



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

December 12, 2011. Volume 10 Issue 7

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

I trust that everyone had a most enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday and that you all are looking forward to the coming Christmas festivities. This is the time of year when we start making plans and resolutions for the new year ahead, but it is also a good time to look back and reflect on the year about to end. In going back over the NMGMS activities of 2011, we see that as a rock and mineral organization, we have a lot of accomplishments to be proud of. Our meetings had some dynamite programs and were well attended; we had many fantastic field trips and several beading/lapidary workshops. Two NMGMS members earned federation (SFMS) scholarships to attend the William Holland Lapidary School, one thru the stamp program and the other thru the junior rockhound scholarship program. We also awarded one NMGMS sponsored scholarship to a club member for a William Holland class. In all, NMGMS had seven club members attend this fantastic lapidary school this year.

NMGMS was asked by two of the local area Art Councils to share its expertise and teach a Beginning Beading class. Our beading enthusiast members stepped up to the plate and volunteered to teach and help out, so we had two very successful classes, one in May and the other this past October. The club's 2010 yearbook which was submitted to the

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' competition in July took a gold medal, thus showing that NMGMS is an "All American Club"!

Our organization saw a dramatic increase in membership this year, with many new junior members added to our roster. So this past spring, NMGMS added a Youth Members committee and applied to the American Federation to start up a Future Rockhounds of America group within the club. Now our junior members can earn badges thru the FRA program, as they work on a variety of activities in the rock, mineral, gem, fossil and lapidary fields. This fall, one of our NMGMS junior members took second place in the SFMS Junior of the Year (JOY) competition and one other achieved "recognition of participation".

In 2011, we established our very own club domain on the Internet and now have an up and running website (www.nmgms.org) which has helped tremendously with our club's publicity. Financially, despite all of the outlays for club programs, supplies, scholarships, memorials and other club necessities, we still managed to end the year with about the same amount in the club checking account as last year!

So, all in all, it looks like the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society had a very good year and hopefully, 2012 will continue to show that our club is a growing, active, vital, interesting, fun and educational rock and mineral society. In order to be the very best organization that we can be, NMGMS needs everyone's help and participation. This



Tabitha and
Brittany
Getting nancy
out
Of the pokey.

Next Meeting
Christmas Potluck December 17
11 to 3pm
Lee County Library

NMGMS
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www.nmgms.org
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Rose

November Meeting

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: November 19, 2011

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by: *Victoria Langford*
Introduction of guests and new members present... *Byron*
& *Jennifer Morgan*; *Peshani Herath*

The minutes of the September meeting was **approved and second** as printed in the Nugget.

Treasurer's Report: \$216.05 was made during the October Rock Swap & \$450.00 for the Beading class - closing Balance as of today: \$1804.69.

A review of the club's various committees by Nancy Roberts, President.

Field Trips: Reminder-December field trip will be **Saturday Dec. 3rd** to Vulcan quarry in Parsons, TN for Devonian fossils.

Membership: (Floy Hawkins) New members: Byron and Jennifer Morgan; Jackie, Rose, Kristie and Kirby Murry; and Les Tofte

Hospitality: Reminder -December Christmas pot luck luncheon; volunteers for 2012 January meeting: Justin Hobart/Nancy Roberts; February: Belinda Loyd/

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

Stamps: (Mary Reed or Kathy Westbrook) No report at this time.

Historian: (Susan Curry) No report at this time.

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) Thanks to Jennifer Morgan for volunteering to surf the net and provide safety articles for the newsletter.

Youth Members: (Kendal Bullock) The Rockheads are officially listed as a Future Rockhounds of America group on the AFMS website. The committee postponed presenting patches until next month.

Elected officers:

Group Leader – Matthew Lambert

Asst. Group Leader – Robin Langford

Secretary – Remy Jones

Field Trip Chair – Brittani Lambert

Old Business:

The Wire Jewelry Making book and the Rock and Mineral book have been donated to the library in memory of George and Rena Everett.

There was follow up discussion on a proposed field trip to the Wegner Crystal Mines in Mt. Ida, Arkansas for quartz in March. Members inquired if there was any update on the Blue Springs fossil site. Several universities and concerned individuals are proposing the site be preserved as an educational location.

New Business:

1. 2012 officers were elected. President – Nancy Roberts; Vice President – Roger Lambert; Treasurer – John Byzet; Secretary – Belinda Loyd (still has one more year of her 2 year term).
2. Elected as chairperson for Membership committee- Ann Byzet; no nominations for Publicity chairperson was sent forth. A voting ballot will be posted in the newsletter. Present committee chairpersons will continue to serve in their present capacity.
3. The club unanimously agreed to participate in "Toys for Tots"; the Langford's agreed to prepare the ham for club Christmas Party luncheon.

Reminders:

The Jan. 21, 2012 meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be "Polymorphs and Pseudomorphs: What are they?" by Dr. Terry Panhorst of the University of Mississippi's Geology Department.

Renew your club membership for 2012 any time starting now until the end of January.

Meeting Adjourned

Kathy Westbrook, our stamp chair, is hoping to have lots of stamps to turn in to the federation so we'll have a good chance at a scholarship. So please watch your mail and start cutting off all stamps. It does not matter if they are canceled. We are looking for stamps that are not torn or soiled. Special edition stamps and foreign ones are the best, but any will do. Please be sure to cut the stamps off of the envelope very carefully and leave about 1/2 inch of paper around all sides. You may have to fold open the envelope in order to do that. Turn the stamps that you have collected in to Kathy at our regular meetings. Please get all of your friends and relatives saving too. Hey, even your place of business. So, get out those scissors and start today!

Door Prizes Needed

With 2012 meetings just around the corner, NMGMS could use a new collection of specimens and lapidary items for door prizes. We all like to have a chance to take home something new and different and we look forward to the door prizes that have been given out at our club meetings. We thank all of you members who have been bringing these in for us and hope that you all will continue to help out in this regard. So please check through your collections and projects and see what you could bring in for a door prize at the next meeting. So, happy hunting and make someone else happy too!

Renewal fees are due. See last page for form.

Working in a Coal Mine

December 12, 2011

November 5, 2011 Field Trip



Cordova Police Station
Nancy Roberts

Fossil fern leaf, Spenopteris
By Nancy Roberts



Stem Casts of Giant Cordaites
by Nancy Roberts



There really is a first time for everything!

I never thought that I would see the day when the police got involved with one of our club's field trips, but it really did happen on our Nov. 5th trip to the Alabama coal deposits. It all began with an extremely foggy morning which made for very hazardous driving conditions. This situation also made for an abundance of police patrol cars to be out in the northwestern Alabama quadrant. Our group had planned to do some collecting at the Union Chapel Mine and to then proceed to a second site in the afternoon. So after doing a few hours of breaking open shale slabs and hunting for those elusive trackways, we packed up and as a caravan of cars, headed toward our second site of the day.

Ashley Allen was hoping to lead us to a gas station for a much needed rest stop, when we ended up in one of the areas of Alabama where a tornado had gone thru on that fateful spring night when over 100 tornadoes ripped thru the Midsouth region. Luckily for us, there was one of those vigilant patrol cars on the corner, so lo and behold, after making inquires as to how to proceed around the barricades, we were given a police escort to the only available "public" restroom in town... the temporary police headquarters trailer! Well, I guess that was way beyond the call of duty to the public, but we were very grateful for the service! While there, we

had to take a few minutes to stand opened mouthed and view the damage. Oh my gosh, it looked like a bomb site from WWII.

We then received a police escort out of town, even though we assured the officers that we really did have permission to be collecting fossils!! So, as we went "round robin's barn" through the Alabama countryside to arrive at our second collecting site of the day, we contemplated how potent the weather can be and change things in a heartbeat. Our second location was a much larger mine and more recently worked. We had a tremendous amount of fun climbing over the big tailing piles of shale looking for casts of *calamites* (horsetails) and lycopods (giant club mosses) or fossil fern fronds and *cordaites* leaves. We all hated to see the day end, but with it getting dark so much earlier and the long trip home ahead of us, we hauled all of our "goodies" up the hill and packed up. We certainly were thinking about all of those fossil treasures down there just waiting to be discovered. Can hardly wait for a chance to go again!! Nancy Roberts



Matthew Lambert and his Lycopod Stem Cast
By Roger Lambert

Rose Murry, Brittani and Tabitha Lambert, Nancy Roberts
By Roger Lambert



Giant Fossil Fern Leaf
By Roger Lambert



Mark Your Calenders!

The **Jan. 21, 2012** meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be "Polymorphs and Pseudomorphs, What are they" by Dr. Terry Panhorst of the University of Mississippi 's Geology Dept.

The **February 11, 2012** meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. the program is, "Crystal Form and Mineral Habit", by NMGMS member Myra Sorozcak

The **March 17, 2012** meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be our annual birthday party, with presentations and displays by NMGMS members

The **April 21, 2012** meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be "The Fascinating World of Fluorescent Minerals", by NMGMS member Floy Hawkins

The **May 19, 2012** meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be "The Role of Science Museums Today", by George Phillips, paleontologist with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS.

June meeting date, place and program TBA (library is not available).

July and August- No Meetings!

The Sept. 15, 2012 meeting-TBA

The October, 27, 2012 meeting will be the annual club picnic and rock swap, time and location TBA

The November, 17, 2012 meeting- TBA

The Dec. 15, 2012 meeting will be the NMGMS Christmas party and luncheon, time and location TBA

Rockhead News

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies' JOY (Junior of the Year) competition standings are out and NMGMS has two winners! Matthew Lambert placed second out of 8 entries from clubs around the southeast and Brittani Lambert got "recognition of participation". They each will receive a certificate and specimen as awards. Way to go!!!! We are all proud of you and thank you for your hard work and participation.

The Holidays are Coming

We have already seen the first snow of the season and now Christmas trees and holiday lights are being put up and all of the surrounding towns are hosting their Christmas parades. To get us all into the holiday spirit, we will be having our NMGMS annual Christmas party and potluck luncheon on Saturday Dec. 17, 2011 from 11 until 3p.m. upstairs at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo, MS.

The club will provide a ham for the party and members attending are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. We will have a gift exchange also. If you wish to participate, please bring a gift (\$10 max) and label it as either a man's, woman's, or child's gift. We are also asking members to please bring a few canned goods or other nonperishable food items for our club's contribution to a local food pantry. We will also participate in the "Toys for Tots" program, so please bring a new toy to donate. The toys will be dropped off at the Oren Dunn Museum after the party.

Hope to see everyone there to help NMGMS celebrate a great year. Merry Christmas!

COLD CONNECTIONS A HOT TICKET AT WILLIAM HOLLAND

BY: SOUZEN DEEVERS STEELHAMMER, NMGMS MEMBER

As soon as the new listing of classes came out last November, I was on the phone with my William Holland partner in crime and fellow NMGMS member Beth Parker, to select the dates and classes we both wanted to take in 2011.

We are both wanna-be silversmiths, so the Silver I and II classes were tops on our lists. I, however, had a burning desire to take a Cold Connections class with Kim St. Jean, my idol. In my heart, I'm more a pounder of metal, a stamper, an etcher and a mixed metal lover than a pure silversmith.

Turns out, all of Kim's classes book immediately. I had to wait until her final class in October for my stamping and etching spree. I'm here to tell you, that it was well worth that wait. For those of you who don't know, a cold connection joins two or more metals without using solders or glues. If you have any desire to venture into the realm of riveting, lashing, piercing, formfolding and generally going multi-metal crazy, book your trip into Cold Connections with Kim St. Jean as your guide. Sunday evening after our 6+ hour drive, we had dinner and trotted off to our classes. I found myself in a room at the end of the hall, cheek by jowl with seven other eager St. Jean fans. Of course we all came with her book, "Mixed Metal Mania." Kim is funny, warm, inventive and has an extremely well structured class. She explains things clearly; she doesn't do

information overload, but instead provides direction as you move through each production step.

If you like rock music, her iPod plays Queen and Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Who and Springsteen, Bob Seger, the Stones, the Beatles and Elton John—if you were alive and dancing in the 70s, 80s, 90s, Kim's got you covered.

Never have I had more fun in a class of eight simpatico women, aged 20-something to well over 70. We hammered, we learned to color metal with our torches, we formfolded, we "exploded" pendants, we laced works together and we sang: "Fat Bottomed Women", "Bad Moon Rising," "Won't Get Fooled Again" and "Rocket Man." Even Silver Smith II teacher Dan Haga came over and sang along. Dan and Kim had a studio together in Charlotte for years until Kim's recent move to Myrtle Beach.

While we sang our hearts out, we also worked our fingers off. I came home with a number of completed pieces and even more half-works. I laughed more than I have in any other class I've taken and I came home inspired.

If you think you might be interested in a Cold Connection class, get a copy of Kim's book. Just like her class, the book is clearly written, taking you from the basics to more complicated work as you move through. I'm now using a number of cold connections in my silver work and chain making. Kim St. Jean has a second book coming out after the first of the year. You can find either of her works at www.KalmbachBooks.com.

Picnic Fun

A big "THANK YOU" to all of the NMGMS members who helped to make our second annual picnic and rock swap on October 29, 2011 fun and successful event.

The Grab Bags Before the Grabbing.



Ann and John enjoying The chef's hard work



Chef Roger



Matthew Helping a Young Angler

Meetings and Projects

Mark Your Calendar for Future Meetings And Programs

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Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m.
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University of Mississippi's Geology Dept.

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Program TBA

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Making Ming Gem Trees

By Remy Collins

At our last meeting we made Ming Trees. Nancy showed us how. We used copper wire to twist beads into limbs and then into tree shapes. Robin and I had fun trying to make our trees all purple. Mom and I have made a few more we still haven't glued onto rocks.



Jennifer and Byron



Robin and Remy



Belinda and Nancy

Justin



North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society
Affiliated with the
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

Application for Membership: _____\$10/yr(ind) _____\$15/yr(family)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email: _____

Interests: minerals _____ fossils _____ field trips _____ beading _____ cabbing _____

faceting _____ wire wrapping _____ dichroic glass _____ PMC _____ soldering _____

silver jewelry _____ chain making _____ other _____

Talents, field of expertise, or hobbies: _____

If applying for a family membership: Name

Spouse: _____

Children: _____

Make checks payable to: NMGMS (North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society)

Mail to: NMGMS attn. Treasurer P.O. Box 1445 Tupelo, MS 38802

Sign: _____ Date: _____

Treasurer: Date pd _____ cash _____ check# _____ amt. _____