

Nancy Roberts and Brenda Hankins

Notes from the President's Desk.....May 2015

Hey, hey, it's May! School is almost over and everyone is already planning their summer vacations or other fun activities. I hope you have a few exciting rock or fossil collecting trips planned for the summer, as well as an excursion or two to one of the many summer outdoor rock and gem shows. Three shows that readily come to mind are: the Tanneyhill show, June 6th & 7th at the Tanneyhill Ironworks Historical St. Park in Alabama, the Park Hills, MO show, June 12th thru the 14th at the Missouri Mines St. Historical Site, and the Ben E. Clement gem and mineral show, June 6th and 7th, at the museum in Marion, KY (that one has field trips for fluorite minerals in conjunction with the show). Another great show to mark on your calendar is the Harrison County gem and mineral show in Biloxi, MS, May 22-24th. For more information, check out the websites listed on page 2.

Looking back over our NMGMS April events, one thing that I can say is, they were all fun and very successful. We had a fantastic copper bangle class in West Point early in April and it was very well attended. All of the participants had a great time and were able to complete all three of the class projects. Their work was awesome, too! The West Point Arts Council is hoping that NMGMS can do another class for them sometime in the fall. I'd like to thank Nikki Kenney, Cheryle Langford and Clarice Turner for giving of their time and talents to help make that event a success.

Despite a foreboding weather forecast, our annual club picnic and rock swap on the 18th, managed to stay dry the whole day. Even tho it was cloudy and a bit chilly for April, the attendance was good and the silent auction did very well. The "hottest" items, as far as the bidding went, were the nice drusy chunks from the Missouri field trip. The "holy" ones that Larry Armstrong had potted with real flowers brought top dollar!

To wrap up the month of April, NMGMS participated in the Memphis rock and gem show by setting up an exhibit table. We had a lot of visitors stop by the displays and talk to club members about our field trips and the other activities that NMGMS has to offer. Matthew Lambert's science project and crab site fossil collection drew a lot of interest, as well as the display of shark teeth from Prentiss County, MS. Cheryle Langford demonstrated a variety of lapidary techniques at our exhibit table and believe it or not, NMGMS members managed to sell 366 cookies that weekend. I guess we had a bunch of very hungry rockhounds pass thru during the show! Thank you Dana Armstrong for your illustrious baking efforts and a big THANK YOU to your supplier!!

All of these events helped to provide our great organization with funds, which in turn help our club to continue in its efforts of providing scholarships to members for William Holland Lapidary classes or other classes and workshops. These funds also help us to expand our own supplies, materials and tools, so that we can continue to provide our members with great programs, workshops and other fun activities. The funds will also help us to put on a bigger and better Geology Day, and maybe eventually, we'll build up enough in our treasury to be able to seriously consider doing a show (albeit a small one) of our own. How about that!!

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar!

NMGMS Rockheads Twenty Mile Creek Field Trip and hotdog cookout, Saturday, May 9, 2015

The May NMGMS meeting, Saturday, May 16th, at the Lee County Library from 1 to 3 p.m.: Pat Arinder will be our guest speaker and he will present his Stone Age Tools program. ***Note:** there will be a short board meeting at 12:30, before the regular meeting.

Links for more show information:

<http://www.lapidaryclub.com/pages/show.htm> <http://festivalnet.com/49572/Mccalla-Alabama/Gem-Jewelry-Bead-Shows/Tannehill-Gem,-Mineral,-Fossil-Jewelry-Show>

<http://nipora.com/park-hills-2015-18th-annual-missouri-mines-historic-site/218637>

<http://www.clementmineralmuseum.org/mineral-show.html>

<http://www.gulfportgems.org/news.html>

http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html

The June quarterly meeting of the SFMS is being hosted by the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society on the 6th of June at the Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park in McCalla, Alabama.

The Friday night Get Together "Cracker Barrel" meeting will also be at the park

Lodging at a reduced rate has been arranged at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Marriott, 4980 Academy Court, Bessemer, AL 35022. Call them directly at 205-277-1700 and say you are with the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies by June 1st to get the group rate of \$79 per night. Rooms with either a king bed or 2 queen beds have been reserved.

The AMLS has invited everyone to come to their cook-out prior to the Friday night Get-Together cracker barrel. The anticipated cost for dinner is \$9.

The SFMS quarterly meeting will be in the park Saturday morning. After the meeting, please feel free to attend the AMLS show, rain or shine. Watch for further information from the SFMS Secretary to register for the meeting and reserve for the Friday night dinner, but make your reservations now for your hotel room.

For Federation news, please check out these websites:

<http://www.amfed.org/>

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>

FRA badge Program- http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm



Old Bones... A place to share knowledge of fossil, gem, and mineral collecting.



April 18th Blue Springs Field Trip.....

A little mud never stops a serious fossil collector!



Photos by Nancy Roberts

Meeting Program

Our April meeting was the annual picnic and rock swap, so there are no meeting minutes to report this month.



Photos by Nancy Roberts



By Clarice Turner

Captain Nancy, and the Creative Copper Crew, Strikes Again!

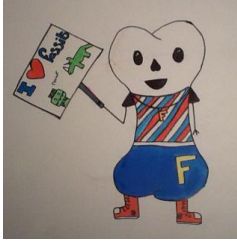
By thunder, (with all of those hammers pounding away, it certainly did sound like thunder!) a great time was had by all at the West Point Arts Council workshop, held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the new Louise Campbell Center for the Arts in downtown West Point. The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society’s “Copper Crew” consisting of, Captain Nancy Roberts and her swashbuckling deck mates, Nikki Kenney, Cheryle Langford and myself, taught eleven adventuresome ladies the metalsmithing arts of annealing, texturing, forging, shaping, riveting, and patinating. Using various gauges of copper wire, beads, gemstones, washers and tacks, students worked on creating bangles, earrings and rings.

After Kathy Dyess of the West Point Arts Council introduced the “captain”, “crew” and fellow participants, everyone was eager and excited to start their various class projects. First of all, a few safety measures were emphasized, especially those involving the use of the butane torches and the “pickle pot”. Then examples of some of the finished pieces were made available for viewing, as well as a wide variety of materials that could be used for the projects, in order for each person to pursue their own individual preferences. Demonstrations on using the torches, bench blocks, hammers, files, cutters, pliers, mandrels, hole punches, and a few other tools, went on during the course of the class, as each step of the creative process was covered. Excitement, energy, and enthusiasm abounded, as the day flew by and the new creations were being completed.

Four o’clock arrived and lots of copper bangles with dangles, earrings with swinging paddles (and not from the yard arm!), and wire rings with washers or stones of all sorts, were displayed for a photo shoot, and many oohs and aahs were given as the items were viewed. It was definitely a successful workshop, and was well worth the effort needed to unload and reload all of the boxes of tools and equipment that made this class so much fun, back into Captain Nancy’s pickup truck!

Photos by Nancy Roberts





Rockheads: April/May 2015



Rockhead Officers:

President

Victoria Langford

Vice President

Konrad Armstrong

Secretary

Britanni Lambert

www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts

latergator2003@yahoo.com



Matthew Lambert sets up his trophy winning science fair project as an exhibit at the MAGS rock and gem show April 25th and 26th.



Brittani Lambert helped NMGMS with their bake sale at the MAGS show. Konrad Armstrong and Victoria Langford helped, too.



Victoria cooks hotdogs at the Twenty Mile Creek field trip; Alice Carr assists.

Photos by Nancy Roberts

Notice for the Rockheads May 16th meeting:

The stone tools program, given by our guest speaker, Pat Arinder, should complete your "Stone Age Tools and Art" badge. Konrad will be bringing some meteorites and you will continue working on the solar system, as part of the "Earth in Space" badge.

Field Trips: Summer Collecting at Twenty Mile Creek!



Mark your Calendars for a Special 2015 Fossil Collecting Activity

Registered Professional Geologist, Robert Langford, will be present at the W. M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park located on Twenty Mile Creek at the Hwy 45 bridge near Frankstown, in Prentiss County, Mississippi on **Saturday May 23rd** beginning at 09:00 a.m. Mr. Langford will be available onsite on a voluntary basis to help novice fossil collectors to identify their fossils and to promote the NMGMS by handing out NMGMS information fliers. Family groups are very welcome. Boy Scouts, are you working on a BSA Geology Merit Badge? BSA Geology Merit Badge Forms are available.

Robert's summer Saturday schedule will be as follows:

May 23, 2015 June 20, 2015 July 18, 2015 August 15, 2015

List of Things to bring:

Families are in for a treat. This site is extremely wet; be prepared to get very wet. The creek bed is rocky and there is some glass and wire, so have the kids wear shoes and clothes that they can wear into the water. They will also need to bring a change of clothes, towel, sun screen, lunch, and water to drink. You will need sieving screens that can be made from window screening attached to a frame, but many people use kitchen colanders or the screens you get in summer beach sand toys, just something to let the sand and water through so you can sort through the coarse material to find the fossils. Bring a trowel or a scoop and a couple of small plastic bags or boxes (egg cartons or yogurt cups with lids will do) to keep your fossils safe.

If you need additional direction to the W. M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park, please contact Mr. Robert at rlangford@cobbenv.com.

NMGMS tests the waters!

May 9th was the day set for the Rockheads' field trip and cookout at the Twenty Mile Creek fossils site. It turned out to be a picture perfect day, despite the heavy rains to the west. We had cloud cover until lunch and just a few raindrops, but we were all wet already and it never hampered the cooking! NMGMS was joined by several members of the Huntsville, AL club, as well as cub scouts from Pack 56 out of Collierville, TN. The rockheads served up a most appreciated lunch and all 80 of the hotdogs that were cooked, were sold and eaten! As the saying goes, "A large time was had by all"! Nancy Roberts



Photos by Nancy Roberts

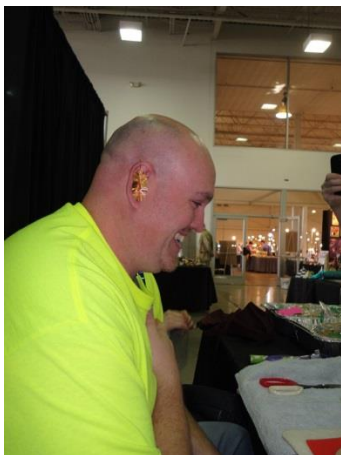
The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society Exhibits at the MAGS Show

It's always a great opportunity for NMGMS to set up an exhibit table at the Memphis Archeological and Geological Society's rock show. Members who man the table, not only have a good time, but they get to meet a lot of people who share the same interests and enthusiasms. It is also a great time to reunite with friends from the other area rock and mineral clubs, who are attending the show, as well as the MAGS members who are also fellow NMGMS members. It really is a nice way to spend a weekend, not to mention all of the potential new club members we talk to, as they come by our exhibit and talk to club members about our organization. I would like to thank all of the NMGMS members who volunteered to man the table during the Memphis show and also to MAGS for sharing this great event with us. THANK YOU!

Nancy Roberts



Photos by Nancy Roberts



Roger was "modeling" the pair of fold formed earrings that he made while demonstrating some of the lapidary techniques that NMGMS does at their workshops. Many laughs and pictures taken!

This and That

anything a rockhound might find interesting

Several NMGMS members have asked about Treasure Scoops. They are those things with long handles that we use for turning rocks over or picking them up without bending down. They also make good walking sticks; they help us keep our balance on slopes or rough terrain.

We got them from David and Lenora Murray. They are MAGS members who live in Arkansas, and are Treasure Scoop dealers.

davidmurr99@hotmail.com

(870) 255-3679 or (501) 240-7108

Carol Lybanon



Another source online:

<http://myrockhound.com/treasurescoop.html>



Riker Mounts

Online sources for Riker Mount display cases:

http://www.potomacdisplay.com/pd_catalog.cgi?dct=on&tt=861

<http://rikerdisplaycases.com/>

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

<http://www.chdisplay.com/rikermountglasdisplayboxes.aspx>