terry Panhorst an honorary member. We are still trying to locate a company that can make up more of the club patches at a reasonable price.

The club will be setting up an exhibit table at the Memphis rock and gem show the weekend of April 28th and 29th. Members interested in helping contact Nancy Roberts. We will get 4 exhibitor passes for each day.

New Business:

We will be holding a club workshop on Saturday, March 24th in the small conference room here at the library. **No food or drink is allowed in the room.** The project is a leather and beaded wrapped bracelet. There is only room for 12, so sign up early! The kits will include the leather, beading thread and needle, a button and glass pony beads. You may bring any 6 or 8mm glass or gemstone beads of your choice. Cost of the kit for members is \$4. The group discussed allowing non-members to attend and charging an enrollment fee. A motion was made to charge \$10.00 enrollment fee for non-members which would include a club membership. APPROVED and seconded. NMGMS will be teaching a kumihimo class in conjunction with the West Point Arts Council in West Point, MS on Saturday, May 12th, from 10 to 3p.m. The class fee will be either \$30 or \$35. Volunteer helpers who are familiar with this technique are Cheryl Langford, Nikki Kenny, Floy Hawkins and Kathy Westbrook.

In the Board meeting held earlier today it was decided the Club would again have hot dogs at the annual picnic/rock swap on October 27th. The Club will provide the drinks and chips. Members will bring a dessert or other dish to share. A few ideas on youth games and having a "Kids Day" or mini rock show in April, October or November 2013 was discussed. John Byzet will check on locations.

Plans were discussed on setting up a field trip for Saturday, April 14th. 1st choice was the Alabama coal mine with 2nd choice being Luxapillila Creek in Columbus. Nancy is following up on getting permissions.

Floy announced there is a BBQ contest being held at the Bancorp South Center.

Reminders: The April 21st meeting will be at the library from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be on fluorescent minerals.

Motion to Adjourn.....



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Mark Your Calendar

April 21

Tupelo Library from 1 to 3pm

"The Fascinating World of Fluorescent Minerals"

NMGMS Member Floy Hawkins

Refreshments: Roger Loyd, Peshani Herath

May 26, 2012

A Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip

Bayou Pierre, near Utica, MS

Sponsored by the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society (Jackson, MS).

Finding jasper, chert fossils, agates, petrified wood, and sometimes (although rare) palmwood.

DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee

Official Field Trips of the Field Trip Committee are open to all members of clubs associated with the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS clubs/societies who provide their membership with SFMS liability insurance.

Because of insurance requirements, members of the general public are NOT invited to these or any DMC program field trips.

<http://www.gamineral.org/dixie-frame-main.htm>

May 19

Tupelo Library from 1 to 3pm

"The Role of Science Museums Today"

By George Phillips

Paleontologist

Mississippi Museum of Natural Science

Jackson, MS

June 18

Field Trip to 20 Mile Creek

(library is not available-no formal meeting)

July and August-NO MEETINGS

September 15

Tupelo Library from 1-3pm

Rockheads Displays/Presentations

October 27

Annual Picnic and Rock Swap

Large Pavilion at Ballard Park

Tupelo

November 17 TBA

December 15 TBA

Rock Shows/Swaps

Workshop

May 12, 2012

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, in conjunction with the West Point Arts Council, will be offering a Kumihimo class on Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 10 a.m. until 4p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 103 W. Broad Street in West Point.

In this class, we will be introducing the fine art of Kumihimo, a Japanese form of weaving. We will be working with a weaving disk, beads or other gemstones strung on cords and the "huggie" bobbins so popular with this technique. This weaving process is quite simple, but produces amazingly stunning results. The more varied your beads are, the more interesting is the finished project. This weaving produces a spiral strand that can be made into a variety of items such as necklaces, bracelets, eyeglasses' holders, lanyards, etc. The one in this class will be made into a bracelet. There are kumihimo videos online if you would like to take a look before hand at what you will be doing in this class. The class fee is \$35 per person and all materials, including the loom and bobbins are included in the class kit. Kits are limited, so please register early.

For more information or to register for this class, please contact Nancy Roberts, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com 731-689-5336 or Souzen Deavers-Steelhammer, souzendeaivers@aol.com 602-494-7288

April 27-29, 2012

October 5-7, 2012

Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig

Lincolntown, GA

Please contact:

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) -

706-359-3862 or 706-359-2381

or see <http://www.gamineral.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>

for details.

The mountain will be open to collecting

rutile, lazulite, and pyrophyllite.

April 28-29, 2012 Memphis,

TN

Memphis Archaeological and

Geological Society.

Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry

Show

"The Earth Wide Open".

Memphis International Agricenter,

Expo Center,

West Pavilion & A and B-wings

7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN.

Hours: Sat 9-6 and Sun10-5.

Adults \$5.00, Children 12 and under

\$2.00. Scouts free.

Portion of admission benefits the

Ronald McDonald House of Memphis.

Contact W.C. McDaniel 901-274-7706

email: w.c.mcd@att.net

www.theearthwideopen.com

April 21-22, 2012

Dothan Gem & Mineral Club.

5th Annual Show and Sale

James Grant Recreation Center

Westgate Park

501 Recreation Road

Dothan, AL

Hours: Sat 9-5 and Sun10-4.

Free admission.

Contact Arnie Lambert

334-792-7116

email: alambert@comcast.net

www.wiregrassrockhounds.com

May 11, 2012

Georgia Mineral Society

44th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil

Show

Cobb County Civic Center

548 South Marietta Parkway and

Fairground

Marietta, GA

Friday 10am-6pm

Saturday 10am-6pm

Sunday 12pm-5pm

Field Trip

March 10-11, 2012

NMGMS Heads for the Ouachita Mountains!

By Nancy Roberts



After a week of nail biting and fretting over what kind of weather Old Mother Nature was going to throw at us, 21 NMGMS members headed over to the Hot Springs area of Arkansas to hunt for their world renowned quartz crystals. We converged at a motel in the quaint, little town of Mt. Ida and spent Friday night wondering what the two mines that we had on our schedule would have in store for us. Upon seeing Saturday morning to be sunny and glorious after rain earlier in the week, we all were very excited when we headed up the road to visit our first mine of the weekend. This was the famous Phantom Mine operated at Wegners Crystal Mines. After turning in our liability release waivers and paying the fee, we gathered together for a briefing about the mine, the rules and regulations and other safety issues given by the owner, Richard Wegner. We loaded up our gear and ourselves into the cabs and truckbeds of two heavy duty pickup trucks and embarked on a 30 minute ride over what some would highly doubt was ever a mountain road! Lucky for those who got to ride inside the vehicle! The kids loved it! They got to tangle with a few stray branches and see who could come off of the seat the highest at each jounce in the road. Wish I had a recording of that ride. Several members tried to get a video, but, alas, to no avail!

These crystal mines are open pit quarries and the Phantom Mine appeared to not have been actively worked in quite a few years. The tailings had not been turned in ages, so many small pines and other soft wood trees were growing all over the piles. Down the road into the pit area of the quarry, we got to clamber around a huge pile of giant boulders which also had trees growing up here and there. The crystals on these boulders were awesome to look at, but extremely hard to extract. We did manage to break off a few pieces here and there and carry out a few smaller chunks, but on the whole, we mostly were only able to collect whatever loose crystals or small clusters could be found in the talus. All members agreed that it was a great experience to actually be at the crystal quarry, that our guide and the owner were very nice, friendly and helpful and that the ride in and climbing around the boulders was lots of fun. The weather turned out to be stupendous, so that we all had a wonderful day. We were a bit disappointed though, in that what we had carried out wasn't quite like what was on display back at the Wegner Crystal Warehouse. Guess we really should have held them to their satisfaction guarantee!

Of course, after a day of climbing up, over, around, and down all sizes of rocks, we were very hungry. So with no thought at all for our appearance, a group of us crystal hunters made the 15 mile trip further south to a highly recommended pasta place called, Little Italy. There we stuffed ourselves on what was really excellent Italian food; or were we just that hungry??

We had been warned by the locals, that the chance for rain was very high on Sunday and sure enough, it started raining during the night. So when we ventured out of our motel rooms at what was now an hour earlier than the previous day, due to the "spring forward" ritual of DST, many were asking if the day's trip to our other location was still on. Since the rain was not very heavy and seemed intermittent, I called the Miller Mt. Mine owners and was told that they were indeed open and ready for us. They had managed to bring up three new piles from their pit and turned quite a bit of the old tailings for us. So, hey, when you've traveled 6 hours to hunt crystals and only get the chance to do so once in a "Blue Moon", you go for it. So 17 of our group ventured on to the second mine of the weekend.

Being a Sunday, not much in the little towns of the Ouachita Mountains is open, so as we caravanned our way over to Miller Mountain, we made a quick breakfast stop at a little gas station deli. They really do know how to make biscuits in "them thar hills". The rain was beginning to pick up and become steadier, but we kept on, determined to see what Bill and Faith had to offer. We all thought the road up to the Phantom mine was an experience, but we were in for another one. The road we encountered leading us up to the Miller Mt./Coleman Mine was gravel and now had rivulets of rain washing down here and there, not to mention the two "low water" bridges that were now still low, but the water was flowing fairly fast over the top of them. Riding in someone else's heavy duty truck is one thing, but driving in your own car, makes you wonder how well the underside is doing every time you hit a bump! I told Jim that I was glad we had come in our pickup truck!

We were given another short safety review after we signed in and paid our fees. This time, we were able to park right beside the tailings and there were outdoor facilities for our use. The rain made the collecting interesting to say the least. It was a bit more slippery getting up the sides of the tailings piles, but the rain made the crystals stand out more. Only problem was that the red Arkansas clay stuck to everything, including the crystals, with a vengeance! Also, in working the tailings, you need to rake the dirt around in order to find the crystals buried in the piles and wet clay is very hard to rake! We still started finding crystals immediately upon approaching the piles. Once up on the top of the tailings, it was flat and you could comfortably walk around and search the smaller piles up there. Everyone got soaked and muddy, but the consensus was, that we were finding much better crystals at this second location. The mine operator, Bill Phipps, was very friendly and informative. He stayed busy inside wire wrapping some of the crystal specimens while he watched us collecting outside in the rain! This second mine site was enjoyable, in that it was very "user" friendly and geared to handle families with young children.

Periodically, the rain would come through with a bit more gusto and then let up a bit, so on some of those occasions where it got a little heavier, we would go down to the parking lot where David and Belinda Loyd had rigged up a tarp for us to get under. They shared their snacks and drinks with everyone and we grabbed a bite of lunch. By 2:30, it was becoming too hard to see the crystals anymore due to the rain and too hard to rake. Besides, we all were pretty wet, cold and tired, so our group decided to call it a trip and load up. Everyone had several buckets full of very muddy rocks and crystals to haul home and we were all very pleased with the weekend as a whole.

10 of us decided to wait until the next day to make the 6 hour drive back home and to not do it on a rainy, dreary evening. So those of us staying another night headed back to Mt. Ida and a hot shower at the Royal Oak Inn. Jessica, the motel operator was so very nice and helpful. She even let us have the discounted rate for the extra night. Each room had a coffee maker too and I couldn't wait for a hot cup of tea or coffee when I got back there! After getting out of our wet and muddy clothes, showering and making ourselves presentable, we headed for the local hamburger joint for supper. Not too many eatery choices available in town and I guess by the end of three days, we had tried them all! Later that evening, some of our group used the motel hose and washed the mud off of their gear and buckets, so they could load the car for the trip home and not have to carry back that extra weight! We couldn't wait to get home and start getting those crystals washed and cleaned in the oxalic acid, so we could finally see what sparkling treasures we had managed to find. Everyone agreed that we would love to go back again sometime.

Mt Ida Photos and Reviews



It was not always easy to identify crystals in the sticky red mud. Photo Bernice Burkeen



Once found and cleaned the crystals are lovely. Photo Remy Collins

Something occurred to stop the growth of the crystal and the position changed, or it broke (and 'healed') then the crystal began growing again in a different angle. Photo Bernice Burkeen



Nancy's lovely finds. Photo Dana Jones

Members working in the tailings at the Phantom Mine. Photo Dana Jones



Both the Wegner and Coleman Mines had appropriate safety meetings.

Wegner mine seemed limited and well picked over, and the tailings not turned for years. I have concerns regarding mining regulations and being allowed in the pit. (editor: this is a grey area as the mine is not active per the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and waivers were signed.) The store was very good with a large quantity of good quality goods.

Coleman seemed more friendly to me. It rained for most of our collecting, however there was much to collect as there were fresh tailings and older tailings had been turned.

I feel I enjoyed Coleman Mines better. I recommend looking into the cost of a 40 hour H&S Mining Class for easier access to mines.

Robert Langford

The large crystal had been broken and then began to grow again. This caused it to become a double terminated point. The smaller crystal was a "floater" crystal, which meant that it was never attached to anything. It was free to grow with two terminated ends. Later a smaller crystal began to grow off of one of the terminated ends.



Photo Bernice Burkeen

I really liked the Phantom Mine. It might have been mostly because the weather was so great, but I thought the people there were really nice and helpful. I liked that we had to climb boulders and really search for the quartz. It was more exciting to go through than the ready made piles they had for us in the second mine. Though it was more fun digging for quartz in the Phantom Mine, I think we found better quality quartz in the second mine. The trip overall was great!

Peshani Herath

Oh I had a BLAST!! Definitely worth the trip. As far as comparing the 2 mines goes, I actually really enjoyed the Phantom mine better than the Coleman mine, but on the contrary, I also found some of my best crystals at the Coleman mine!- although I think the Phantom mine had a much better variety of cluster specimens than the Coleman mine. I hate that it rained when we were at the Coleman mine because I really think I would have enjoyed it much more if I weren't half-miserable the whole time! But all in all, I liked both places, but would probably rate the Phantom mine as the better of the two. For one, about 3/4 of the stones that I brought home came from the Phantom mine so I feel like it had more to offer than the Coleman mine. But one of the biggest reasons I rate the Phantom mine better is because Richard and David and all of the other ppl working there were incredibly nice and knowledgeable and seemed to be really enthusiastic about us being there. They reviewed the safety rules and what-not with the group beforehand and hung out with us all afternoon at the digging sites. I thought that was very professional and kind of them, and I felt very welcomed.

Justin Hobart

The logistics were remarkably well planned and well executed. The field trip on Saturday was great. The tailings had been combed thru so much that few high quality crystals and clusters were found, but this might not be a fair statement since I remember the 1960's and 1970's in Arkansas when it was not unusual to find fist sized crystals and clusters. It was great fun, however, playing in the dirt and I did find nice specimens to share.

Sunday was also a good hunt in spite of the mud and rain. Crystals were difficult to see in the sticky clay and mud. Dry conditions could have improved the find rate, but ideal conditions are rare. I was most impressed with the set up at Miller Mountain —it is family friendly and I have it in the back of my mind for an adventure with the grandchildren in two or three years. I had to leave early due to some foot problems left over from years of radiation and chemo, but I had a blast . . . Gary Matthews

Blue Springs Frankstown MS

March 31, 2012

By David Hanes

On the last day of March, a group of excited fossil hunters from the NMGMS spent a productive morning searching for a variety of fossils at the Blue Springs exit off of Hwy 78. It had rained heavily the previous day around Tupelo, and the conditions at the site were prime to find fossils that lay on the surface of the sticky gray mud.

Fossils fragments were washed out of the mud into small piles that dotted the eroded hillside. The divisions of the upper rock strata were clearly exposed at the site, which was also visited by other groups of fossil hunters, including a group from Louisville, Kentucky.

Our members found some amazing samples of the marine life that lived between 70 and 71 million years ago in the sandy mud of the ancient sea. Crabs, sharks, snails, lobsters, nautilus, and reptilian mosasaurs all competed for survival in this shallow salt water sea environment, and many of the fossils that our group found were encased in the hardened sandy mud. Exogyra, which were washed down the hillside, littered the slopes. Shells, bones, carapaces, teeth, and other hard parts were constantly being buried in the sandy mud of this ancient sea floor.

Members of our group found a surprising variety of fossils. Roger Lambert found a mosasaur tooth and vertebra in one of the washes in the upper part of the deposit. David Hanes found an almost complete Hoploparia lobster encased in a sandy matrix. Other members found sharks teeth and many broken carapaces.

We all left about 12:30, and some members headed to the Frankstown site. In retrospect, the fossil finds from the Blue Springs started a great day of hunting.



Hoploparia Photo by David Hanes



Linuparus canadensis. By Nancy Roberts



Hoploparia Photo by David Hanes



Top: Rat Fish, partial crushing jaw plate. The ratfish is still alive today, but is a deep water species. It is thought to be an evolutionary link between sharks and bony fish. Photo Roger Lambert

Middle: from left ray vertebrae, sawfish tooth, Squalicorax or crow shark tooth. Photo Nancy Roberts

Bottom: A beautiful day collecting in a picturesque stream. The large boulders are concretions. They are also slippery when your feet are wet and Robert should be more careful. He looks dry-for now. Photo Jim Roberts



Members and Guests examining finds. Roger appears to have gotten wet for Robert. Photo Jim Roberts

BE CAREFUL!

AKA SAFETY TIPS By David Loyd

Safety Tip – Swift Water

Even water that is 6" deep moving at 6 MPH can knock you down. Even automobiles can be swept away by swift water. Water that is 12" or less moving swiftly can move a car. Cars, including heavy trucks, can get swept away in less than 2-feet of swift water. Never drive through moving water. Nationwide, 70% of all flood-related fatalities are in vehicles. Everyone, especially children, should **stay away from rivers, streams and other waterways** when there is heavy rain runoff, including on sunny days immediately following, or in between, big storms.

When it rains, rivers, and creeks can quickly fill up with fast-moving water, creating a potentially life-threatening danger to anyone who gets caught or swept away.

Even if it's sunny downstream, it may still be raining heavily upstream, sending flash floods downstream. Be weather wise!

http://higginsandlangley.org/flood_safety_information.shtml

Shocking isn't it that this is here yet again? Note on pg 6, all photos taken by Nancy Roberts and in the last photo with everyone around the table, it is Angie Taylor and not Mary sitting between Cathy and Byron

In what is the single most spectacular act of boneheadedness yet-the issue number is wrong. Though you have most likely noted that I seem to have the most trouble with that, hence boneheaded. The number should be 10.

Send me pictures, articles, etc if for no other reason then to see how I can muck it up.



Searching at Blue Springs. Photo Jim Roberts.

Workshops and Craft Advice

Wrapped Leather Bracelet

March 24, 2012

By Nikki Kenney

Our Wrapped Leather workshop, held at the Library on March 24, was attended by ten ladies, eight adult, and two young ladies. We were instructed in the making of bracelets or necklaces by threading beads on colored thread, and enclosing them between two lengths of leather cord by a series of wraps around the leather and through the beads. The effect is quite lovely, and very popular in California.

The bracelet could wrap around the wrist one to three times, and would be finished with a button closure. A large supply of buttons were generously supplied by Annette Kelly.

This was a fast moving project, and many of us were able to complete our bracelets during this workshop. I found the whole procedure fun and addictive, and went home and searched my "stash" for beads to make more bracelets.

Floy had bought the leather for the workshop, and kindly allowed us to purchase additional lengths at her cost. I am eagerly awaiting notification of our next workshop. What will it be?

Floy and Tabitha's bracelets.
Photo Dana Jones



Nancy, center, helping both Clarice, left, Remy on the right with their bracelets. Neither were happy to when it was discovered a photo was being taken. Photo by Dana Jones

From top, bracelets made by Nikki, Dana, Brittani, Remy, Kathy, and Nikki. Photo Dana Jones



Tabitha hard at work on her bracelet. Photo Dana Jones

Helpful Link

Below is a great link for designing your kumihimo. You can choose the number of threads, and the colors and positions, and see how your pattern will look. You can even print out your design. This is really cool, and so easy. This is a great site to share with our members who do kumihimo, and also the ones who will take the workshop in May. Or, better yet, include the link in the Nugget in our Bead Soup tips and hints column.

Nikki Kinney

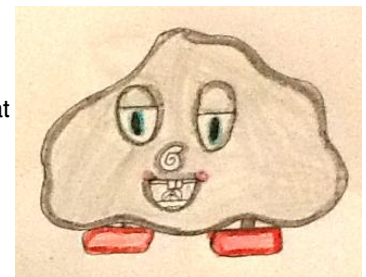
<http://www.craftdesignonline.com/kumihimo/>

Rockhead News

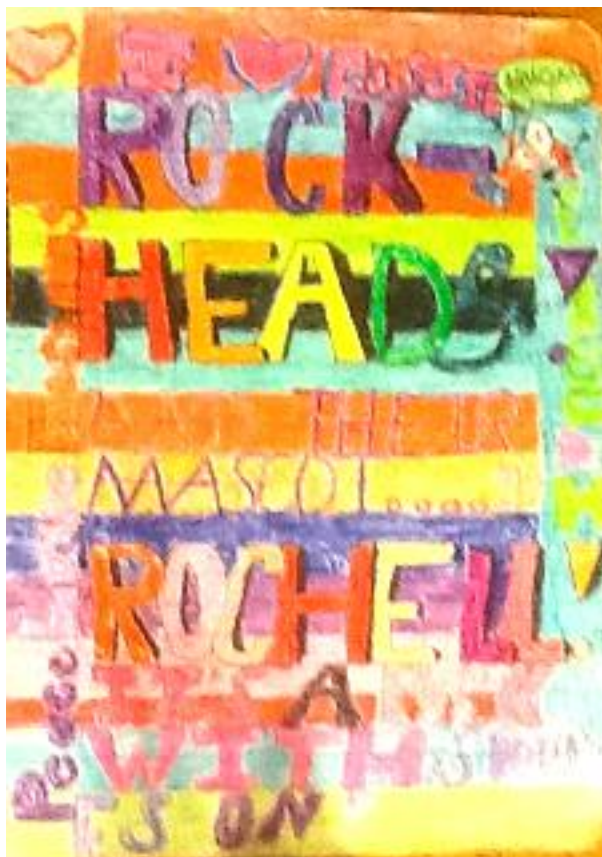
Editor Nagging

You guys still need a mascot/symbol and a banner-that would be the thing currently in purple saying Rockhead News. An attempt at a banner is to the side, and she added a notice of an idea for a mascot/symbol. The mascot/symbol is named Rochell. This is at least a place to start. Look over it, please contact Roger, Bernice, Dana or Remy with any ideas or suggestions. Also, I'd like to encourage you all to please send in photos, write ups of what you're doing, are interested in, would like to see or know more about. Of course you can have your parents do it for you.

Nagging Editor Out
Dana Jones



Rochell the Rockhead by Remy Collins



A FELLOW NAMED MATTHEW

by Floy Hawkins

At the moment we have a young man that is making our club proud, Matthew Lambert. We have watched him, from a very young age, pursue his interest in fossils.

Matthew Lambert is making a name for himself through his science exhibits made up from his efforts of hunting fossils. In 2011 at age 12 and in the 6th grade, Matthew Lambert won his school's Science Fair and went on to Regional judging. He also won a Southeast Federation Mineralogical Society Junior Scholarship to William Holland Lapidary School. He continues attending Middle School at the 7th grade level and this year he not only placed first in his school's Science Fair, but also won first place at the Regional level.

Mississippi is broken up into 7 Regions. The Lamberts reside in Region 4 which is comprised of 10 counties in North East Mississippi. Each school has its local Science Fair. The schools usually enter their top placing projects into their respective Regional fair. Students in grades 1-6 stop at Regional. They are not eligible to advance to the State level. The top three places from each category for grades 7 - 12 advance to the State level. Students in grades 7- 8 are not eligible to advance to the International Fair. The State Fair chooses the top 2 places in grades 9 - 12 to go onto the International Fair.

This year's First Place win placed Matthew in the Mississippi State Science and Engineering Fair competition in Biloxi. Matthew was the only Middle School winner from this Region pitting him against high school students from the likes of the Juniors and Seniors that attend the Math and Science High School in Columbus. He didn't place at the state level but that hasn't dissuaded Matthew from already planning his next year's science project. It does a retired educator's heart good to watch young people have the courage to compete in the area of science.

A View of Mt Ida

By Remy Collins



The double terminated crystal. Photo by Remy Collins

A number of weeks ago, my mom told me that we were going to Mount Ida for a fossil field trip. I was so excited because I love Arkansas, because whenever we can, we go to Hot Springs to see the horse races. I thought it was going to be actual fossil hunting, but we were hunting for crystals. My excitement decreased from 100% to 50%. I was both excited and disappointed, for I'm not a big fan of crystals.

A number of stops and a bajillion hours, we finally made it to "The Royal Oak Inn." It was very similar to the one we stayed at in Parsons. Next door there was a gem store and, get this, they put their finds outside their store, where it could easily be stolen, and next to that was a little Bar-B-Que place. The motel was cute and in our room there was a really small bathroom. But I Thanked glob, for they had both wi-fi and a tv.

We rode in the car then we stopped at another gem store and like the one next to the motel, their finds were outside. At first, I thought, this is going to be easy. Then, to my disappointment, we got into the bed of a truck, which was extremely hazardous, then next thing I know, we drove onto a gravel road. Now, let me tell you, I thought my heart was going to blow up, because I have had bad experiences (that will remain classified) with gravel roads. But I ignored that because my best friend, Brittany, and I were being attacked by overgrown tree branches (by the way, Nancy, our club president, her husband Jim recorded the whole thing!) Finally after probably thirty minutes, we arrive at the quarry. The first thing I found, well let's just say it wouldn't fit in our bucket and it was really heavy. But luckily, my god-like strength picked up a bulbous quartz! After I put the quartz on the tailgate of the truck, I went to look around. You all probably know this, because at first I didn't, but most of the crystals are really sharp. I only picked up a few little crystals but I only received one double-terminated crystal. I was kind of happy about it, yet I wanted to find a bigger one than that. But I kept it anyway.

cont p 9

NMGMS has been fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a part of Matthew's efforts and to help when asked. Matthew was also chosen as a Broadcom Masters Nominee at this year's Regional Science Fair for a chance to compete in the Broadcom MASTERS, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students need to first compete in their local or regional SSP-affiliated Science Fair, and be nominated by the Fair for the Broadcom MASTERS. Nominees will then complete the online application.

Entries will be judged during the summer and on August 15, SSP and Broadcom will announce the top 300 national semifinalists. From the semifinalists, 30 finalists will be announced on August 29 and will win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC in October 2012 to showcase their projects, compete in teams and visit historical sites and organizations that celebrate innovation through science, technology, engineering, and math and science. We will be keeping the faith that Matthew gets chosen.

We can all think about the successes of the young people that have benefited from gem and mineral clubs like NMGMS. We can bring to mind, Terry Everett, Matthew Huber, Justin Hobart and Peshani Herath. We can also hope that youngsters like Matthew continue to pursue their science minded interests and continue to be a role model for others.



Matthew and his science fair project.
Photo by Jim Roberts.

Andrew's crinoids, causing envy in a shallow editor. Photo by Robert Diaz



Alabama Field Trip February 18, 2012

By Andrew Diaz

When I went to the rock hunting trip to Alabama, I found a ton of fossils like archimedes, crinoid stems, blastoids, brachioides and an iron stone, there were everywhere. It was muddy, cold and near a big lake.

My dad is still cleaning mud out of the car. Matthew and I found a boat under the water at the second place, it was neat!!

The other neat thing was eating at Jacks in Mysterious Place AL on the way back. Everybody was nice in helping me to find the fossils and naming them.

My dad bought me a plastic storage box so I can separate the fossils I found.

I had a lot of fun and love my fossils. Can't wait till I get to go on another field trip.

cont. from p 8

The next day we got into the car and off we were to yet another quarry. I prayed to God, for the love of being able to still eat Doritos, that we would not ride in another truck on a gravel road again. But, of course, we, with our little black vehicle, encountered a gravel road. So, my heart thinks that he can just go right up my throat to hang out with my voice box. Finally, we reached our destination. Luckily, with my smart self, I got gloves. Thank glob!

My mom then comes up and informs me to put my ugly gargantuan red rain coat. I reopened my car door and pulled out the red monstrosity and put it on my little body. The red thing did not, and I mean did not, both look good on me and that the thing could be put on the world and it would still be to big. But I would have to allow the fact that on the outside I look like I'm afraid of nothing but I am scared of clowns, big dogs that I don't know, gravel roads, wasps, Dora the explorer (don't ask) and my mom. Or, as I call her, Predator, because I seriously think that Mom, with nothing but her angrier-than-the-hulk mind (after you've pushed her off the edge) and her bear-like bare hands, could rip someone's spine out and keep their head as a trophy (in my head, I've made a hilarious TV series called My Mother Has A Short Fuse. Back to the quarry. I found out why my loving, caring, generous, funny, awesome mom told me to put the eyegore on, because after like not more than two minutes, rain starts pouring down on our heads. I was starting to get really cold, so I went around looking for dry, warm enough, place to have temporary residence in. Then, as if they could see a wet, red figure walking a mile away, they had a tart tied the trunk lid of their car to Nancy and Tim's car. Thank glob, they invited every single club member huddled under the tiny shelter. So, like a pigeon, I waddled over to the crowd of soaking wet club members. It was probably the craziest thing anybody would've ever seen. But I had an extremely fun time.

We then, yet again, returned to our motel and washed our finds as good as we could. Then right when Mom put our bucket full of finds into the trunk, I bolted into the bathroom, I got a hot shower. When I got out, I sat on our bed and watched some "Wooster and Jeeves" on my laptop. My mom was working on the Nugget when Nancy came into our room to ask Mom something. Then, as if they were moths, all of the club members were piled in our room. Of course, after a half of a second, one of the people said "I'm hungry." I immediately put on some clothes and I ran out the door. My stomach was begging to be satiated. Then we went to an ice cream and burger restaurant. We ate our meals, drank our shakes, and we went back to our motel. I was so exhausted and ready to collapse. Finally after putting sleep cloths on, I didn't even bother saying my prayer. Of course I felt really guilty, so I promised myself that the next time I would go to bed, I would plead for forgiveness in prayer.

Have you ever stayed somewhere, other than your house, for a few days that you live there? Well, that is precisely how I felt, because we had to say our goodbyes to the motel, club members and Arkansas. I knew that sooner or latter we would visit again, but I don't want to wait. So, off we went, in our little black vehicle, heading back to Mississippi. I thought this trip was going to be lame but I had like five hundred boatloads of fun. I know that no matter what I will always remember my field trip...to Mount Ida.



Gathering for the adventure. Photo by Dana Jones

Moths gathering. Photo by Jim Roberts



Meeting Program

NMGMS is 11!

At our last meeting NMGMS celebrated it's 11th anniversary with cake and ice cream. Members brought collections to display, and a great time was had by all at the brown bag auction. A few items were extremely contested and everyone seemed happy with what they won.



Yellow cake with chocolate icing was the cake of choice for the celebration. Photo Jim Roberts.



Members exploring the displays. Photo Jim Roberts.

All are paying attention to the meeting. Photo Jim Roberts

Read the Footnotes

Do you have anything you'd like to see in **The Nugget**?

We are hoping to have a summer issue consisting of articles regarding fossils, minerals, geology and the lapidary crafts. A few people have volunteered (or were coerced) to write and otherwise contribute to this special issue. Anyone interested in contributing to this, or with ideas, or things they'd like to see please contact nuggeteditor@gmail.com.

I'd like to remind you, anything you'd like to send in, or write, or see in general in the newsletter, please email the editor. Or Nancy therockhoundlady@yahoo.com. Dana Jones



You can participate in fun activities like volunteering your shirt as a background in a specimen photo shoot. Floy and Tabitha helping with supplying a background for Nancy's crystals. Photo Dana Jones



Display of shark teeth, petrified wood, and crinoids. Photo Jim Roberts.



John, Belinda, Nancy, and Roger at the board meeting prior to the general meeting. Photo Jim Roberts