



February 14, 2014 Issue 7 Volume 13



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It looks like our 2014 schedule of club activities is getting off to a rocking good start. With two workshops and a fantastic meeting already completed, we are about to start into the field trip season and have several already planned out for this spring. We kicked off the new year with a copper etching workshop, which we held at the Oren Dunn Museum in Tupelo. Rae Mathis, the museum's director, did a phenomenal job of getting the room set up to accommodate our workshop, and that made our work on the projects flow very smoothly. Rae was even able to participate and complete her own set of etched copper jewelry. This workshop was so successful and everyone was so pleased with the etching results and how their jewelry creations turned out, that the West Point Arts Council was thrilled when NMGMS offered to teach this class for them this spring. That class is being scheduled for March 22nd in West Point.

The Kim St. Jean mixed metals/cold connections class that NMGMS hosted on Jan. 25th at the Women First Center was also a very successful workshop. Eleven NMGMS members and four MGMS members from Jackson came together to participate. The class was so much fun and filled with such a variety of metalsmithing skills, which Kim St. Jean taught so skillfully in her easy going and patient manor, that we are hoping to have her stop again next year, as she passes thru on her way out to the Tucson show. We even have a project piece already in mind for this class!

Hopefully this winter weather will improve and we can start to enjoy our field trips. The first trip of the season is set for Alabama and collecting those neat little Mississippian fossils like blastoids and crinoids. Our spring break trip to Mt. Ida for those lovely quartz crystals is scheduled for March 7-10th, and this time we will also be taking in the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro. Wish us luck there!! And don't forget to mark your calendars for two upcoming events, the MGMS rock and gem show Feb. 22 and 23rd in Jackson, MS at the fairgrounds, and the Fossil Road Show the following Saturday, March 1st at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science also in Jackson, MS.

On another note, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of our members to participate in the setup of our next geology day's display cases. Please look thru your collections, jewelry, fossils and other collectibles for specimens that you would be willing to loan the club for this event. We need a variety of birthstones in various forms and also artistic pieces showing how rocks can be used in art. Samples of rocks and minerals used around the house, mixed metals jewelry pieces and tumble polished stones or finished cabochons are needed too, for several of the displays. So, take a few moments on these last chilly days of winter to go thru your collection and pull out a few of these needed items.

Happy Hunting!

NANCY ROBERTS

Photo by Alison Schuchs



Above: Hash plate from Mississippian Northwest Alabama. Found on February 8 field trip which will be covered in next issue.

Photo by new member Samantha Harris.

What's Inside

Meeting Minutes p2

Board Meeting
Minutes p3

Calendar p4

Guess What This Is
p4

Meeting Program
p5

Bead Soup p5

Rockheads p8

Safety p9

NMGMS

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2014



Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Justin Hobart
New officers were installed: Brenda Manning, Sec. Nikki Kenney, Treas.
A motion was made to approve the December minutes as printed in the December Nugget.
APPROVED and seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of today: \$2,700.00

Committee Reports:

Field Trips: The next club field trip will be on Saturday, **Feb 8th** to AL for Mississippian fossils. We will meet at the gas station in Belgreen on the corner of Hwy 24 and 187 at 9a.m. (See the handout or watch your emails for the announcement and directions.). Members were encouraged to check out the Lodestar or the SFMS website for the DMC field trips since we can attend these. http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html

Publicity: (John Byzet) None at this time.

Membership: (Ann Byzet)) Members present were reminded that it's time to renew their NMGMS member ship for 2014. Dues are \$12 per person and \$20 per family.

We still have extra club patches and all members who don't already have a patch, get one; extras are \$2 each.

Hospitality: : February: Belinda Loyd & Nancy Roberts March : Brenda Manning & Robert Diaz

Ann Byzet will get the cake Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome!

Website: (John Byzet) Check us out at www.nmgms.org Gathering email addresses, also if anyone would like to post notices of club activities contact him.

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) the deadline for submissions is the **second Friday of the month**. Dana has asked that all submissions for the newsletter be typed into the body of an email, so that she can easily copy and paste it into the newsletter. Photos need to be compressed as a jpeg file. Scanned items don't work well at all.

Remember to please send anything that is for the newsletter to Dana's email at:
nuggeteditor@gmail.com

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads will be presenting their Geologic Time Line project at the March meeting.

Stamps: (Dana Armstrong) Members are encouraged to save stamps, by cutting them off of the envelope and leaving a half inch margin of paper around the stamp if possible. Stamps that do not meet these guidelines should not be turned in as they will have to be discarded.

Historian: (Shirley Randle)) Members were reminded to gather any 2013 club related photos, newspaper articles, show flyers or other memorabilia and submit it to Shirley. She will need some hard copy photos too, so that she can have the year book ready for our March birthday meeting.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Loyd, Bob Reinhaus, John Byzet and Robert Langford)) All of the grab bags have been filled, although more is needed. Volunteers that sew were asked to make additional 10 or so bags. The club is in need of small lapidary items and specimens for these grab bags, the spin and win game, and the fishing game. We need these by or before our meeting in May.

Safety: (David Loyd) Attention new members!

***** **Please be sure and sign a liability release waiver, if you have not yet done so.**

Liability waivers are needed for all members and invited guests on club field trips. A new one page membership form with included waiver is now available.

Old Business:

NMGMS is now an official corporation recognized by the State of Mississippi!
Our next Geology Day is scheduled for Nov. 1, 2014 at the Oren Dunn Museum. Set up of the displays will be during the prior week. Activities include: spin and win, rock and fossil dig, fishing game, a lapidary activity like wire wrapping a shark tooth and/or making a bead bracelet on stretchy cord, and possibly a fluorescent tent. John Byzet volunteered to work on the frame for this tent.

Cont p3

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Some ideas for the display cases: meteorites (John Wright), rock polishing with a tumbler and cabbing (John Byzet and John McLane), metal jewelry (Clarice Turner and Cheryle Langford), rocks in art (Rebecca Vallarian and Alison Schuchs), minerals and their uses (Nancy Roberts), geology case/ rock types and rock cycle etc.(Nancy Roberts), Twenty Mile Creek fossils (Robert Langford), Birthstones/Gemstones(Brenda Manning and Nikki Kenney), Wildlife conservation with fossil bones and present day bones (David Loyd), north east MS fossils(Roger Lambert and Dave Hanes) We are considering the addition of a few vendor tables similar to the New Albany road show. We will have all of the rooms this time and can set up easy-ups outside if the weather permits. There were a few 8x12 riker mount display cases available at \$4.75 each and members could purchase them from Nancy, if they were interested. Nancy shared her plan to ask Ashley Allen to bring copies of the new edition of Jim Lacefield's book, "Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks" to our joint Feb. field trip. These are expected to be hardbound and \$25 a copy. If anyone is interested contact Nancy Roberts. Club will donate a copy to the library. The Kim St. Jean mixed metals class is a sell out! We have 15 NMGMS/MGMS members who have paid to take this class. Hopefully, we can do this again or have other renowned teachers come and do classes here for us. **No additional old business was discussed.**

New Business: The library will be closed the third weekend of April for Easter, so we are looking at using this as an opportunity to go down and tour the Dunn-Seiler Museum of Geology on campus in Starkville. Dr. Renee Clary is working to coordinate this for us for Saturday April 12th. We may also be able to do a little fossil collecting down there. If this doesn't work out, we may hold a regular club meeting at the Oren Dunn Museum here in Tupelo on April 12th instead.

Our 2014 renewal dues to the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies and our insurance premium are due by the end of this month. Cost: for both is \$195.20. We had 122 NMGMS members on record for 2013. March is club birthday meeting so bring show and tell items from field trips or lapidary to share. Club Picnic set for May 3rd. Information later on where this will be held

Nancy contacted the Crystal Inn Motel and Restaurant on Hwy 270 east of Mt. Ida. Their rates are \$39.95 per night for two people. \$49.95 for 4 people in the same room. The single rate is \$35. They have rooms with a king or a queen bed and rooms with two doubles. She is checking into getting group rates at other hotels closer to the mines on the north side of the lake, but they all appear to be around 90-\$100 a night. Fiddler's Ridge Mine has been sold and is no longer open to the public. Mines to consider are: Miller Mt., Jim Coleman Crystal Mine, Ron Coleman Mine, Sweet Surrender, and Fantasia Mining. Can get group rates at some of these too, if we have ten or more people.

We are thinking about going to the Crater of Diamonds State Park while over there. It is 60 miles south of Hot Springs. We can get in for half price if we have 15 or more and call ahead.

No other new business was discussed.

*****Reminder:** The Feb. 15, 2014 meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be "Indian Beading", presented by NMGMS member Nikki Kenney. Don't forget the MGMS rock and gem show at the fairgrounds in Jackson, Feb. 22 and 23.

Motion was made to Adjourn.....

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 18 2014

Time and Place

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was held on January 18, 2014, at the Lee County Public Library. The meeting was called to order by the President of the club, Nancy Roberts.

Members Present

Nancy Roberts, Belinda Loyd, John Byzet, Roger Lambert, Nikki Kenney, Brenda Manning

Approval of Minutes

Since this is first meeting there are no previous minutes available.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented an estimated balance of \$2,700.00.

Committee Reports ?

Unfinished Business

NMGMS application for corporate status has been submitted and approved with a Tax ID number issued. Geology Day 2014 set up discussed.

New Business

Club annual picnic set for May 3rd. Place to be determined later. Membership application and Waiver forms to be combined into one page to be ready for use in time for our monthly February meeting.

A suggestion was put forward that (in case of conflict) a past officer should sit in at the board meeting as a tie breaker. Forms are being filed to the Secretary of State's Office for the club to obtain Charity Status and to renew our membership into the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Educational/Scholarship funding discussed. Oren Dunn is willing to set up a memorial fossil room for Bill Hawkins and it was discussed to add other deceased founding members to the plaque made for this room.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Brenda Manning, Secretary

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

(aka Announcements) **Mark Your Calendar**

Happy Valentines Day

February 15, 2014

1 to 3p.m.

Lee County Public Library, Tupelo

"Indian Jewelry" by Nikki Kenney.

Refreshments will be served.

Come and join us, and learn about the different types of Indian jewelry and the beads and stones they used.

Note: Since it will be the day after Valentines, bring in any rock or mineral etc., that is red or has a shape similar to a heart for an interesting display.

Also, since the program topic is Indian jewelry, if you have any, bring it too.

February 22-23

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society's

Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show

Saturday 9am-6pm

Sunday 10am-5pm

State Fairgrounds

Jackson MS

March 1

Fossil Road Show

10am-3pm

Museum on Natural Science

Jackson MS

Mt Ida Trip

March 8, 9, 10

Crystal Inn Motel and Restaurant on Hwy 270 east of Mt Ida, rates are \$39.95 per night for two people, \$49.95 for 4 people in the same room, single is \$35. Rooms have a king or a queen bed or two doubles. Mines to consider are: Miller Mt., Jim Coleman Crystal Mine, Ron Coleman Mine, Sweet Surrender, and Fantasia Mining. Group rates are available for groups of ten or more people.

March 15

Tupelo Library 1-3pm
NMGMS Annual Birthday Party Meeting

April 12

See Left

May 3,

NMGMS Picnic

1-3 pm

Large Pavilion

Ballard Park, Tupelo

May 17

Tupelo Library 1-3pm

Meteorites, John Wright

Geology Day Spectacular Meeting

November 1, 2014

Oren Dunn Museum.

Needed:

10 or so grab bags

Small lapidary items and specimens for the grab bags, the spin and win game, and the fishing game.

These are needed by the May meeting.

April 12, 2014

Dunn-Seiler Geology Museum, MSU, Starkville, MS.

Tour by Dr. Renee Clary and graduate students

George Phillips, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science

1pm Hilbun Hall, 355 Lee, Mississippi State, MS 39762. We will be able to do a little collecting at a couple of fossil sites on university property.

Guess What This Is Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

Beneath a grassy mountain valley in central Colorado lies one of the richest and most diverse fossil deposits in the world. Petrified redwood stumps up to 14 feet wide and thousands of detailed fossils of insects and plants reveal the story of a very different, prehistoric Colorado.

The fossils, rocks, hills, and valleys that make up Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument reveal to us an ancient story of redwood forests, volcanic eruptions, and a climate much different than today. In addition to a rich ancient history, the Florissant valley also contains the stories of prehistoric hunting and gathering Paleo-Indians, the Ute and Jicarilla Apache peoples, the travels of a pioneer nation, and of early scientists making their way through discovery into a different time.

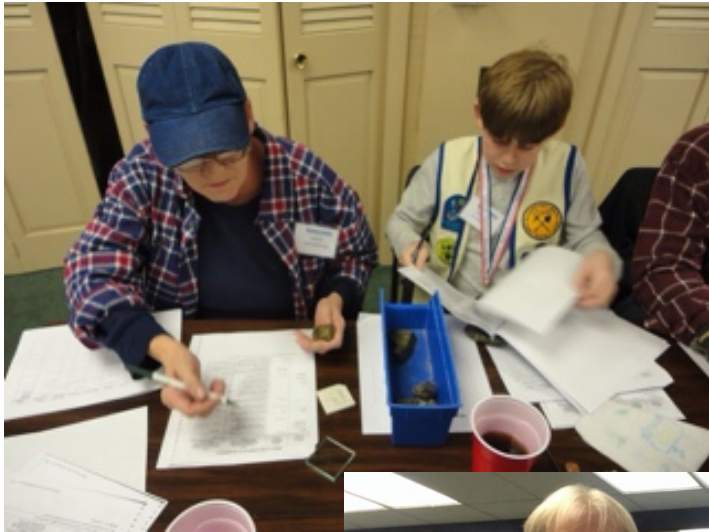
<http://www.nps.gov/flfo/index.htm>

<http://www.nationalparks.org/explore-parks/florissant-fossil-beds-national-monument>



More than 220 national park units preserve fossils. However, only 9 units were specifically set aside to protect fossils and Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is one of those. Support our National Parks. Photos courtesy of Wikipedia. Information from the websites at right.

Meeting Program



The meeting program was a lesson in mineral ID by Terry Panhorst, assisted by Justin Hobart.



Bead Soup

A place to share knowledge about the lapidary arts.

Etching Workshop

Belinda Lloyd

I recently attended a copper etching workshop presented by the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society. It was the best day I've had in a while. Club members and prospective members met at the Oren Dunn Museum on a beautiful Saturday morning. We set to work deciding on our design and picking out our copper pieces. Our club president, Nancy Roberts, gave detailed safety instructions because we would be using a couple of acidic chemicals to bring out the beauty of the copper. I would have never thought I could create a work of art with a Sharpie marker and a hammer.

Our instructors, Clarice Turner and her sister Diane, were well-informed and extremely helpful. Everyone was so excited about their creations. Ideas were simply flying up and down the work table. Everyone's minds were so busy we nearly forgot to break for lunch. After lunch, we all set to work assembling our jewelry. Bending the copper wire this way and that; being amazed at the shapes that emerged. Then, we sat back and gazed at the beauty we had created.

Thanks so much and I can hardly wait for the next workshop.



Results of the workshop, Belinda, the group hard at work.
Photos by Nancy Roberts

Kim St Jean Workshop

Brenda Manning



The Women First Center's banquet room sure looked different, as we gathered for the Kim St. Jean class. Extra tables and chairs filled the usually spacious area. Decorative items had been set aside to make more room available. Table tops were crowded with a mélange of cookie sheets inset with self-healing mats, fire bricks for our torch work, anvils, and a vast selection of tools needed to complete our projects. One table featured a lovely collection of Kims' bracelets, necklaces and rings that showcased the techniques we would be using shortly for our own creations. In the dining area, the smell of freshly perked coffee and donuts mingled together. Pots of baked beans, barbeque, and potato salad, along with several desserts, made their way into the kitchen. A couple of gallons of sweet tea were added and we were all set for lunch later.

In an adjoining room, beautiful cabochons of assorted shapes and colors waited for us to make our choices. There was Larimar, ruby in zoisite, and malachite, just to name a few. Since I pretty well wanted them all, it was a tough choice. Metal working essentials hung neatly on revolving stands for easy selection. The best of cutters, hole punches, rivets, screws, jewelers saws, you name it, they were there for us to purchase.

Aprons were donned, handouts were distributed and the class started. Kim made things so easy to understand. She was relaxed, but thorough, and showed us each step as we progressed from simple texturing to the more sophisticated torchwork techniques. The pickle pot bubbled and the liver of sulfur sat in a separate area. It was a busy spot and the center of much discussion. Most went something like this: Is it time to take it out? Does it look clean? How long should we leave it? Kim had great answers for all our questions.

After a short break for lunch we were back working on our projects. Hammers pounded, torches roared, and saws scraped. Occasionally there would be a hiss, as someone cooled hot metal in the bowls of water sitting on each table. Ideas were shared and suggestions put forward. We learned so many new techniques that my head was spinning.

Following some last minute artistic decisions, stone substitutions and one final annealing, everyone had a finished pendant. Pictures were made, followed by more shopping trips into the tool room for last minute deals. People seemed to want to linger which is a great (Southern) indication of a successful gathering. What a great class! What a great group of women!



Note From the Jackson Club:

Thank you from all of us for inviting us to the class. We had a wonderful time and enjoyed everything especially your hospitality. thank you again. See you at the show at the demo table.
Delores Navarrete



Clockwise from top left:
Brenda, author. Ladies
hard at work. Kim St

Jean demonstrating. Susan (left) and Remy, Remy's pendant is next. She had enviable prongs on her pendant-she said she made over 20 and used the best. Then they ALL had to be soldered into place. I just used 6, and it nearly was the end of me. My pendant is next. I spent the entire class not liking it. I didn't like it until I was beating the metal thingie it's on. The group's work. A pendant with incredible cut outs-I have no idea who made it, only that it must've taken as long as Remy's prongs. (I think it's Kathy Westbrook's, NR) Photos Nancy Roberts. Rambling comments courtesy of the editor.

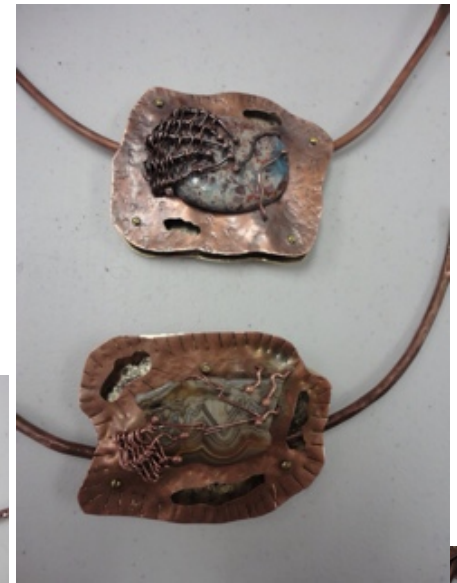
Cold Connections by Kim St Jean

Nikki Kenney

Holy cow! On Saturday, Jan 25th, NMGMS hosted a jewelry making class on Cold Connections taught by Kim St. Jean, a world class instructor. She has taught at the William Holland Lapidary School, other venues around the country, and is now teaching at the International Gem Show in Tucson, AZ. She also has tutorial videos on Beaducation.com and You Tube, and holds classes at her own Studio St. Jean in Little River, SC, not to mention the books she has written on Metalwork.

The class was attended by 15 women, who were treated to an all day feast of metalsmithing techniques, including soldering, annealing, sawing, riveting, putting a patina on metal, texturing metal, torch firing, mounting a stone with prongs, and weaving with wire. Did I leave anything out? Oh, mygosh! It was great! And we didn't go hungry either. Clarice's husband, Fred, barbecued beef for sandwiches, and some of us brought the fixin's. John Byzet checked everybody in, and took photos of the proceedings, While Ann Byzet graciously served the meal and left the kitchen at the Women's Center spic and span, so we did not have to lose any class time. The Women's Center is a wonderful venue for workshops and classes, and we are so grateful that we are able to have events like this one there. Kim St. Jean has an easy way of teaching that made us feel comfortable with the new and different techniques, and there are fifteen unique pieces of jewelry for you to see in the accompanying pictures to prove this. You'll also get to see us working on our projects, so you won't think I made it all up.

Can't wait till she comes back next year, and maybe some other famous and gifted instructors will want to add Tupelo's NMGMS club to their teaching schedules as well.



Top right: Kim helping Nikki with prongs, or soldering prongs in. Pendants. From counting not all got a close up. Or I lost them in transit. Photos by Nancy Roberts.

Comments and exclusions should be blamed on the editor.



Above Kim teaching. To the left and right-her work. Photos Nancy Roberts.



Rockheads

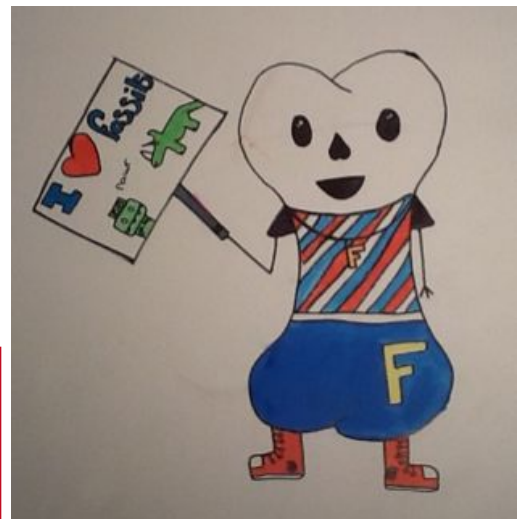
"The fossil hunter does not kill, he resurrects."
G. G. Simpson

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

Brittani Lambert



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm



Youth Advisors
Jim Roberts
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David Lloyd



The Rockheads will be finishing up their geologic time scale at the February 15th meeting. They will be doing a presentation about this geologic timescale project at the March NMGMS meeting. Photos by Jim Roberts

Rockhead Officers For 2014

- President**
Brittani Lambert
- Vice President**
Victoria Langford
- Secretary**
Konrad Armstrong

11TH ANNUAL

FOSSIL ROAD SHOW

SATURDAY | MARCH 1ST | 10:00AM-3:00PM

AMMONITE | SHARK TEETH | SEASHELL | SLOTH CLAW | TAPIR JAW | COLONIAL CORAL | PLUS SO MUCH MORE!

Bring your FAVORITE FINDS and have them identified by the experts!

MISSISSIPPI Museum of Natural Science

MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE • 2148 RIVERSIDE DRIVE JACKSON, MS • 601.576.6000 • WWW.MSNATURALSOCIETY.ORG
This project is partially funded through a grant by the Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show

Saturday, February 22, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday, February 23, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

State Fairgrounds, Jackson Trade Mart

Adults \$5.00 ♦ Students \$3.00

- ♦ Buy gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, beads, books, lapidary tools
- ♦ Free demos of cutting, faceting, jewelry making, flint knapping, wire wrapping
- ♦ Kids' activities ♦ Exhibits

www.missgems.org

Safety Matters

David Lloyd

Staying Warm In Cold Weather

Before you step out into cold air, remember the advice that follows with the simple acronym COLD — cover, overexertion, layers, dry:

Cover. Wear a hat or other protective covering to prevent body heat from escaping from your head, face and neck. Cover your hands with mittens instead of gloves. Mittens are more effective than gloves because mittens keep your fingers in closer contact with one another.

Overexertion. Avoid activities that would cause you to sweat a lot. The combination of wet clothing and cold weather can cause you to lose body heat more quickly.

Layers. Wear loose fitting, layered, lightweight clothing. Outer clothing made of tightly woven, water-repellent material is best for wind protection. Wool, silk or polypropylene inner layers hold body heat better than cotton does.

Dry. Stay as dry as possible. Get out of wet clothing as soon as possible. Be especially careful to keep your hands and feet dry, as it's easy for snow to get into mittens and boots.

Highlights

When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced.

Low body temperature may make you unable to think clearly or move well.

You may not know you have hypothermia.

If your temperature is below 95°, the situation is an emergency — get medical attention immediately.

When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. The result is hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature. Body temperature that is too low affects the brain, this makes hypothermia particularly dangerous because a person may not know it is happening and won't be able to do anything about it.

Hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, but it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water.

Recognizing Hypothermia

Warnings signs of hypothermia:

Adults: shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, drowsiness

Youths: bright red, cold skin, very low energy

What to Do

If you notice any of these signs, take the person's temperature. If it is below 95°, the situation is an emergency—get medical attention immediately. If medical care is not available, begin warming the person, as follows:

Get the person into a warm room or shelter.

If the person has on any wet clothing, remove it.

Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin—using an electric blanket, if available. Or use skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels, or sheets.

Warm beverages can help increase the body temperature, but do not give alcoholic beverages. Do not try to give beverages to an unconscious person.

After the body temperature has increased, keep the person dry and wrapped in a warm blanket, including the head and neck.

Get medical attention as soon as possible.

A person with severe hypothermia may be unconscious and may not seem to have a pulse or to be breathing. In this case, handle the person gently, and get emergency assistance immediately. Even if the person appears dead, CPR should be provided. CPR should continue while the person is being warmed, until the person responds or medical aid becomes available. In some cases, hypothermia persons who appear to be dead can be successfully resuscitated.

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