

Nugget

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

December 10, 2014 Issue 7 Volume 14

This is the time of year when I like to look back at all of the noteworthy accomplishments that our organization has made over the past 12 months. It looks like we have had quite a few of them too, this year. Our biggest accomplishment for 2014 was the completion of all of the required paper work and finally becoming a nonprofit corporation with the state of Mississippi and then also receiving recognition as a charity organization from the state. This puts us well on our way to starting the final steps toward becoming a 501©3 entity.

NMGMS, through the hard work, talents and expertise of its members, managed to hold some very good lapidary workshops and classes this year. Members taught participants how to etch copper metal and then use their etched pieces to make some very chic, artistic and original jewelry. We were also extremely fortunate to be able to procure and host in Tupelo, an all-day class taught by world renown mixed metal jewelry artist, Kim St. Jean. The proceeds from classes that NMGMS members teach, enable the club to award scholarships to the William Holland Lapidary School and in 2014, we were able to award one full scholarship to Vice President, Roger Lambert.

Our society also held some exceptional meeting programs throughout the year, from Native American Jewelry to "out of this world" meteorites. Some of the programs were hands-on activities, like making beaded angles and icicles, and Dr. Panhorst's mineral ID lab. He conducted this program just like his geology lab at the university. Members were given a group of "unknowns" and we had to get them all properly identify within the allotted time. Using scratch tests, streak tests and many other processes, it was a really fun, interesting, educational, team effort kind of program activity.

NMGMS had some great field trips too. Club members gathered in Mt. Ida to collect quartz crystals over spring break and besides our usual fossil sites, we were extremely fortunate to be allowed to collect again at the Vulcan quarry in Parsons, TN. The Rockheads had a wonderful hotdog cookout/field trip to Twenty Mile Creek and we finally had a warm weekend for our club's picnic. Also, NMGMS members pitched in and worked together to bring about another successful Geology Day at the Oren Dunn City Museum in November. We had some really fantastic exhibits and displays for that this year, as well as adding some additional attractions, like the ever popular fluorescent room.

We can all be very proud of our junior group, The Rockheads, and those adult members who work with them. They have been diligently working on the AFMS FRA badges and it looks like quite a few of them have earned several badges apiece. Members also can be proud of their club publication, The Nugget. Based on the number of certificates and awards that NMGMS received from the SFMS and AFMS bulletin competitions, our editor and fellow members who contribute to this newsletter, are doing a fantastic job.

So, as you can see, NMGMS members have had a lot of enjoyment from their organization this past year, but we've also gained a lot of experience, by which we can continue to offer to our members, and the community, a greater appreciation for geology, mineralogy, paleontology, the lapidary arts and all of the other related interests. I encourage everyone to join in and participate in the activities of this fantastic organization; you'll gain a lot from it and have a good time to boot. Keep up the good work NMGMS!

NANCY ROBERTS

Nancy, at the SFMS meeting.
By Floy Hawkins.
Above Lochovella Deckeri
courtesy www.trilobite.info



NMGMS

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2014



Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Andrew, Konrad and Victoria

We were happy to welcome back Sheila and Robert Diaz and their son Andrew.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the Sept. meeting minutes as printed in the October Nugget. Oct. meeting minutes to be approved later after the Nov. Nugget comes out.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of today, November 15, 2014 was \$2,795.58

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: Our next field trip will be to the Blue Springs crab site on Saturday, Dec. 6th. We will be joined by Roger's scout group. Meet at the site at 9a.m. We will be setting up a field trip to Alabama for Mississippian fossils in Jan. or the first part of Feb. Members were interested in going to MO for drusy quartz over spring break.

Publicity: (John Byzet) Justin Hobart had made up a club flyer awhile back. Members were asked to take club brochures or flyers and post them in libraries or other places that they frequent in the area where they live. We need to connect with all of the outlying areas in north Miss. Members were asked to pass the word around for people to check our website and Facebook page.

Membership: (Ann Byzet). It's time to consider renewing your NMGMS membership for 2015. Dues are still \$12 per person and \$20 per family

Hospitality:

Refreshments: Belinda Loyd has volunteered to do the ham for the Christmas party pot-luck luncheon Dec. 13th. All members attending the luncheon are asked to bring a casserole, salad or dessert. Need two volunteers for Jan.: none gotten at this time.

Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome! Some received.

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

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) More articles /reviews are needed for the Nugget. A big thanks to all contributors. Deadline for submissions is the second Friday of the month. Send to Dana at: nuggeteditor@gmail.com

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads are now working on the Stone Age Tools and Art FRA badge, Badge #14 p 159. We have one more issue of The Nugget to go before the end of the year; any junior member wanting to submit an article as part of the Junior Rockhead of the Year Award must turn it in before Dec. 5th.

Stamps: (Dana Armstrong) The SFMS has decided to drop the stamp program. If any club wishes to do their own stamp program, they may do so, or all clubs within the same state may wish to start a stamp program. Dana said she would cull all common "Forever" stamps and nonprofits, and Nancy said she would see about selling the stamps that we have already collected on eBay.

Historian: (Shirley Randle) Please gather up any 2014 club related photos, newspaper articles, show flyers or other memorabilia, so it can be turned in for the club yearbook.

Members were asked to make a few hard copies of any 2014 photos that they might have.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Loyd, Bob Reinhaus, John Byzet and Robert Langford) This is the break down on the ticket sales: Spin and Win, 211 Fossil Dig, 130 Fishing Game, 98 and Lapidary, 41.

Safety: (David Loyd) We need volunteers to write monthly safety articles for the Nugget.

Old Business:

1. Roger Lambert won the petrified wood bookends that we raffled off at our Geology Day.
2. We cleared about \$180 at the Geology Day. \$219 from ticket sales and raffle and \$127.25 from grab bags. Expenditures were \$166.62. We sold 64 grab bags and have about that many left. We have plenty of Spin and Win prizes left, so we could set that up in June at the New Albany Fossil Road Show and sell spins at 3 for \$1 out there. It was suggested that we hold more classes and workshops to help raise money for NMGMS.
3. NMGMS received two new membership applications at the Geology Day, Mike and Sherrie Baldwin, and Melvin, Susan and Nathaniel Aycock.

No further old business

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New Business:

1. Nominations for the 2015 NMGMS officers are as follows: President, Nancy Roberts, Vice President, Roger Lambert, Treasurer, Nikki Kenney and Secretary, Brenda Manning. There were no nominations from the floor. We will be electing these officers at our Dec. meeting.
2. The December meeting will be the Christmas Party/ luncheon on Dec. 13th at the library from 11 to 3p.m. We will have a short meeting and then eat at noon. The club will provide a ham and members are asked to bring a potluck dish. We will have a gift exchange (\$10 max.), everyone who wants to participate brings a gift either for a man, woman or child. We will be collecting foodstuffs for a local charity and bringing a "toy for tots" also. Anyone wanting to do the ornament exchange, please bring one.
3. At the SFMS meeting in Pascagoula last weekend, the federation voted to increase the dues to \$1.75 per member. The insurance costs are expected to go up this year also. Since the federation does not have a junior member chairperson at this time, they are no longer doing the "Joy" awards. The SFMS June 2015 session at William Holland will be "junior week" and there will be lots of different classes that members, ages 9 and up, can take, as long as they are accompanied by a parent.
4. The results of the AFMS Bulletin competition are in:
Matthew Lybanon, took 6th place for his article "Extinction Events: New Evidence" (appeared in MAGS newsletter)

John Byzet took 9th place for his article "Woodworking Enhances Rock Collecting"
Carol Lybanon took an honorable mention for "Discovery Park of America, a Major Attraction in TN" (appeared in MAGS newsletter)
Clarice Turner took an honorable mention for "Wire Wrapping Workshop in West Point.. It's a Wrap"
And Dana Jones got an honorable mention for The Nugget and Matthew Lybanon received an honorable mention for the MAGS Rockhound News
Congratulations to all, for these great accomplishments. Hope that we continue to have excellent articles in our newsletters.

5. Because of the library being closed for the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday on Jan. 17th, Nancy had reserved the library room for Jan. 24th. But she also has the Women's Center for Jan. 17th. If that works out for Dr. Panhorst too, then NMGMS can book another Kim St. Jean class for Jan. 24th and hold the club meeting and Dr. Panhorst's program on Jan. 17th. Kim and Norm can make a stop in Tupelo on Jan. 23rd and 24th.

No other new business.

*****Reminder:**

The Mobile, AL club has a rock and gem show Thanksgiving weekend and the Montgomery club has theirs Dec. 5-7th. The Middle TN club's show is the second weekend in Dec. near Nashville. Check out their websites for more information.

Motion was made and seconded to Adjourn.....

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

(aka Announcements)

The Holidays Are Coming

We are already seeing signs of the approaching Christmas holiday. Christmas trees and holiday lights are being put up and Thanksgiving is just a little over a week away. To get us all into the holiday spirit, we will be having our NMGMS annual Christmas party and potluck luncheon on Saturday Dec. 13, 2014 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.

We will also do the "Night before Christmas" ornament exchange. If you would like to participate in the game and ornament exchange just bring an ornament. They can be handmade or store bought. Everyone that brings an ornament will go home with one. Hope to see everyone there to help NMGMS celebrate a great year and remember, this is when NMGMS passes out badges, awards and certificates to members for their accomplishments.

Happy Holidays

Mark Your Calendar

Jan. 10 2015 field trip

Mississippian fossils from the Bangor Formation. We will be collecting fossils such as bryozoans, blastoids, brachiopods and corals. We will meet at the gas station/convenience store in Belgreen, AL on Hwy 24, approximately 17 miles east of Red Bay, AL, at 9:00 a.m.

Bring small containers, cardboard flats and a bucket for carrying your fossils and gear. Newspapers, paper towels or aluminum foil is recommended for wrapping up those that are fragile. A rock hammer, chisel and something to pry with is also handy to have. Wear boots or shoes that can get wet or muddy and bring a hat, water, sunscreen, safety glasses, etc. A backpack or extra bucket is good to have, since we will be walking and carrying our gear with us.

Note: If cancelled due to rain/snow/ice, reschedule date will be Jan. 31st

Attention Fellow NMGMS Members!

2015 is fast approaching and it is time to renew your NMGMS membership. Our club treasurer will be available to collect your dues at the next meeting, or you can make checks payable to NMGMS (\$12 single, \$20 family) and mail them along with an application form to: NMGMS, P.O. Box 1445, Tupelo, MS 38802.

At the Dec. 13th NMGMS meeting, we will be electing our 2015 club officers. Here is the slate of candidates as presented at the Nov. 15th meeting:

President: Nancy Roberts
Vice President: Roger Lambert
Secretary: Brenda Manning
Treasurer: Nikki Kenney

There were no other nominations from the floor.

Attention NMGMS members who have been collecting stamps!

At the SFMS annual meeting in Pascagoula last month, the federation announced that they were discontinuing the stamp program.

It was suggested that individual clubs could continue to do so on their own, if they wanted to. At the Nov. meeting, our NMGMS stamp chair, Dana Armstrong said that she would sort through whatever stamps that our club members had already turned in and pick out only those that might be saleable on eBay. I said that we would try to sell those and see how it goes. If you have any stamps ready to turn in, please bring them to the next meeting, so that we can work on getting them ready to sell.

Foreign, commemorative, or any other unique stamps, are what we would like to have. We'll see how this goes. If we find that this is not a viable resource, then we will not be collecting any more stamps either.



Old Bones

To share knowledge of fossil, gem, and mineral collecting and preparation.



What's a Little Mud!



Torrential downpours on Friday made for a very muddy and slippery fossil site for the Saturday, Dec. 6th, NMGMS field trip, but that didn't stop 6 intrepid club members from coming out to the crab site, to see what the rain had exposed. Jim and I were joined by new members, Melvin, Susan and Nathaniel Aycock, as well as, Susan's mother.

The wet weather has caused many of the fossils to disarticulate or to become encrusted with marcasite, but there are still plenty of collectable pieces. The shell fossils were just too soft to be collected, but I did find a few nice crabs and several bony fish teeth. Had to use my trowel as a "hiking" stick a few times, to help me make it up the slopes. Skis might have been more appropriate! I am amazed at how fast the scrub growth is taking over the site and some of the sapling trees are nearly as tall as I am, now. Naturally, the sun came out after we packed up to leave, but it was still a nice morning to be out in the field. Can't stop a "rockhound"!

NANCY ROBERTS



Bead Soup

A place to share knowledge about the lapidary arts.



NMGMS "Special" Workshop!

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is very excited to announce their upcoming Kim St. Jean, Cold Connections and Mixed Metals class to be held at the Women First Center, 215 N. Gloster, Tupelo on Saturday, Jan. 24th from 9a.m. to 5p.m. The project that Kim will be teaching for this class is called the Stonehinge Pendant (see attached photo) and all materials used to make this pendant are included in the class fee of \$125 per student. All tools and equipment needed are also provided for use in the class. Seating is limited to 15 students, max., so be sure and get your class fee in early to hold your seat! We will be serving lunch at the Center.

Make check to NMGMS and mail it to NMGMS/Mixed Metals Class P.O. Box 1445 Tupelo, MS 38802

Kim St. Jean is a renowned mixed metals jewelry artist who has taught classes at the William Holland Lapidary School, the John Campbell Folk Art School, Bead Fest, her home studio and for other clubs and organizations. Kim has two books published thru Kalmbach Publishing Co. and several online classes and videos thru Beaducation.com and Interweave.com, as well as being featured in beading and jewelry magazines. Kim's classes always fill immediately and end up with waiting lists.

WOW! What an opportunity, to have such a well known and well like jewelry artist come to us! Kim, and her husband Norm, will be stopping to teach this class for us, as they make their way to Tucson for the huge international show being held there. This saves us a long drive to go elsewhere, plus the class fee is less than what I have seen at Bead Fest or Tucson.

Any questions, email me at therockhoundlady@yahoo.com or call 731-689-5336

Drop me a line to let me know that you are registering, thanks.

This is going to be lots of fun and a great class!

Note: If you wish to bring a stone, crystal or fossil of your own, to incorporate into this piece, please do so. The bezel is sterling silver!

Technique: Brazing, Cold Connections, Design, Metalsmithing, Metalwork, Riveting, Soldering, Stone Setting - Cabochon, Texturing, Wire Work

Learn these fundamentals and techniques in Stonehinge

Design

Soldering

Hinges

Cold Connections

Cabochon Setting

Sawing

Patina



NMGMS check it out!!

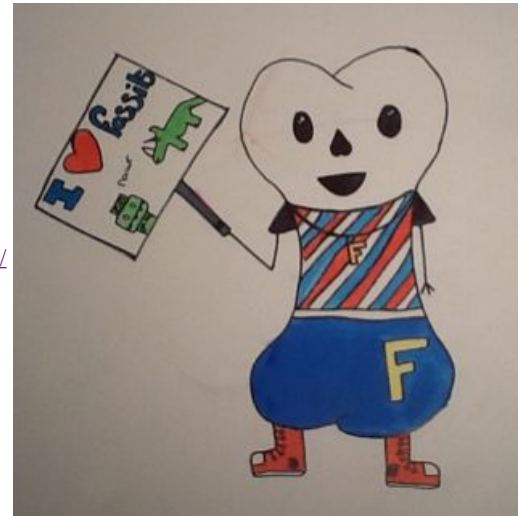
Rebecca Vallarian's fabulous display, "Rocks that look like Food", is now set up at the Tupelo library in the two display cases upstairs. If you haven't seen it yet, be sure and check it out. It'll make your mouth water!!

Rockheads

"The fossil hunter does not kill, he resurrects."
G. G. Simpson



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm



Rockhead Officers

President

Victoria Langford

Vice President

Konrad Armstrong

Secretary

Britanni Lambert

Youth Advisors

Jim Roberts
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David Lloyd

Rockheads Geocache

This is the exciting and thrilling adventure of the Rockheads.

We first met at Twenty Mile Creek and we talked and looked at the view of the mystifying fossils beneath the water. Then we went back into our cars, to leave to go to the site.

We drove for about 30 to 40 minutes on a bumpy, narrow road. Then suddenly, my father, Robert Langford, took a wrong turn onto the wrong road. Instead of going left, he went to the right.

When we realized that we were lost, we asked for directions from this man on the side of the road. He gave the directions to the right road and we quickly turned and left to go on the right road.

When we arrived at the site, the first thing I noticed, was a graveyard. Me and my mother, Cheryle Langford, went into the graveyard and we saw graves from 1700 to 1800. Then we looked for the old number seven. Then my friend, Konrad, found it and it had a little Goodyear blimp, 2 poker chips and a small bullet, etc.

Then we had to place something into it, so that when the next person finds it, it won't be empty. When we were all done, we left and went home.

Victoria Langford

Rockhead Geocache Field Trip

We met at Twenty Mile Creek. We searched for about 20 minutes and couldn't find anything. Later, I found it under a tree. And then we went to a cemetery, and Victoria's mom found the cache. It was called "old number seven". I found a 22 bullet in the cache and I put in a quartz crystal. I can't wait 'till the next trip!

Konrad Armstrong



Meeting Program

The Nov. program was making beaded angels.

The Rockheads started working on the FRA badge, Stone Age Tools and Art.

