



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

June 10, 2014 Volume 14 Issue 2

Notes from the President's Desk.... May 2014

Here it is May already; school will be out shortly and then we'll all be off on our summer vacations. Seems like we went from winter right into summer, but I guess spring was in there somewhere. Hopefully all of those terrible spring tornadoes are over with. I sincerely hope that all of our NMGMS membership came through okay and our thoughts and prayers are with those who suffered. Please lend a helping hand wherever you can.

Speaking of summer, even though NMGMS doesn't hold regular monthly meetings at the Tupelo library during the summer months, the club is still involved in community programs. This year we were asked to participate in several library summer camp programs, as well as the one held at the Oren Dunn Museum in Tupelo. Robert Langford and Rebecca Vallarian will be doing a presentation for the Nettleton Library on June 4th and they will be using the Rockheads' geologic timeline as a base for this program. Also, a group of NMGMS members will be setting up the "sandbox" rock and fossil dig for the ODCM summer camp on June 10th at the museum and then NMGMS will be setting up the "minerals and their uses" display at the Tupelo library for their summer program on June 27th. If any member is available and willing to help out at any of these events, please drop me a line and I'll give you the particulars.

Another summer event to mark on your calendars is the New Albany Fossil Road Show, which will be held on June 14th at the Union County Heritage Museum in New Albany. NMGMS will most likely be setting up an exhibit table at the show again this year. George Phillips will be there to identify any fossils that you wish to bring along and there will be several vendors, as well as the museum displays to peruse. Robert Langford will be setting up the fossil id and information station at Twenty Mile Creek again during the summer, so be sure to mark those weekends on your calendar. All of these events are good ways in which to help our NMGMS junior members continue their work on the FRA badge requirements over the summer.

So, consider taking a junior member to one of these events, or plan a trip to a museum, another club's rock and gem show, a public collecting site(like those in Arkansas or North Carolina), a geocache site, or any other rock related activity that you can think of. Make the summer months a great time for family and friends and keep up with your rock, fossil, mineral or lapidary interests while having a great vacation.

Nancy Roberts

March Dixie Mineral Council Field Trip

Despite a very cloudy and brisk day, quite a few NMGMS members traveled to Millington, TN to participate in a DMC field trip that was hosted by MAGS, the Memphis rock and gem club. The weather had started out warmer earlier that morning, but turned cold when the wind came up, so some of us ran into the nearby Walmart to purchase a nice warm coat and a pair of gloves! When we got down to the creek site, we were mighty glad that we had these warm clothes and our water boots. The creek level wasn't too high, but it was still up from the previous night's rains. We still had a great time and there were some nice pieces of petrified wood collected that day. MAGS set out a most welcome snack table and hosted a very entertaining judging contest of the days "best" finds. All in all, it was a very nice field trip and we thank the host club for taking the time and trouble to sponsor such a great event for all of the SFMS participating clubs.

Nancy Roberts



Hello NMGMS! Remember that there will not be a June meeting at the Tupelo library. Instead, the club will be setting up an exhibit table at the New Albany Fossil Road Show at the Union County Heritage Museum on June 14th. All members are asked to attend this event, if at all possible. The next and last club function before we break for the summer will be a field trip to the Hwy 45 bridge site on 20 Mile Creek for shark teeth on June 21st. MAGS, the Memphis club, will be joining us! See the attached notice. Happy collecting over the summer and be safe while having fun. Nancy

NMGMS spends the day on campus!

Without a doubt, a college town is where the action is on a weekend. Despite an art festival in downtown Starkville, along with ball games and other college related events, NMGMS members managed to find ample free parking behind Hilbun Hall on Saturday April 12th. We were greeted by graduate student and fellow club member Maurice Testa, and Dr. Renee Clary, director of the Dunn-Seiler Geology Museum at MSU. For many of us, being on campus again brought back nostalgic memories of long ago times and for the junior members, an excitement of times to come. The museum boasts a very astonishing collection of minerals from around the world and a fabulous collection of Mississippi fossils. We could have spent hours studying each and every one of the specimens, but the kids were getting anxious to venture out to the fossil exposure, which was just a short walk across campus, in order to do some "hands on" collecting. I think we all wished that we had our hiking boots on, because the slopes of the site were rather muddy and slippery. That didn't hinder our group of avid collectors tho, and soon several fossil gastropods were discovered. Afternoon temps were climbing fast,



so we wrapped up our outdoor session and walked back to Hilbun Hall. NMGMS wishes to express our sincerest thanks to Dr. Clary and Maurice for giving us this opportunity to view, first hand, what their geology department has accomplished and to see all of the specimens that they have worked so very hard to collect

and preserve for the future. Thank you too, MSU!
Nancy Roberts

The Memphis Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Show 2014

Setting up the NMGMS table at the MAGS show this year was a new experience for me, since Nancy was in Chicago helping her Mom with her Dad's funeral arrangements and I was doing the setup by myself.

I got to the AgriCenter Friday afternoon and had our table all set up in time for a very good dinner which was provided by MAGS, the host club for the show.

Saturday morning, the Langford family showed up to help; Cheryle had brought along a table with her bracelet and necklace crafting setup. This generated a lot of interest from the people visiting the show. Saturday's weather was perfect and I thought this would mean a good turnout. There was a good crowd, but not extremely busy. Sunday was another story. Once again the Langford family helped, and on this day the weather was terrible. Thunderstorms with lots of lightning and heavy rain, but the show was very crowded, with lots of people looking and talking with us about our fossil and mineral displays. Several families expressed an interest in joining, and there was a great deal of interest in our upcoming field trip to 20 Mile Creek. So, the busy Sunday made up for the slow Saturday. The show closed at 5 pm and by 6, I was all packed up and heading home.

Jim Roberts



New Albany Fossil Road Show In lieu of our June NMGMS meeting, please attend!

The Fossil Road Show will be in New Albany on Saturday, June 14, at the Union County Heritage Museum at 114 Cleveland Street. The event begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2. Paleontologists George Phillips, Charles Swan and others will be on hand to identify objects and give a presentation starting at 11. Gem and mineral vendors from the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society (MAGS) will be at the event as well, including W.C. McDaniel, who brings many interesting fossils and gemstones; Carol Lybanon, who uses agates, crystals and other rocks into original one-of-a-kind stained glass artwork; also coming is the geode cracker and more. Anyone interested in being a vendor, please contact the museum at 662-538-0014 or email jill@uchheritagemuseum.com

NMGMS Field Trip Put on your water shoes, grab your sieves and buckets and let's get out there for those shark teeth and have a splash of a good time too!

: On **Saturday June 21st, 2014**, NMGMS will sponsor a field trip to the famous Frankstown "Shark Teeth" Site, the W. M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park (the Site), which is located on Twenty Mile Creek in Prentiss County, Mississippi. We will meet at the Site by **9:00 a.m.** Parking is on the eastern side of US Highway 45 in the flat grassy area, just off of the side road and includes under the bridge. We will be sifting through the creek's sand and gravel for shark teeth and other small Cretaceous fossils. Be prepared to get wet and take precautions to limit sun exposure! You will be down in the creek, so you need to be able to go down the bank and get in the water. There is a somewhat steep, sandy path leading down the bank on both sides of the bridge. So, wear shoes that can get wet and a walking stick is a good idea. Bring a screening device, like a colander, sieve, or homemade screen made out of hardware cloth and a wooden frame, or fiber screening put into a large plastic embroidery hoop. Also, you will need a small garden trowel or scoop. Small plastic jars with tight fitting lids, zip loc bags or pill bottles make excellent storage containers for the fossils. There are no facilities here. Be sure to bring plenty of drinking water, a hat, sunscreen, a towel, and dry cloths to change into. This is a wild site so watch for poison ivy on the banks and snakes at all times. You will find many different kinds of teeth here, shark, ray, bony fish, Mosasaurs, and crocodile; also some vertebrae, turtle bone, scoots, petrified wood and lots more. Many of the teeth are good sized, but most are very small, so be sure to check out anything that is black and shiny!

This will be lots of fun for all ages. If you plan to go on this field trip, please notify:
Robert Langford at 662-869-2278H
or at rlangford@cobbenv.com or thechainmailman@yahoo.com or
Nancy Roberts therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Please bring your own chairs.

Additionally: Robert Langford will kick off his 20-Mile Creek Summer 2014 Program. The white pavilion will be set up on top of the creek bank . He will have fossil identification books, fossil labels, and will assist you in identifying and logging your best finds.

Directions: >From Tupelo, take Hwy 45 N, and head toward Booneville. After you drive passed the stop light in Baldwin, go about three miles and watch for the Hwy 30W, Wheeler exit. Do not take this exit! Go under the Hwy 30 overpass and continue on Hwy 45 for a short ways. There will be a hillside on the right with a metal building and tractor trailers on it. Directly ahead, there will be the Twenty Mile Creek Bridge. Cross the bridge and then immediately take the right turn. Then take the first right there by the monument and park.

If you are coming south on Hwy 45, the monument site will be on your left, just before you cross the Twenty Mile Creek Bridge and half a mile or so before the Hwy 30 overpass.

Here are some pictures from our May 10th Rockheads cookout field trip to Twenty Mile creek!



This year, NMGMS opted to host their annual picnic and rock swap in May. We were lucky to still be able to have our picnic at Ballard Park in Tupelo because it was just a few days before this event that Tupelo was hit by that terrible tornado. Lots of trees were down at the park, but clean up crews had been working steadily to pick up the debris and the pavilion area was undamaged. A big THANK YOU to all who came out and made this year's picnic a great one.
Nancy



NMGMS would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” to our honorary club member John Wright for making the trip up to Tupelo from the Gulf coast and sharing his expertise on meteorites with us at our May 17th meeting. Thank you John! We now know the difference between a meteor and a meteorite, as well as what a



tektite is and many other interesting facts about these fascinating objects from space.



NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: May 17, 2014

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Dana Armstrong and Dave Hanes

Guest, Denise Walker was introduced by Mary Reed and Nancy introduced our guest speaker and NMGMS honorary member, John Wright, who is also a member of several other MS rock clubs. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March minutes as printed in the April Nugget. There were no April minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of May 17, 2014 was \$2641.88

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: There won't be any more official NMGMS field trips until Sept., but Robert Langford will be setting up his fossil ID station at 20 Mile Creek over the summer. It was suggested that we let the area scouts know about this. Also mentioned, were a DMC field trip being hosted by MGMS in July and that the Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, TN appears to be open to collecting again. Nancy hopes to set up a gravel site field trip for the fall with MAGS.

Publicity: (John Byzet) John would like to get posters about the club made up, that we could post around town.

Membership: (Ann Byzet) The new 2014 membership roster was handed out.

Hospitality:

Refreshments: Volunteers for **Sept 20:** John Byzet and Robert Langford (funds donated by Clarice Turner) Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome!

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

Newsletter: (Dana Jones).

The deadline for submissions is the **second Friday of the month**. One thing that we need for each issue of the Nugget is a meeting program review and a field trip and/or workshop review. We hope that all members will consider submitting a review or article and a big **"Thank You"** to all who have been contributing. **Remember to please send anything that is for the newsletter to Dana's email at: nuggeteditor@gmail.com**

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads made \$34 from the sale of hotdogs at the May 10th field trip to the creek. They now have a total of \$54.

Stamps: (Dana Armstrong) Dana let the membership know that the federation does not want the Liberty Bell stamp or the 44 cent Flag stamp anymore. Too many of those were printed and they aren't worth anything. <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/stamp-program.html>

Historian: (Shirley Randle) Shirley has requested that someone else from the club store the yearbooks, as she has very little available space. Is there a club member who would volunteer and is anyone else willing to help serve on this committee? Susan Curry took the 2013 yearbook materials with her to give to Shirley. We still need to get our 2013 yearbook compiled.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Loyd, Bob Reinhaus, John Byzet and Robert Langford) Please keep collecting any specimens or other items that you are willing to donate to the grab bags, the fishing game, the spin and win or the fossil dig. We will be filling the bags and cups at our October meeting. We also could use little rocks, crystals and shark teeth etc. for the "sand box", which is the rock and fossil dig. Need some nice little items as prizes for the spin and win. We can use small lapidary items too. Keep those grab bags coming! Grab bag size, when finished, is approx. 5x7 inches

Safety: (David Loyd) If anyone has any ideas or topics for the safety section of the Nugget, please pass them along to David Loyd or Dana.

Old Business: Our 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, and a fluorescent tent. We will need members to man each of these activities, as well as, the club information table. George Phillips will be there to identify any fossils brought in by attendees.

The displays that we are planning to set up are:

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)

Rock "food" table (Rebecca Vallarian and Belinda Loyd)

Minerals and their Uses (Nancy Roberts)

Geology case/ rock types and rock cycle, etc. (Nancy Roberts)

Twenty Mile Creek fossils (Robert Langford)

Optical Effects in Rocks (Brenda Manning and Nikki Kenney),

Northeast MS fossils (Union, Lee and Prentiss Counties) (Roger Lambert and Dave Hanes)

We will also be setting up a fluorescent room and a meteorite display case.

Specimens needed for our Nov. 1st Geology Day display cases:

Rocks and minerals collected in MS that are interesting, unusual and/or have commercial or industrial uses of some type. Fluorescent minerals; any jewelry item made at one of our workshops over the past year or any metal jewelry you may have made. Anything that would fall under the "Rocks in Art" category or "Rocks that look like Food". Fossils collected in northeast Miss.

Rocks, minerals, gemstones, jewelry etc. showing any of the following characteristics:

Opalescence, iridescence, labradorescence, aventurescence, chatoyancy, etc. (In other words, “unusual optical effects that are displayed by gemstones”) Possibilities are: pearls, mother of pearl, opals, some agates like fire agate, chalcedony, star sapphires, tigereye, fiber optic beads, sunstone, aventurine, spectrolite, labradorite, ammolite, and chrysoberyl.

Museum loan sheets were passed out and everyone was reminded to put their initials on a piece of blue painters tape and place it on the bottom of their loan items and record a brief description of the item on the museum loan sheet.

Mary Reed suggested that all members, who work at the Geology Day, wear one of the club shirts and since we have a lot of new members, she volunteered to see about getting some more made up.

Our October 18th meeting will be a “work day” meeting. We will be filling the grab bags and fishing cups for the geology day, as well as compiling all of the display items for the museum cases. Please bring any loan items to the September and October meetings. We will need to get the labels for these things made up before the display set up.

There was no other old business.

New Business: Summer community service schedule:

Wednesday June 4th, Robert Langford and Rebecca Vallarian will be doing a program based on the Rockheads geologic timeline for the Nettleton Library at 2:30.

Tuesday June 10th, John Byzet, Cheryl Langford and Rebecca Vallarian will set up the sandbox dig for the Oren Dunn Museum’s summer camp program, 8 to noon. Ann Byzet volunteered to help also.

Thursday June 27th, Rebecca Vallarian will be setting up the “minerals and their uses” display at the Tupelo library for their summer camp program, 9 to 12. John Byzet volunteered to assist her.

The Fossil Road Show will be in New Albany on **Saturday, June 14th**, at the Union County Heritage Museum at 114 Cleveland Street. The event begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2.

Paleontologists George Phillips, Charles Swan and others will be on hand to identify objects and give a presentation starting at 11. **NMGMS members were encouraged to attend this event in lieu of a June meeting. It was not definite, if any club member would be available to set up a club exhibit that day, but John Byzet and Robert Langford will try to.** The next meeting at the Tupelo library will be on September 20th, 1 – 3. The program will be on how to tumble polish rocks by Rebecca Vallarian and John Byzet. Project will be gluing a bail onto a polished stone and then making it into a key ring. Members may bring in any stone that they wish to use for the key ring. A motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase of two books, which will be donated to the library in memory of NMGMS members Gary Law and Annette Kelly. **There was no other new business.**

The meeting was adjourned and the program on meteorites was presented.