



Notes from the President's Desk....February 2012

Nothing like starting the year off with a "bang"! NMGMS's January meeting was very well attended, with an excellent presentation by Dr. Terry Panhorst and an abundance of very appetizing refreshments! There were several guests in attendance too and we now have some new members. Welcome, David Hanes and Janice Watts! Speaking of members and membership, NMGMS has 42 out of our 133 total 2011 membership renewed so far.

So, let me spend a few minutes sharing with you what a membership in The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society has to offer. First of all, not only are you becoming a member of one very outstanding organization, but since NMGMS is a member of both a regional and a national federation composed of other societies, you are also becoming a member of a whole family of rock and mineral clubs. So, what are the benefits of this membership? Well, on the local level, you have the opportunity to share your interest with a super group of very fun, friendly, enthusiastic, knowledgeable and artistic fellow NMGMS members. You are also able to join in on the field trips and workshops sponsored by the club, not to mention all of the outstanding meetings, events and programs offered throughout the year.

At the regional level, NMGMS participates in the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies' liability insurance program, whereby our members are covered at the club meetings and club sponsored field trips. In having this insurance, NMGMS members can attend Dixie Mineral Council sponsored field trips which provides us access to sites through other participating clubs. Also, we have access to a vast library of programs available for our use at club meetings and we have the opportunity to participate in several scholarship programs for adult and junior members, such as the stamp scholarship to the William Holland Lapidary School or the Junior Rockhound of the Year scholarship.

At the national level, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies helps with keeping us informed and up to date; whether it be in new land use regulations, safety issues, conservation, or any legislation concerning rock and mineral clubs, hobbyists and collectors. Also, the American Federation sponsors a merit badge program which provides activities and badges to the junior members of NMGMS and other participating clubs. Through the A.F.M.S. newsletter, members can stay abreast of the activities of the regional federations and other participating rock and mineral clubs. They also receive valuable information and advice covering such topics as managing a website or editing a newsletter. Too, when traveling around the country, NMGMS members can always contact a fellow rockhound or gem and mineral club.

So you see, you really are joining into more than just a rock and mineral club. It's like the commercial where there is a whole fleet of people standing behind the guy with the cell phone! For less than a dollar per month, you can become a part of all of this and much, much more. So, what are you waiting for; come on and join in the fun!

Nancy Roberts



Next Meeting

February 11

Tupelo Library from 1 to 3pm

"Crystal Form and Mineral Habit"

by NMGMS member Myra Sorozcak
from Muscle Shoals, AL

Refreshments: Robert Langford and
Belinda Loyd

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Frost covered *Pseudoatrypa*
Brachiopod by Nancy Roberts

Workshop

Kumihimo Anyone?

On Saturday, January 28th, 12 eager workshop attendees gathered at the Tupelo library to learn the Japanese braiding technique called Kumihimo under the tutelage of NMGMS member Nancy Roberts. Since the workshop was held in the small conference room, the table immediately became covered in piles of beads, yarns, cords and threads. If the number of videos on "You Tube" of Kumihimo patterns and directions is any indication, then this art form is a very popular trend indeed! The equipment for this form of braiding is really very simple; just a foam loom that's notched and some plastic bobbins on which to wind the cords or threads. The braiding goes very fast, so the first project of a short lanyard for a keychain was finished in no time. Everyone had brought a wide variety of materials, from embroidery floss and perle cottons to chenille yarns and satin cording, so the results were very spectacular and unique. The excitement, enthusiasm and fun was running high. There were comments like "This is the best workshop yet!", "This is so addicting, I can't stop braiding!" and "I really like the way this is turning out; it's so cool!" and so on. The technique is very easy to pick up. It's basically crossing threads and turning the loom, crossing threads and turning the loom, crossing threads and.... Sounds like something you can do anywhere, anytime and it really is! For the second project of the afternoon, beads were incorporated into the work by stringing some or all of the threads used in the braid with a variety of beads, from seed beads to wooden beads or gemstone chips. Some even chose to use a "bead soup" mixture! Beaded threads could be mixed also with cording or yarns to vary the texture and appearance of the finished piece. Things got quiet and "serious" while everyone was busy stringing their beads, but once the braiding began again, the character and uniqueness of each person's braid was exciting to see develop.



the beaded piece into a wearable bracelet and the results were very nice indeed. Everyone hated to have to stop and pick up, but all went away with a new and exciting skill. They can't wait to try new patterns or bead combinations with their Kumihimo looms and of course they're all anxiously awaiting the next workshop!

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Bernice demonstrates with her disc

Nancy Roberts



Top right, Dana, Amanda, Cathy, Nikki, bottom left Myra. At a very cluttered table

Counterclockwise from top right Julie, Mary, Susan, Kathy, Nancy and Myra



Amanda shows her wooden bead bracelet

Annette Kelly showing how it's done, Nikki offering advice to Cathy



Photos By Nancy Roberts

Field Trip

NMGMS March 2012 Field Trip to Mt. Ida, AR

The March field trip for the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be to the Mt. Ida, AR area for quartz crystals the weekend of March 10th and 11th. We will be collecting at the Wegner Phantom Mine on Saturday, March 10th and then doing the Coleman, Miller Mt. Mine on Sunday, March 11th. We are reserving the Phantom mine, so there is a deposit required of \$3 per person and this will be mailed in after the Feb. 11th NMGMS club meeting. We needed a minimum of 10 people in order to reserve this mine and there are 24 persons planning to attend so far. We can add more, even after the deposit is paid. The total cost for the Phantom mine is **\$26.16** per person and that is for all day/keep all you collect. A check or cash for this amount (\$ 23.16 if you paid the deposit) **MUST** be paid to Nancy Roberts before we get to the mine and a liability waiver **MUST** be signed and brought along by each attendee to the mine. Nancy will have copies of the waiver with her on the day of the trip, if you can't get one via email or don't have access to a printer. We will be riding into this mine on a bus as a group and back out as a group.

We will be meeting at the Royal Oak Inn on Hwy 270 in Mt. Ida at 8:30a.m., sharp, on Saturday, March 10th and then traveling the 6 miles to the mine. The Royal Oak Inn has offered us a group rate of \$36 per room. They have 15 rooms, 2 with king beds and the rest with either 2 full beds or a full and a queen. There are also cots available and children under 16 stay free. The more we book to a room, the less cost per person! Nancy will be reserving the rooms shortly after the Feb. 11th meeting, so be sure and let her know what accommodations you need. If you are willing to "bunk in" with another single person, let her know that too. The Royal Oak Inn personnel will have the list of who is staying there and who is rooming together and you will pay when you check in. The rooms will be reserved for 2 nights. If you make your own arrangements for accommodations, or will only be staying one night, please let Nancy know.

for more info, a copy of the waiver or to make your reservations, please contact Nancy Roberts, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com 731-689-5336

On Sunday, March 11th, we will be traveling about 40 minutes to the Coleman, Miller Mt. mine. If we have at least 10 people going there, the fee will be \$7.50 per person and they will dump another loader bucket out for us. We will be meeting there at 9:30a.m. (Hopefully, if we're not too exhausted from Saturday's digging!) Reservations are not required for this mine, but a liability release waiver must be signed when you check in at the office. You can stay as long or as little as you like; we do not need to leave as a group.

Bring very old clothes to dig in. They will get dirty and become stained with the beautiful red mud.

Equipment for digging is minimal, you will need:

- Small garden rakes and trowels
- Plastic buckets or bags and newspapers or something to wrap the more fragile crystals
- Cheap brown gloves
- Hats and/or sunglasses , safety glasses or some kind of eye protection!
- Old flathead screwdrivers
- Sun block
- Band-Aids, a few minor first aid items, hand wipes, paper towels/TP, especially for Sat., there are no facilities in the Phantom Mine!
- Water
- Snacks, We will need to pack a lunch in for Saturday

Related Links

http://www.bluemooncrystals.com/Crystal_Mining.html

<http://www.royaloakmtida.com/>

<http://www.wegnercrystalmines.com/html/dig.html>

What we will find

Coleman, Miller Mtn Mine-clear and white crystals, may find interesting pieces of Adularia and Calcite. Wegners Mine-Phantom Crystals: maganese inclusions that look like smaller, dark crystals trapped within a larger clear crystal. See the above links for images.

Please see AFMS Code of Ethics on page 5

NMGMS

Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Abby Loyd & club President Nancy Roberts. Introduction of guests and new members...

Dave Haynes
Janice Watts
Marilyn Snow

Roger Lambert was sworn in as the 2012 Vice President of NMGMS.

Motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting as printed in the Jan. Nugget was approved and seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of Jan. 2012 - \$1775.37. The club has officially been recognized as a non-profit organization by the bank. Previously collected service charges were refunded.

Field Trips: Our next field trip will be on Saturday, Feb. 4th. We will be collecting Mississippian fossils from the Bangor Formation. March field trip to Mt. Ida for quartz Looks like it will be March 10/11th.

Wegner, Phantom Mine on Saturday and the Miller Mt. (Coleman) Mine on Sunday. Three dollars from each person planning to attend was collected as a deposit.

Publicity: (Bob Reinhaus) – No report at this time

Membership: (Ann Byzet) dues need to be paid as soon as possible.

Hospitality: Feb - Belinda Loyd and Robert Langford

March - Cake: Dana Jones, Ice Cream: Bernice Burkeen, Sodas and Ice: John Byzet

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

Stamps: Chairperson Kathy Westbrook was on hand to collect any stamps turned in.

Historian: Kathy Westbrook agreed to collect & deliver any memorabilia turned in to historian Susan Curry.

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) Dana would like the Rockheads to make up a logo for their section of the newsletter. President Nancy Roberts submitted the April 2011 issue of The Nugget along with quite a few articles and features from other 2011 issues to the SFMS bulletin competition. Everyone congratulated Dana on her fabulous job of redesigning the Nugget.

Youth Members: Kendal has asked to be replaced as the club's youth leader. Bernice Burkeen and Roger Lambert will assume the role and Tabitha Lambert has agreed to help as needed.

The Rockheads were "officially" recognized as participants in the FRA program with the

presentation of their patches by President Nancy Roberts.

Old Business:

The Boy Scout Geology Merit Badge that NMGMS was going to teach on Jan. 28th was cancelled due to timing and enrollment. We expect to be asked to do it again next year. Nancy thanked everyone that volunteered to help. A motion to provide a membership subscription to the newsletter S.C.R.I.B.E for Dana Jones was APPROVED and seconded.

New Business:

The next NMGMS Lapidary/Beading workshop will be on **Saturday January 28, 2012** in the conference room at the Lee County Public Library from **11:30 to 4:00p.m.** The art of Kumihimo, a Japanese form of weaving with threads and beads will be introduced. The kit for this workshop is \$4 and includes the weaving disk and 8 small "huggie" bobbins.

The clubs 2012 Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies dues of \$166.25 have been paid. The SFMS insurance payment is not due until the end of February.

A motion to purchase a book on fossils for donation to the library in memory of Cecil Perkins was APPROVED and seconded.

A motion to reimburse Floy Hawkins for the purchase of a jewelry making book donated to the library in memory of Ruby Marshall was APPROVED and seconded.

The club held its first Board meeting prior to the regular club meeting. Items discussed were ideas on program presentations for 2013; increase of \$5 in membership dues to become effective in 2013 and fundraising ideas. The Board agreed the clubs annual picnic would be in the large pavilion at Ballard Park on October 27, 2012 and to appoint a committee to explore the processes for a club gem and mineral show.

Dr. Terry Panhorst with the University of Mississippi's Geology department gave an interesting presentation on Polymorphs and Pseudomorphs: What are they?

Reminders: The February Meeting is on Saturday, Feb. 11th

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

Meeting was adjourned.



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Ethics, Safety, Links, Corrections

AFMS Code of Ethics

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.



Fossils and photos courtesy of Nancy Roberts.



Safety

Fossil hunting can be fun and exciting but safety should never be dismissed. When looking for fossils, always remember watch your footing and be aware of your surroundings.

Because of sharp rocks, be sure to always wear your gloves when fossil hunting. And always remember to wear your eye protection, especially when using a chisel, hammer, pry bar, or other tools. Remember, fossil hunting is an adventure. So, have fun, but be safe.

Jennifer Morgan

Useful Links

www.trilobite.info

Large site dedicated to trilobites

<http://www.nashvillefossils.com/fieldtrips/parsonsfieldtrip/parsons.html>

<http://www.memphisgeology.org/images/Devonian%20Fossils%20of%20West%20Tennessee.pdf>

This sites help identify the fossils from the Parsons Quarry.

You may also go to http://www.memphismuseums.org/coon_creek-overview/ and download an online book Devonian Fossils of West Tn. Be aware it is nearly 8MB, so it takes a while to download on some servers, but it is well worth the wait. It IDs the trilobites too.

Mea Culpa

It's ANN not Anne as it appeared in the Christmas photo label. Roger obviously can't take a photo of himself-or at least he didn't accomplish that in the Parson field trip photos-Jim Roberts took all the photos. I lost the AFMS and SFMS photos in a story so long and boneheaded it's nearly impossible but I accomplished it.

I have the disheartening feeling Mea Culpa is going to be the most regular article in *The Nugget*.

Rockhead News

The Rockheads, from left-Remy, Robin, Andrew, Brittani, Matthew, Victoria- received their FRA badges.



Matthew has placed 1st in his class (Environmental Science) and school (KMS) science fair. He now advances on to the Region IV Science Fair at Northeast Community College in March.



Note From The Editor

Rockheads. You need a logo/mascot. See Bernice, Roger, Nancy, Remy or me. (that would be Dana.)

February Meeting

Bernice will be covering minerals and some of the projects for FRA Badge #1, Rocks and Minerals. For more information on the rock and mineral badge go to: http://www.amfed.org/fra/AFMS_FRA_Badge_Manual_Revised_2009_03.pdf

January Program

The NMGMS club program for the January meeting was a talk by Dr. Terry Panhorst on "Pseudomorphs and Polymorphs". Dr. Panhorst is a professor of Geology at the University of Mississippi and everyone enjoyed his mineral talk last year, so we had a good crowd to hear his presentation for this meeting. We learned that a pseudomorph is a mineral that takes the shape of a completely different one. It can happen when a mineral is deposited directly on top of another one, or by replacement, where each molecule of the first mineral is replaced by the second. In either case you would end up with a crystal that, for example, could look like quartz with its six sided crystalline form but would actually be a completely different mineral. This makes it hard for people like me who rely a lot on shape to identify a particular specimen.

The second type of morphism Dr. Panhorst discussed was polymorphism. In this case, minerals that look different and have completely different properties can have exactly the same molecular composition. The best example is graphite, a very soft black substance, and a diamond, a clear crystal that's the hardest naturally occurring mineral. Both of them are chemically the same, pure carbon. The causes of polymorphism are directly related to the conditions when the mineral was formed, high or low temperature, and high or low pressure.

Dr. Panhorst's presentation was accompanied by plenty of photos showing examples of each particular feature he was discussing, making his points easy to understand for everyone. At the conclusion, he received a well-deserved round of applause and we all hope he can do another program for our club soon.

Jim Roberts



Dr Panhorst talking with Byron

Dr Panhorst and his presentation



Mark Your Calendars

February 25 and 26, 2012

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society's
53rd Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show
Trade Mart Building, State Fairground, Jackson, Mississippi
1200 East Mississippi Street.
Jackson, MS
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Donations, Adults \$5.00; Students \$3.00
Dealers for every aspect of the rock Hobby
Educational and hands on booths, demonstrators, raffle,
door prizes, fun for all.



The George Everett lapidary supplies will be on sale at the MGMS rock and mineral show in Jackson MS.

George and Rena Everett



What is it?

There was no definite ID of the skull fragment from 20 Mile Creek. Opossum was suggested, it does seem to be a rodent. If have any further suggestions, would like to see it, or have a fossil you'd like identified or just show off, or know what it is and want to see if anyone else can ID it please email nuggeteditor@gmail.com.

2012 Meeting Dates

March 10 and 11
Field Trip see page 3

March 17
Tupelo Library from 1 to 3pm
Annual Birthday Party
Presentations and Displays
By NMGMS Members

April 21
Tupelo Library from 1 to 3pm
"The Fascinating World of Fluorescent Minerals"
NMGMS Member Floy Hawkins

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 Meeting Date, Place and Program TBA
(library is not available)
July and August-NO MEETINGS
September 15 TBA
October 27
Annual Picnic and Rock Swap
Location TBA
November 17 TBA
December 15

New Youth Leader

Kendal Bullock stepped down as Youth Leader and Bernice Burkeen has volunteered to take over.

Her contact information is 214 South Highland Drive, Tupelo, MS 38801
662-871-3650 bburkeen@wildblue.net

Editor's Note

Is there anything you'd like to see in *The Nugget*?

Do you have an idea for an article? Photos of specimens you'd like to share or have identified? Photos of crafts made from workshops? Point out an error-I'd reward those but there will be so many I'd run out of rewards. email nuggeteditor@gmail.com

