



## The Nugget

*North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter*



photo of Nancy by Anne Pinkerton

Notes from the President's Desk.....October 2, 2015

Here we are again, entering the last quarter of another fantastic year for NMGMS. We still have several great programs lined up for our fall meetings and a couple of exciting field trips ahead, so it looks like we'll be busy right up to our annual Christmas party on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Our 2016 schedule of events is starting to shape up too, and we're excited to be able to have Dr. Terry Panhorst again for our January meeting program. He will be covering earthquakes, both natural and manmade.

Speaking of scheduling, sometimes, no matter how well planned out we think we have everything; you're thrown a curve ball, and have to scramble to get things back on track. As Robert Burns so aptly stated, "The best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft a-gley". Well, you know that your organization is made up of a great group of people, when everyone pitches in to help out so that the scheduled event runs smoothly, despite a last minute snafu. So, when we needed to revamp the September meeting, NMGMS members gladly stepped up and met the task.

I would personally like to thank all of those members who helped out, at the last minute, to make our September meeting a good one. I couldn't be there, so John Byzet gladly stepped in to officiate the meeting, while Nikki Kenney skillfully handled the program. I hear that she taught everyone there how to wire wrap a shark tooth. Dana Armstrong willingly took over the refreshments and provided shark teeth for the program. So, all went well, and we even had some guests and new members present! Thank you NMGMS!!

Robert Langford will be rescheduling his copper torque program, so we will still get to learn how to make one of these exotic pieces. Will be a fun project for us! Ever hear of an Alex and Ani bracelet? Well, they're one of the latest "hot" jewelry items these days. Shh, don't tell them, but we'll be learning how to make something similar in one of our future club workshops, so be sure and keep your pliers handy!!

So, in the meantime, get ready for Dave Hanes to impress you at the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting with a spectacular dinosaur discovery, made right here in Mississippi. Don't miss it!

Nancy Roberts

## Mark Your Calendar!

The October meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be from 1 to 3p.m. at the Lee County Library in Tupelo on Saturday October 17, 2015. The program, which follows the business meeting, will be "A Fossil Dinosaur Discovery", presented by NMGMS member Dave Hanes.

Refreshments courtesy of Allison Schuchs and Nancy Roberts.

**NOTE:** the Rockheads will be completing their solar system representation.

## Up Coming NMGMS Field Trips:

NMGMS has a joint field trip with MAGS scheduled for **October 24, 2015** to the Vulcan quarry in Parsons, TN. We already have reached our maximum number of attendees and have several members on the waiting list. If you want to be added to the waiting list, drop me an email ([therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)) and I'll add you. I will keep you posted, if we get any cancellations. If you are already signed up for this field trip and find that you can't make it, please let me know as soon as you can, so that I can notify someone on the waiting list to fill your slot. \*\*\*P.S. Quarry only allows members 18 yrs or older Nancy Roberts



**November 7, 2015:** NMGMS will have a field trip to the **Rainwater Observatory** at French Camp, MS **1 to 4p.m.** This field trip is for all members, but is especially for the Rockheads, as part of their FRA badge, Earth in Space. Looking forward to it!

This trip will not only be educational, but will also be fun and exciting. It sounds like an excellent showing, with a video presentation including Hubble telescope photos and other pictures of space, a viewing of the exhibits which include rock, mineral and meteorite displays, a live planetarium presentation of stars and constellations and then finally, if the day is clear, a viewing thru the solar telescope. This observatory is one of the largest in the southeast. **RSVP, [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)**

Check out their website: <http://rainwaterobservatory.org/rainwater/>

## November 14, 2015

NMGMS has been invited to join MAGS on a field trip to **Richardson Landing** on Saturday Nov. 14th. This is a huge gravel bar on the Mississippi River near Millington, TN. All kinds of goodies to be found there, petrified wood, agates and ice age fossils to mention a few. Let me know if you are interested and I'll get more info to you, as soon as I get it. I need to let MAGS know who all is going on this trip. Be on the lookout for Missouri lace agate, Lake Superior agate, Chalcedony agates, Carnelian, petrified wood, banded chert, jaspers, river agates, gravel fossils, and on rare occasions ice aged fossils as well as artifacts. The MS River holds a lot of wonders! Nancy Roberts

## A Busy Summer! What some NMGMS members were up to...Part 2

### “What I Did On My Summer Vacation”

Rock hounds stay busy year around hunting the common and the unusual specimens, but if it can be done around warm water, lakes, and rivers, so much the better. Exploration of cool caves is best left to summer time to escape the oppressive heat of the South. None of the above happened to me, though. I spent my summer va-cay on hot, local gravel piles.....my driveway and the driveway of the local American Legion Hut across from our church. VBS at the church began in the early morning and I always arrived earlier in order to hunt the abundant 2-3 inch quartz pieces in the Legion Driveway. I soon found myself, by the second day, leading a few early drop-off kids in looking for the rocks and “whatsizits?” Even a few teachers could not resist lingering by their open car doors for a quick search of the ground. We were sweat-soaked, but our pockets were bulging with rocks as we began our sessions. During story time on Solomon's Temple with all its beautiful gems, we introduced the kids to sparkling geodes and shiny chunks of quartz and druse. Our VBS youth helpers were going to Bear Creek, Alabama the next week, so showing them the slabs of fossils that they would be swimming over was a delight! They had no idea, until then, what their feet would be touching. And the gravel pile in my driveway.....well, it yielded quite a few, but small, pieces of petrified wood, a big chunk of conglomerate, and several interesting “whatsizits.” All in all, summer vacation was a success. Some kids and adults, too, were introduced to rock collecting; young people were made more aware of local geology; and, though I miss my friends at the rock club, I did get to “talk” rocks this summer.

Rebecca Vallarian



Gary Matthews took his grandsons to 20 Mile Creek

## Show Dates:

[26th Annual Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. November 13-15 2015](#)

[Pascagoula Fairground Civic Center Pascagoula, MS](#)

**The 21st Annual Mobile Rock & Gem Society Show will be November 27-29  
at the Abba Shrine Temple on Hit Road.**

Check out their websites for more information.

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

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

## You should have been there!

### September field trip reviews

It was a great day and the weather was perfect. There were about 15 of us and we found some great finds. The college group was very helpful and I learned some new things to look for. Ms Rebecca had the find of the day with a big tooth (ed. note, sawfish tooth) that I'm sure she will bring to the next meeting.

Dana Armstrong

#### [NMGMS September 26th field trip to Blue Springs: Rebecca Vallarian](#)

Dana and Larry Armstrong, along with Debra Boone, dug and sifted at the bottom of the cliffs, a first time for that, I think. Debra had a newbie's excitement, as this trip was her first and was something she had always wanted to do in her life! We helped her identify as much as we could; we told her if she liked it, pick it up; she could always throw it away later.

Elizabeth, who had attended our Sept. meeting, brought along her friend, Zola, who proved to be a trooper in digging out things "cemented" forever in the matrix.

Anne Pinkerton stayed most of the morning on the hillsides, while Debra and I and the rest were up and down and around like the little, vicious ants that infested the place. They were everywhere we wanted to be, and paid much attention to our ankles and hands with bites.



Dave was our resident "go-to" man with much, much help in identification. Had a wonderful time sharing the lunch, which Dana brought and everyone cooled off, while showing off finds of the morning.



The weather stayed cloudy all day, so great for hunting and keeping cool, that many of us went back out into the pit for more collecting after lunch.

A group of University of Alabama students and their professor, Ike Takehito, came for a bit in the afternoon for the crabs, but no one had much luck in finding many. . We enjoyed their company, tho.

Photos by Rebecca, nautiloid, *Eutrephoceras* and bivalve, *Cardium* sp

To identify fossils found at Blue Springs check out this publication, it's a free download.

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/0137/report.pdf>

### The fauna of the Ripley formation on Coon Creek, Tennessee

Professional Paper 137 By Bruce Wade, 1926



## Bead Soup

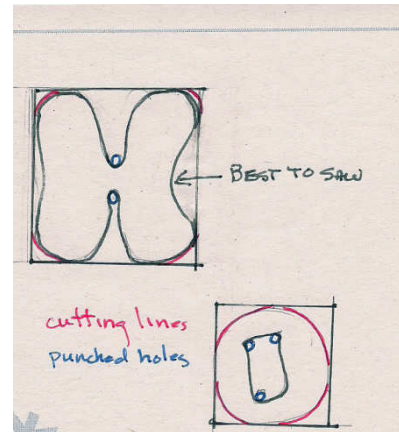
Metalsmithing tips by Nikki Kenney

I think the secret to smooth edges, when etching copper tubing, is to put about a sixteenth, or eighth inch border of “resist” on the edge, before the end, on the end, and maybe just inside the tube. But first, make sure the ends are as smooth as you can get them before you put on the resist. That way, you won't scratch your finished piece by having to sand or file the edges afterward.

When planning to saw negative space in a metal piece, punch small holes in the corners inside the lines where the design needs to turn. Place your saw blade in one of the holes, and saw to the next hole. Then saw to the next hole, and so on. It eliminates the need to make sharp turns while sawing. Of course, this may not be possible in some intricate designs where the hole would extend outside the line to be sawed.

Also, if you are using shears to cut out the basic shape of a piece, it helps to draw a square around the design as close to the outside line as possible, and cut off the corners. That gives you fewer turns to make as you are cutting. It is best to saw any lines that are more deeply concave. I have included a drawing to illustrate.

Photo of Johnna Farnham's pendant by Nancy Roberts

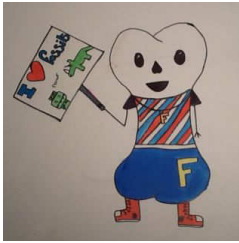


Nikki's drawing:



### Southeast Federation Notice:

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) Annual Meeting is November 6, 7, & 8 of 2015, with the Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society in Melbourne, FL. The meeting will be on Saturday, November 7, starting at 8:30 a.m. There is more information on the website: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/brd-meeting-details.html>.



# Rockheads: October 2015



## Rockhead Officers:

### President

Victoria Langford

### Vice President

Konrad Armstrong

### Secretary

Britanni Lambert

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

Adult Youth Advisor: **Jim Roberts**

latergator2003@yahoo.com

**FRA "Earth in Space" Badge:** [http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra\\_badge.htm](http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm)

**Attention Rockheads!** At the **October 17<sup>th</sup>** NMGMS meeting, you will be completing the solar system project and presenting it to everyone after the business meeting.



Photo by Alison Schuchs



Photo by Nancy Roberts

## For the NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Award:

If you still need to get an article or review published in the newsletter, please send it to [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) . It doesn't need to be long or complicated!

If you need to do a display, bring one along to any of the next few meetings.

## NMGMS Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2015

*John Byzet led the meeting*

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag Introduce guests and new members --: **Deborah Boone**

Do I have a motion to approve the May meeting minutes as printed in the June Nugget? *motioned and seconded and approved*

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of 8/31/18 \$3,501.07

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The next field trip will be to the Blue Springs crab site on Saturday Sept. 26, 2015. Meet at the site at 9a.m. Watch your emails for directions.

Publicity: (John Byzet) We need to start spreading the word about our next Geology Day on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the ODCM.

Membership: (Ann Byzet). The 2015 roster is available. We have 113 members, 87 adults and 26 juniors. If

anyone needs a "new member" packet, see Ann.

Hospitality: Refreshments: Volunteers for Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>: Alison Schuchs and Nancy Roberts

Volunteers for Nov. 21 Belinda and David Loyd and Deborah Boone Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome!

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

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) Dana is going to try again to publish the newsletter with her iPad. Still email anything for The Nugget to Nancy's email at: [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) Note: The deadline for newsletter submissions is the second Friday of the month.

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads are working on the FRA "Earth in Space" badge. NMGMS will be having a field trip to the Rainwater Observatory on Saturday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4p.m. The monies that the Rockheads made at their cookout field trip and cookies sales should cover the admission fee, but we would like an exact head count to be sure. **All members are invited to attend. working on earth and space**

### **badges**

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) If you have anything from the summer that's for the 2015 yearbook, please give

it to Cheryle. This would include any fliers or brochures from the events, museums or other points of interest that you attend. If you see any newspaper or magazine article featuring one of our club members, save those too, even if it is not anything club related.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) **The date for our next Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the Oren Dunn Museum will be April 9, 2016. We plan to set up our displays at the museum in March and let them run until mid-May of 2016.**

Safety: (David Loyd) If anyone has any safety tips or other related information to share, please don't hesitate to send it in for the newsletter.

Old Business: Since April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 is now set for our next Geology Day, please start setting aside specimens for the grab bags, fishing game and spin and win. Especially needed are small specimens and polished stones for the fishing cups. Also, keep sewing up those grab bags; we sell quite a few of them. Anyone have an idea for a "theme" for the rock and mineral display? (Nancy's thought: **a display of rocks from southern states "Rockin' in the South!"**) **If you have some ideas for interesting displays, let Roger Lambert or Nancy Roberts know. Start looking at your collections now for good display specimens. Also give us your ideas for kid activities that we could setup.** We have ordered more of the long sleeved, dark gold Tshirts that say "We Rock" on the back and NMGMS on the front. **\$10.00 each - due in a couple of weeks** Nancy investigated Power Point projectors and found that a decent, reliable one would run about \$300. In the meantime, Jim Roberts will let NMGMS borrow his, when needed.

**NMGMS September 19, 2015 meeting minutes cont'd:**

New Business: NMGMS has been contacted by the Starkville Arts Council and they are interested in having us teach

classes for them, like we do for West Point. We are still working with Jill Smith about setting up some of our NMGMS jewelry classes and workshops out at the New Albany museum.

Program line up for the next few meetings: October, Dave Hanes will present his fossil discovery program. November, Mike Schuchs will do a slide show covering his trip to Scotland. December will be the Christmas party and in January, Dr. Panhorst will do a program on earthquakes. There was no other new business. Reminder: The Huntsville Alabama club's rock and gem show is on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Jaycee Community

Building, 2180 Airport Rd Huntsville, AL

Motion to Adjourn....., **Seconded and approved**



Photo by Ann Byzet



**NMGMS 2015 Officers**

President/Field Trip Chair:

Nancy Roberts  
25 Amber Lane  
Counce, TN 38326  
(731)689-5336  
[therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)

Secretary:

Brenda Manning  
77 County Road 864  
Dennis, MS 38838  
662-454-3128  
[b.man.55@hotmail.com](mailto:b.man.55@hotmail.com)

Vice-President:

Roger Lambert  
1817 CR 7002  
Corinth, MS 38834  
(662)286-3750  
[roger.lambertjr@yahoo.com](mailto:roger.lambertjr@yahoo.com)

Treasurer:

Nikki Kenney  
PO Box 808  
Tupelo, MS 38802  
662-844-6142  
[ofkbk@comcast.net](mailto:ofkbk@comcast.net)

**For Federation news, please check out these websites:**

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



## Community Awareness:

# Call for Volunteers for Friends of the Park

Tishomingo State Park is considering reopening the historic park museum. The park museum was once a popular attraction but was closed due to budget and staff cuts.

Bob Marshall of Iuka, Mississippi, has offered his substantial mineral, crystal, and fossil collection to the Tishomingo State Park museum. Mr. Marshall's collection plus the current artifacts stored in the museum would create a small museum collection of interest to many.

With state park budgets tight and personnel in short supply, Tishomingo State Park depends on its Friends of the Park volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the old museum building for the new displays. Help is needed in cleaning the building, repairing the restrooms and air conditioning system, and staffing the museum on Saturdays during the visitor season. Individuals, scout, church, and school groups, clubs, and others are needed. The work is scheduled to begin in September 2015.

Volunteers may contact Terry Harp at 662-438-6840/[terryh@mdwfp.state.ms.us](mailto:terryh@mdwfp.state.ms.us) for more information.

**Note:** Bob Marshall is a founding member of NMGMS



