



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Notes from the President's Desk... August

I hope that every NMGMS member has been having a great summer, I know I have been! I actually managed to work in a couple of jewelry workshops for my neighbors and we had a lot of fun hammering old copper tubing into cool bangle bracelets and we took old copper wire from 10 gauge electrical wire and made bangles with rivets. Wielding a hammer is so much fun!! You have to use a torch to anneal the old wire and tubing before you can work with it, so I have been able to use the skills that I learned at our January class with Kim St. Jean, as well as her riveting techniques. The patinas that you can get on the copper from heating it are really fascinating. I hope that we can have some of these types of workshops for our club this coming fall and winter.

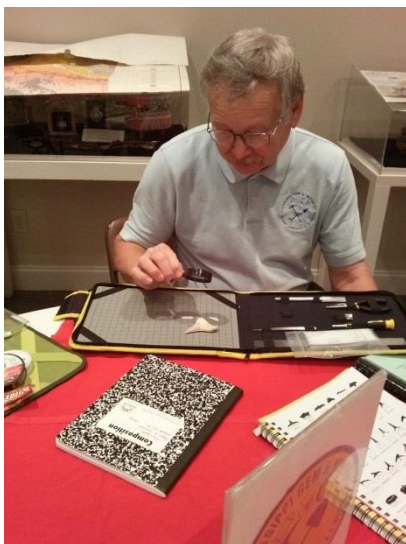
Out here on Butler Island, Jim and I have been checking out all of the rocks along the shore for those that might be food "look-a-likes", as well as those that would be good for jewelry projects, grab bags, fishing cups, etc. We find a lot of "beach" glass out here too. Our island beaches are nothing like what you would normally think of, since they aren't sandy, but are gravelly and made up mostly of shale. At least they are places that are pretty clear of the glacial erratics that strew the shoreline everywhere else along Lake Champlain.

So, here is a conundrum that I have been trying to solve: Why are we finding "Herkimer Diamonds" at one of these "beach" spots on Butler Island? (So far, it is only in this one place on the island) Herkimer Diamonds are those famous doubly terminated quartz crystals found around Herkimer, NY, which happens to be approximately 214 miles away from our island. Many of the crystals that we are finding out here in the beach gravel, are broken or tumbled by the waves, but we also are finding nice ones that look like they just "popped" out of a local deposit. I see no evidence of a vein or deposit from which they would be coming. The island bedrock is made up of shale and limestone with veins of calcite and iron. There are iron pyrite "sand dollars" and small veins of quartz crystals to be found further south on South Hero. So, could there be some glacial erratics near the beach that contain these crystals, or might the "Herkimer" formation be exposed somewhere along the bottom of the lake, at that point? Maybe eventually I'll uncover the answer to this question, but in the meantime, we'll continue to collect these little beach treasures and enjoy them!

I hope that you are having fun this summer too; adding to your collections, doing some fun lapidary projects and looking for those special rocks that just might be good enough to "eat"! Remember, that we will be filling grab bags and fishing cups at the October meeting, along with lining up things for the spin and win prizes and specimens for our display cases. So, be sure to go through your "extras" and see what you can donate to the club for our Geology Day. It's just barely 3 months away!

Nancy Roberts

NMGMS Summer activities:



Even though NMGMS doesn't have regular meetings over the summer, this doesn't mean we're not still active as an organization. Here are some of the things that fellow club members did this summer for the club and the community.

NMGMS set up an exhibit table for the New Albany Fossil Road Show in June. NMGMS member, Robert Langford, volunteered at this event by identifying the fossils which were brought in by the show attendees. Thank you Robert for helping out and sharing your expertise with the community.

NMGMS helps out at the ODCM Summer Camp

Had a good turnout of about 20, most of the children were Japanese, and as we did not know how much English they could understand, we spoke in shorter sentences and used hand gestures. Rain put us indoors at the fire house there on the campus of the museum, but we had plenty of space and made good use of it.

They were allowed one big cup of sand to sift and then we poured each child's treasures onto a bucket lid. That way they could see what they had uncovered. Eyes got very big when the polished rocks and tiny gemstones were shining; they talked among themselves in Japanese about their discoveries. They were such polite little children! We allowed them to dig again, but only with their fingers. They went for the shiny rocks!

Sharks' teeth weren't such a big thing until we got inside to the tables. Then....as they looked through the baggies....."What's this? What's this?" and then would repeat it to their friends in Japanese. Sometimes they simply handed it to us without a word, but a BIG smile.

Their first two activities before ours had been to view a mosasaur's backbone and some teeth and then to color a picture of the creature. I got to "pretend" to be the big mouth and the "fang" teeth. So they had some knowledge of where the shark's' teeth came from. They still preferred the shiny stuff.

Cheryl Langford and I worked around the table, answering the "What's this?" and demonstrating how the crinoids grew or how the horn coral looked. This time was the best, as we could really engage the kids in talking about the finds.

One little boy, who wasn't Japanese, brought in several big pieces of Mt. Vesuvius, that he had collected himself. He allowed us and the other children to pick them up for examination. The children wanted to know if they were hot. I told them that that was very good thinking; "Volcano" does equal "hot."!

Rebecca Vallarian

NMGMS sets up the "Minerals and Their Uses" display at the Lee County Library:

Vicki Manning said that 97 kids passed through the program this morning.....I don't know, for I was having too much fun!

They would come by droves (daycare kids), summer program kids from (CASA), neighborhood moms with their kids, individual Moms and Dads with their one or two children, home schoolers, etc. Even the adults listened.....everyone loves rocks.

I presented to all of them at different times.....they would walk up to the three tables and we would start at one end and go to the other end. Sometimes a child wanted to go back and see something again, so that was allowable, too. The talc, and toothpaste, and soap with pumice was a hit, as they were on paper plates to be thoroughly touched and enjoyed. I'll bet our presentation smelled the best of all.

They touched and felt and listened and questioned.....just as we would have wanted them to do.

Rebecca Vallarian

Nettleton Library's Summer Camp Program:

NMGMS members Robert Langford and Rebecca Vallarian took the Rockhead's geologic timeline down to Nettleton, MS for their library's summer program.

There were about 54 (give or take 5 or 6) kids, ages 4,5,and 6 from a daycare and the rest were elem. and some middle schoolers. Adults were about 24-28 in number.....it was very hard to get an accurate count as everyone came in at different times.

Robert spoke to them as a group; then took some of them to the timeline while I showed the others oyster shells and answered all kinds of questions. Then he took the rest of the kids to the timeline and the first group went for refreshments!

The kids had thoroughly explored the timeline before the program began, looking over all the drawings. They really liked being able to touch and pick up the plastic dinos and the fern leaves and the bugs and spiders. One little girl could roll those dino names right off her tongue (she had to be no older than 5).

Several kids were fascinated by the oyster shell's means of opening and closing the shell for food, so it "ate" many kids' fingers. The library gave us "thank-you" gifts of archeology books and lavished compliments on the session. We'll probably be asked back next year.

Rebecca Vallarian

I would like to give a big THANK YOU to all of those NMGMS members who gave of their time, expertise and interest this summer and helped out with these community services. They all said that they had lots of fun in doing these events, so please consider helping out when you can in the future. We not only are helping the community and the club, but we are also enriching ourselves and our lives; a great learning experience for all!

Nancy Roberts



Attention Rockheads: Our fall activities will start at the October club meeting. We'll be helping to fill the grab bags for the Geology Day, plus we need to go over any FRA badge activities you've completed over the summer. I want to get everyone's badges ordered in time for presenting them at the club's Christmas party. If you need information on the different badges and their requirements, go on-line to http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm and download the badge manual. Have any questions? Email me at latergator2003@yahoo.com.

~Jim Roberts

July has come in with the popping of fireworks, the smell of BBQ cooking on the pit, beans and slaw on the plate and good company. If you know me, you know I had my fair share of the BBQ and I hope you did too. The summer has flown by. Can you believe school will begin in just a few short weeks? I'm sure you're getting out in the field as much as possible and collecting some really nice additions to our collections. However make certain to leave some extra room in that collection. Although there is no club meeting in August, we are still offering field trip opportunities. **Once again, August brings Robert Langford to 20 Mile Creek leading his summer education program for attendees. Robert will be at the creek on Saturday, August 16th**

Here's a link to a publications on the site:

20 Mile Creek Publication (free to download):

http://www.deq.state.ms.us/Mdeq.nsf/page/Geology_AGuideToTheFrankstownVertebrateFossilLocalitYUpperCretaceous_PrentissCountyMississippi?OpenDocument

Roger Lambert
Vice President
NMGMS

Next NMGMS Regular meeting at the Library:

After a fun filled summer of traveling, rock collecting and lapidary activities, the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be getting back into its fall routine with a meeting on September 20, 2014 from 1 to 3pm at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo. The program is, "From Grit to Glam", given by fellow NMGMS members who do rock polishing, cabbing, etc. The accompanying lapidary project will be making a key ring from polished stones. All members are invited to bring any polished stones that they would like to display and/or use for the key ring.

Bead Soup Tips

My two cents about tumbling rocks.....always read directions that come with the tumbler.....TWICE !

.....be patient

.....the final- step- polishing liquid will stain concrete, asphalt; be careful where you pour it outside. And NEVER pour your sludge from the tumbler down your sink drains. It will harden into cement!!

Rebecca Vallarian

Learning a New Skill at William Holland

The NMGMS holds monthly meetings nine months of the year. During those meetings, we touch on various aspects of the earth sciences by having speakers give presentations on areas such as paleontology, geology, biology, archaeology, and so forth. However, did you know that we also try to incorporate areas of lapidary too? Although our club doesn't have a clubhouse, we do hold workshops that assist in educating members and the general public about various areas of the lapidary sciences. Would you like to learn more? I'd like to suggest William Holland.

As the 2014 NMGMS Lapidary Science scholarship recipient, I was accompanied by my son, in attending the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Georgia. The school is more of a weeklong retreat than an actual school. Lodging, meals, and courses are all included in the fee. Although one can attend any week the school is in session, the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) reserves two weeks a year just for federation participants. We elected to attend the June federation week and really enjoyed ourselves.



With the choices of classes, it is difficult to choose which one to take first. We finally chose to take the cabochon class. A cabochon is a gemstone that has been shaped and polished into a set. This set can be made from just about any kind of stone, as well as, ceramic, porcelain, or even wood. Rough stones can be cabbed into all kinds of geometrical and asymmetrical shapes that can eventually be finished in wire, metal, or even beads.

The school works hard to recruit qualified volunteer instructors and our class was no different. We received great instruction and came away with a greater understanding of how to make a cabochon. I had a great time and thank NMGMS for awarding me this scholarship.

- Roger Lambert

Grab Bags!

Any NMGMS members, who like to sew, please take a look at this cloth bag. We could use some more made up for the grab bags that we sell at our events. Could also use some nice smaller specimens to put in these bags too!

Instructions:

cut an 8x15 inch piece. Notice how it's sewn;

Looks like you'll sew the casing for the draw string first and then do the side and bottom seams. Make seams half inch, so the finished bag is approx. 7x7 inches.

Experiment, they don't all have to be exactly the same size or configuration, just colorful and enticing!!!!!!!!!!!!!! . I

remember sewing a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch turn for the yarn first. Fold in half, then sew the bottom & up the one side, stopping before the yarn tube.



P.S. We will be filling these bags at our October meeting!

Good Enough to Eat!!

The idea has been tossed around and suggested, that we try to set up a small display at our geology day similar to the "food table" that gets set up at the MAGS rock and gem show. Of course, that one probably was years in the collecting, but we can certainly make a start. So let's see what we can come up with and try to set up at least one small "dinner plate" at our Nov 1st event. Be creative and imaginative and let' see what we can find, as far as rocks that look like something eatable. Happy hunting, but don't eat it!!

I've been working on this and have found lentils, black beans, kidney beans, lima beans, sugar "cubes" salt and pepper, maybe cauliflower, a breast of chicken, a cinnamon roll, fruit cocktail and maybe a few raisins. Are you getting hungry?! I must have a good imagination!!!!!! Nancy Roberts



Take Note!

We have a couple of vendors already lined up for our Nov 1st Geology Day event at the Oren Dunn Museum. Also, Mike and Sherrie Baldwin will be there with the geode cracker and Pat Arinder will have his Indian Artifacts and Stone Tools display set up for us at this event.

Should make for a very exciting day!

Anyone else interested in setting up a table and vending, please drop me a line at therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

News and Events:

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society is hosting the SFMS annual meeting this year at their rock and gem show in Pascagoula , Nov. 7-9, 2014

Check it out: <http://www.mgcmgs.org/>

**The 25th Magnolia State Gem, Mineral,
Fossil and Jewelry Show will be presented by
The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society
November 7th, 8th and 9th 2014
Jackson County Fairgrounds Pascagoula, Mississippi**

Hours: Friday and Saturday - 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM

Sunday - 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM

Admission \$3.00 Adults 3 Day ticket \$5.00 Children 12 and under are free

One door prize ticket given with each paid adult admission (must be present to win).

****Door Prizes awarded hourly** Exhibits Demonstrations Educational Resources Fossils**

Please join the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society for the

2014 Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show

at our NEW VENUE for 2014

the Jaycee Community Building on Airport Road

Friday and Saturday, October 10 & 11: 10 AM to 6 PM

Sunday, October 12: Noon to 5 PM

Jewelry, Stones, Minerals, Fossils, Beads, Carved Stones, Lapidary Supplies, Displays, Kids' Activities, Demonstrations, Mining Flume, **FREE PARKING!** AND MORE!

Check our webpage for more information:

www.huntsvillegms.org