



## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

March 10, 2014 Issue 8 Volume 13

Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday NMGMS! That's right; it's that time of year again, when we celebrate the founding of our great organization. Seems like we have been around for a long time, but really, as far as rock and mineral clubs go, we are still a youngster. Some of the other area clubs have been around for over 50 years! We have a long way to go to catch up to them, but NMGMS has crossed some milestones this past year.

One of our club's recent accomplishments is, that The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is now an "Inc.," fully recognized by the state of Mississippi as a non-profit corporation. We also just received our Charity Exemption Status from the state, and now we legally can receive and or solicit contributions up to \$25,000 per year, without reporting said. These are milestones that NMGMS needed to hurdle, before we can apply for 501©3 status with the IRS.

Another accomplishment for our organization over the past year is that we have added a very large number of new members to our club roster. Many of the new members are families, whose junior members have jumped in the "Rockheads" group with both feet and are off to a very good start on earning those FRA badges and participating in the junior programs. This is a wonderful thing for any organization, because it is thru our junior members that we "grow", not just as a club, but also as adult members, who expand themselves by teaching and sharing their knowledge and skills with the younger members.

So, as we gather together on March 15, 2014 to celebrate our birthday, let's all take pride in NMGMS and ourselves. We have one really fine "gem" of a society! I encourage everyone to bring something to the meeting for our group display, so that we can all share with our fellow members and our guests, just how much we have accomplished over the past year. I know that you all have some interesting collections or lapidary items that you can bring. This is your chance to "shine" like a finely polished gemstone! Happy Birthday!



NANCY ROBERTS

# NMGMS

## Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2014



**Pledge of Allegiance** to the Flag was given by John Byzet.

**Guests** Wynelle Benson, Jean Lute, Norma Wicker, Louise Hardin and Sam Messer were introduced.

**January minutes** will be presented for approval at the March meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Closing Balance as of today is : \$2,498.43

**Chairpersons' Reports: Field Trips:**

The next club field trip will be the spring break trip to Mt. Ida, AR. March 8, 9 and 10<sup>th</sup>. I have 18 people signed up so far. We will be staying at the Crystal Inn on Hwy 270. Saturday, we will do the Sweet Surrender Mine, Sunday we'll be going to Miller Mt. and then Monday we will drive down to the Crater of Diamonds State Park. At this time, reservations are limited. Call Nancy if more information is needed. Watch your e-mails for updates. There is a DMC field trip sponsored by MAGS on March 29th to Sugar Creek in the Millington area. Check out the Lodestar website for more info. on upcoming fieldtrips.

**Publicity:** (John Byzet) John sent our club meeting notice to the newspapers.

**Membership:** (Ann Byzet) It's time now to renew your membership. This should be done by our March birthday meeting in order to remain on the roster and receive the club's email announcements.

**Hospitality:** Refreshments: March: Brenda Manning and Dana Armstrong. Thanks to Ann for bringing the "birthday cake". No refreshments needed for April since we will be in Starkville. Volunteers for May will be taken at our March meeting.

**Website:** (John Byzet) Check us out at [www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org)

**Newsletter:** (Dana Jones) The deadline for submissions is the **second Friday of the month**. Those of you who attend workshops or field trips please submit a review or something about the event. Thoughts, comments, and critiques are welcome. We need these for each issue of the Nugget. Anything for the newsletter should be sent to: [nuggeteditor@gmail.com](mailto:nuggeteditor@gmail.com)

**Youth Members:** (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads will be presenting their Geologic Time Line project at the March meeting. Jim is requesting that everyone bring in a fossil or two to place on the timeline in the appropriate era for the presentation. Any Rockhead display set up at the March meeting will count toward the Junior Rockhound of the Year Award for 2014.

**Stamps:** (Dana Armstrong) Dana had quite a collection of "special" stamps to turn in.

**Historian:** (Shirley Randle) Shirley needs help getting our 2013 club related photos, newspaper articles, show flyers or other memorabilia together for the yearbook.

**Geology/Kids Day:** (Roger Loyd, Bob Reinhaus, John Byzet and Robert Langford) We need help ASAP getting more grab bags sewn and filled. We also need items for the rock and fossil dig as well as small lapidary items.

**Safety:** (David Loyd) Attention new members! \*\*\* **Please be sure and sign a liability release waiver, if you have not yet done so.**

### Old Business:

- 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. Use blue painters tape with your name to mark your loan items and remember to fill out the museum loan form. Exhibits will stay in these locked cases for several months. Activities include: spin and win, rock and fossil dig, fishing game, a lapidary activity, and a fluorescent tent. Begin looking thru your collections for items that would work in these displays/activities:

Display cases: meteorites (John Wright)  
Rock polishing with a tumbler and cabbing (John Byzet and John McLane)  
Metal jewelry (Clarice Turner and Cheryl 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)  
Northeast MS fossils (Roger Lambert and Dave Hanes)  
Vendor Tables (We are considering this.)

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1. We donated a signed copy of the book, Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks, by Jim Lacefield, to the library.
2. The NMGMS April meeting will be a tour of the Dunn-Seiler Geology Museum on the campus of MSU in Starkville, MS. The tour will be given by Dr. Renee Clary and some of her graduate students, and we will be joined by George Phillips, paleontologist with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. Meet at Dunn-Seiler at 1 p.m. There will be some fossil collecting afterwards on university property.

#### No other old business

#### New Business:

1. We are filing Charity Exemption forms with the state of Mississippi, so that we legally can solicit contributions up to \$25,000 in any one calendar year and not have to pay taxes. Paperwork is completed and ready to mail.
2. At the board meeting last month, it was decided to move the picnic this year to May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have the large pavilion at Ballard Park from 1 p.m. until closing.
3. We will hold our usual "Brown Bag" silent auction. Members are asked to bring two items, each one packaged in its own brown paper bag. One nice item that is rock and gem related and another that can be silly, funny or cute, (kind of "white elephant") but no garbage, please!
4. Nancy nominated Roger Lambert to receive this year's William Holland scholarship from the club. Nikki Kenney made a motion which was seconded by John Byzet. All approved.
5. Belinda Loyd mentioned that Jill Smith, with the New Albany museum, would like us to set up some workshops with

them. Rae, with Oren Dunn, is also interested in the workshops.

6. George Phillips has invited us to set up at the MMNS Fossil Road show on March 1st. Matthew Lambert will be setting up his science fair project based on fossils from Blue Springs. The theme for the rest of the display will also be from Blue Springs. Please contact Nancy if you plan to help out with this event. Bring any Union County fossils you would like to show or any that you need to get identified.
7. Congratulations to Matthew who took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the school science fair competition, Brittany who took 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Konrad who also placed 1<sup>st</sup>. They will be going on to the regionals.
8. Club members signed a get well card to Sheila Diaz who is recovering from surgery.

#### No other new business

#### \*\*\*Reminder:

- The March 15, 2014 meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m.
- All members are asked to bring in something to display, showing what they have collected or accomplished over the past year in any related field.
- The Rockheads will be showing their Geologic Timeline project. Jim is requesting that everyone bring in a fossil or two to place on the appropriate time line.
- Remember the MGMS rock and gem show at the fairgrounds in Jackson, MS  
Sat. Feb. 22nd, 9am to 6pm and Sun. Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10am to 5pm Adm. Adults \$5 and kids \$3.

#### Motion to Adjourn.....

# Meeting Program

## Thank You Nikki!

NMGMS member, Nikki Kenney, treated fellow members and guests at the February meeting to a very interesting program about Indian jewelry. Nikki covered several different styles and designs of Indian jewelry and she explained that the western Indian tribes who are most noted for their skill and artistry in jewelry making, have distinctive and unique styles and designs attributed to them. Nikki also talked about the different stones and colors each of these tribes used in their pieces and ran a short video for us, covering the silversmithing techniques that they did. Nikki had some representative pieces to show us too. I always wondered what a squash blossom design was and now I know!

Nancy Roberts



# HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

(aka Announcements)

## Mark Your Calendar

### Sheila Diaz

Recently underwent surgery and needs our thoughts and prayers, along with husband Robert and son Andrew.

## Spectacular 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.

**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

## 13th Annual Birthday Party

March 15, 2014, Lee County Library from 1 to 3p.m.

All members are asked to bring in something to display. It can be a part of your rock, mineral or fossil collection, your lapidary/ beading work or just something interesting that you may have picked up in your travels.

This is a time to share with everyone our interests, talents and expertise!

There will also be a Brown Bag silent auction. Bring two items, each one packaged in its own bag. One item is to be a "nice" rock and gem related item (not absolute) and the other item can be silly, funny or cute, (kind of "white elephant") but no garbage, please. These bags will be set out on the table for silent bidding during the meeting.

We have always had some really nice surprises and lots of fun!

## Geology Day

**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.

## Etching Workshop

Saturday, March 22nd from 10-3

NMGMS/West Point/Clay County Arts Council is hosting another wonderful day of jewelry design

We will be etching designs in copper metal, using a variety of copper "blanks" (rounds or squares) and also some wire.

You'll complete a pair of earrings and either a pendant or bracelet by day's end. We may also be doing some stamping, texturing and shaping of copper washers and wires to make links and other components for your projects.

Cost for this one-day workshop will again be \$35. Once again the good folk at the Episcopal Church are making their Parish Hall available to us. We will gather on Saturday, March 22nd at 10 am and work through 3 or so in the afternoon.

The church location is at 103 Broad Street, with parking in the rear. Please bring a brown bag lunch; there is a refrigerator handy. The Arts Council will supply nibbles as well as coffee and water.

We do ask that you contact Souzen, (souzendeavors@aol.com) Nancy (therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) or Kathy Dyess with questions or to let us know you want to join us. Feel free to call me at 494-7288 or Kathy at 494-5678 if you're here in town and want to be in touch that way.

Again, we are asking that if you plan to come, please mail a check for \$35 to me at: Souzen Steelhammer, 2252 Cedars, West Point, MS 39773 so that I receive it before Friday, March 20th.



# Old Bones

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

Larry, Konrad and I had a wonderful time on the February NMGMS field trip. It was our first time at this site and we found quite a few good fossils. We also learned a lot from a nice group of very knowledgeable college students, who showed us what to look for. There were not many kids there, but Konrad found a friend in Mathew Lambert, who was very kind to spend so much time with him and Konrad learned a lot. We can't wait to go back.

Dana Armstrong



NMGMS attends the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science's Fossil Road Show

NMGMS was invited by George Phillips, paleontologist with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS to setup a display at the museum's 2014 Fossil Road Show, so several club members went down to attend this event on March 1st. Matthew Lambert set up his recent science fair project covering the diverse fossil decapods from the Coon Creek Formation exposure in Union County and Nancy Roberts set up her display of fossil mollusks collected from the same location. We had a great time hobnobbing with fellow fossil enthusiasts and getting to meet with renown experts, like Dr. David Dockery, Dr. Gary Stringer, and Dr. Louis Zachos, who were there to help identify the specimens that were brought in by the attendees. We also enjoyed meeting the public, who were fascinated by our collections. The kids loved being able to pick up a fossil shell that was really heavy because it had been turned into stone and everyone was very impressed not only with Matthew's extraordinary collection of fossil crabs, but also his knowledge about them at the site where they were collected. He should do very well at the regional level this month! The museum staff and volunteers are a great bunch to work with and we thank them and George for letting us participate in this wonderful event.

Nancy Roberts





# Bead Soup

A place to share knowledge about the lapidary arts.

## BEAD SOUP

Today's lesson, children, is about **safety**.

For those of us who have extended our jewelry making endeavors to etching, enameling, annealing, and soldering metal, there is some essential equipment we must have on hand, besides our torches, of course. Not necessarily in order of importance:

1. Safety glasses, available at hobby and hardware stores
2. A bib type apron. Also wear cotton clothing; it won't stick to your skin if it catches on fire like synthetic materials will. Keep your hair back and away from your face, as well
3. Latex or rubber gloves for handling chemical solutions. A plastic fork or spoon from a take out restaurant will substitute for the more expensive copper tweezers or tongs.
4. A working fire extinguisher, and know how to use it. A spray bottle filled with water is also handy for any little sparks that may occur.
5. A metal pan and soldering block to protect your work surface from heat and flame. Also, be sure your working area is completely clear and free of anything not directly involved with your specific activity. Make sure your torch is safely at hand, but not where it can touch you (if it is hot), nor be able to tip over.
6. Cross lock tweezers with a heat resistant handle, to hold the hot metal pieces.

And if you're really interested in this aspect of jewelry making, you have probably already researched any other tools and materials you may need.

Metalsmithing can be a very expensive and involved hobby, as some of us have discovered, but it can be extremely rewarding to create something beautiful and uniquely yours. And it's so much fun!

Now back to my first love - **containers** - plastic microwave dishes that come with frozen food make excellent shallow containers for cleaning, and quenching metals. Some inexpensive plastic storage containers with lids are great for pickling, and putting a liver of sulfur patina on metals.

Just this morning, I put about a dozen brown copper pennies in one of those shallow dishes, and sprayed them with Barkeepers Friend, (yes, you heard me right, it comes in a spray). I thought I had made a mistake buying it instead of the powder, which I couldn't find at the time, but I decided to try it. Most of the pennies came out pink. A few that still had some stains; I left in to see if --- well let me check them right now.

There is some improvement. The remaining stains may not be tarnish, and will probably disappear with a little rubbing with steel wool. Incidentally, they will all need some rubbing with steel wool or something similar, but most of the work is done, and they just need polishing to make them shine.

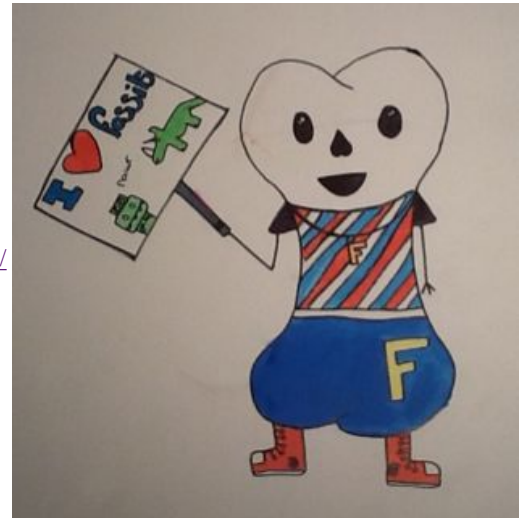
Well, that's all for now. More hints next month.

Nikki

# Rockheads



[www.amfed.org/fra/fra\\_badge.htm](http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm)



**"The fossil hunter does not kill, he resurrects."**

**G. G. Simpson**  
**MATTHEW LAMBERT**

## PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

Hello fellow NMGMS members!

The Rockheads will be presenting their Geologic Timeline project at the March meeting. They would like all of the adult club members to participate too, by bringing in a couple of their favorite fossil specimens to be placed onto the timeline in their appropriate location. Should be fun for all of us to see what the Rockheads have been working on for the last couple of meetings. So let's help them out. Dig around in your collections and bring in a few interesting specimens to the March 15th meeting at the library and let's see where they belong in time!

Thanks, Nancy

### Youth Advisors

Jim Roberts  
Latergator2003@yahoo.com

David Lloyd

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**Brittani Lambert**

**Vice President**

**Victoria Langford**

**Secretary**

**Konrad Armstrong**

**Field Trip Organizer**

**Brittany Lambert**