



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



photo by Jim Roberts

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

Welcome to summer!! School's out and all of the graduations are over, so finally, vacation season is here! This is the time of year when we take a break from our busy work schedules and spend a little more time doing fun things outdoors with family and friends. So in between vacation travels, working in the yard and garden, or just plain relaxing, I hope that you will find a little time to continue to enjoy your rockhounding hobby and to expand your interests and knowledge in the realm of rocks, minerals, fossils and the lapidary arts.

Speaking of the lapidary arts, I've been looking over the fall schedule of classes at William Holland. Kim St. Jean's cold connections class is full, of course, and so are many of the other more popular classes, so if you have been thinking about taking a class there, you better register soon. Their classes fill up fast, but they do have waiting lists. It's beginning to look like I may have waited too long to decide!

Summer also is a good time to do some exploring to places outside of your usual jaunts. If you're traveling out of state, check online to see if there are any collecting sites near where you will be, and try to add some new specimens to your collection. Or, make an online search to learn about the rocks and minerals found in those parts of the country that you are traveling through. There are quite a few "Roadside Geology" books written for individual states; check to see if one is available for the state that you will be going to.

If you are staying home for the summer, take some time to rev up that rock tumbler, capping machine, or whatever lapidary equipment you have and create something new. Or get out your jewelry making tools and try out some of the new techniques that you learned at our club workshops this past winter. Be creative and have fun at the same time! I am planning to practice a few of the techniques that I learned at our January class, which was taught by Kim St. Jean. Practice, practice, practice and you'll soon have those skills mastered! In other words, summer is a great time to get energized!

Here's something that I have been thinking about lately; I really enjoy going through my collections and putting together displays for events like our Geology Day, the MGMS show in Jackson, the MMNS Fossil Road Show or the exhibitor table at the MAGS show, to name a few. Going through my cases and boxes, looking for specimens to take, is like meeting old friends that you haven't seen for a while. It's amazing how many things I've forgotten I even had! I know, in my case anyway, it's nice to have those specimens out in "the light of day" so to speak, for everyone to enjoy, instead of being hidden away in a box or storage container in the basement or garage. They look so much better out on a nice display shelf! So I encourage all of our members to put together "mini" displays and bring them to our club meetings. We all enjoy "show and tell" and seeing what others have found, made, or acquired for their collections. You'll get a lot more enjoyment out of your specimens and everyone else will get a chance to admire them too

. I hope everyone has a great summer of field collecting and lapidary endeavors!

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar!

The next NMGMS meeting will be held at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo on Saturday September 19, 2015 from 1 to 3p.m. Program TBA

NMGMS Twenty Mile Creek Field Trip Saturday, June 20th.

Meeting Reviews:



Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) 2015 Quarterly Report

The SFMS summer 2015 quarterly meeting was held at the Tannehill Ironworks Historical Park in McCalla, AL starting on June 5, 2015 and ending on June 6, 2015. On the evening of June 5, 2015, the Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society (**AMLS**) hosted an evening cookout in the Roberts Pavilion at the Tannehill Park, which included a range of smoked meats and all the extras. After this delicious meal, the SFMS executive board had a preliminary “cracker barrel” discussion on several issues facing the SFMS.

The Executive Board discussed **concerns for the cost and extent of the SFMS insurance** for the associated clubs at shows like the 2015 GEM event at the Tannehill Park. The executive board encouraged clubs to have a standard process for covering the associated club members when they organized and attended club/SFMS sponsored events.

The next morning at Tannehill Park, the meeting started at 9:00 AM. The Executive Board’s agenda included several Officer Reports, State Director Reports, several Committee Chair reports, and several Committee Representative Reports.

These were the important issues discussed. (1) The **stamp program was ending** and associated clubs had to find other fund raising events; (2) Jason Hamilton had compiled the **SFMS club directory**, and emphasized the change in process to distribute this information. He emphasized the use of Email to distribute and update this information; (3) The **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual meeting** would be held in Melbourne, FL between November 6, 2015 and November 8, 2015; (4) The **loss of collecting sites** has affected all active clubs.

The SFMS meeting was held during the 2015 GEM show, sponsored and organized by the **AMLS** at Tannehill Park. There were over 38 vendors displaying and selling a wide range of minerals and gems, fossilized wood, and custom made jewelry. The vendors had setup their tables and tents near the Roberts Pavilion, and brought with them a marvelous mix of polished and enhanced gems and minerals for shoppers.

David Hanes

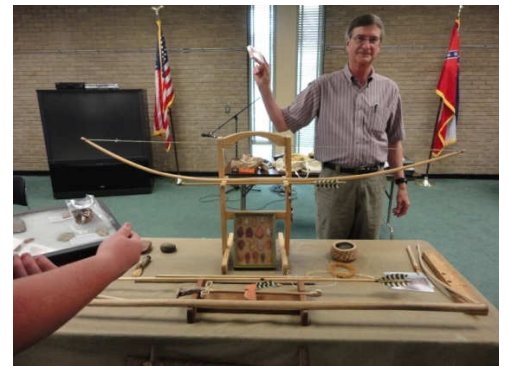
NMGMS May Meeting



Pat Arinder presents "Stone Age Tools" to NMGMS

At the May meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, Mr. Pat Arinder, renowned educator in the field of Native American artifacts, presented his Stone Age Tools program to the membership. This was a very interesting, informative and "hands on" presentation. Pat covered many aspects of Indian life, from the tools they used for hunting to how they prepared the skins to make leather for clothing. We learned that many of the artifacts that we find and think are arrowheads, are actually spear points. He showed us that arrowheads were a lot smaller than the spear points. We were shown an atlatl and how it was used, grinding stones and several cutting tools. Obsidian was the most prized material for making knife blades because it was the sharpest. We also learned that the women of the tribes did a lot of work in preparing the animal hides before it could be used to make clothing. They did an awful lot of chewing!! Pat's program was thoroughly enjoyed by members of all ages. Thank you Pat!

Nancy Roberts



Minutes for NMGMS Board of Directors Meeting

May 16, 2015

Time and Place

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was held on Saturday, May 16th, 2015 from 12:30 to 1:15 at the Lee County Library in Tupelo. The meeting was called to order by the president of the club, Nancy Roberts.

Members Present: Nancy Roberts, Nikki Kenney, Roger Lambert, John Byzet, and Brenda Manning.

Approval of Minutes : Previous minutes were presented and approved.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer presented a balance of \$3,518.41.

Committee Reports: Nancy gave a report of monies brought into the club from the West Point Bangle Class, picnic auction, Rockhead cookout, etc.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business.

New Business:

Club is considering purchasing a Power Point projector.

Motion made and approved for \$80 lodging/gas allowance, if person is a designated NMGMS representative at SFMS quarterly meetings.

Union County Heritage Museum will not have a Fossil Road Show this year due to renovation.

Tentative dates of either April 2nd or 9th have been set for Geology Day at Oren Dunn Museum in 2016.

Several fall field trips were discussed with details to be completed later.

Dana has requested that she be replaced as editor for The Nugget.

Nancy proposed small gifts of appreciation to people who do extra work for our club. Motion passed.

Roger Lambert is resigning as Vice President effective at the beginning of the new club year.

Our next club meeting will be September 15, 2015 at the Lee County Library

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 Brenda Manning, Secretary

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.



Heads Up! New Regulations Concerning Fossil Collecting in the National Forests

While reading the June-July, 2015 issue of the AFMS newsletter, I came across an article covering the latest regulations for collecting fossils on US Forest Service managed lands. These regulations became law on May 18, 2015 and are now published in the Federal Register. The complete set of rules can be found at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-17/pdf/2015-08483.pdf These final rulings by the US Dept. of Agriculture and the National Forest Service have been in the making since the passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act on Paleontological Resources Preservation. The AFMS article, written by John Martin, AFMS Conservation and Legislation Chair, was nearly two very large pages long, so I won't go into that much detail here. Basically, only casual collecting of common invertebrate and plant fossils is allowed on USFS lands where collecting is allowed, with casual collecting being defined as generally happenstance without intentional planning or preparation. So, planned field trips by groups to a site on Forest Service land may now require a permit. Permits are issued for scientific and educational purposes and to institutions or graduate paleontologists. "Common" is defined as plentiful and not rare or unique and being found in a wide spread geographical area. Only hand tools are allowed with negligible disturbance to the land surface. Paleontological resources collected on National Forest System lands CANNOT be sold, but "the exchange of common invertebrate and plant fossils among casual collectors is permissible as long as the resources were collected in accordance with the Act and final regulations". Casual collecting rules allow only 25 pounds of material per day and 100 lbs per year. It appears that vertebrate fossils are not allowed to be collected on USFS managed land.

"Casual collecting is allowed without a permit on National Forest System lands where such collection is consistent with the laws governing the management of those lands, the land management plans, and where the lands in question are not closed to casual collection. It is the responsibility of the collecting public to ensure that they are casually collecting in an area that is open to casual collection and that the materials they collect are subject to casual collection". (Don't you just love reading "legalese"!)

In other words, be sure you check with the ranger office before you go collecting fossils in that National Forest!!

For more information, check out the ALAA website www.amlands.org

Nancy Roberts

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 June 20th** 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:

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

If you need additional information, please contact Robert Langford at rlangford@cobbenv.com.



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; 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 sew a ¾ inch turn for the yarn first (with the yarn already in place). Fold in half, then sew the bottom & up the one side, stopping before the yarn tube. Good luck and thanks! Nancy Roberts



Bead Soup

I suspect that all beaders have a stash of beads waiting for that special piece to be inspired. One way to choose the colors that will best complement each other in a design is, to put the beads by color in small zip lock bags, and place the bags together in a large bowl or tray. Then try rearranging the bags in groups of colors and choose the combinations that please you the most, before you start your project. I got this idea from placing balls of yarn in a bowl to see which colors looked the best next to each other. I could change the position of the balls, or even remove from the bowl those that just didn't go together. Happy Beading!

Nikki Kenney

This and That

anything a rockhound might find interesting

Interested in a "gold" vacation? If so, check out this site near Lineville AL.

ALABAMA GOLD CAMP, 1398 Co. Rd. 5, Lineville AL 36266 256-396-0389 (<http://www.alabamagoldcamp.com/>)

passes \$5.00 per day per person, children 11 & under free with adults

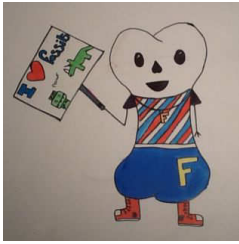
Vistor pass on all memberships includes admission, panning, sluicing, and metal detecting

See website for camping and other fees (renting equipment) Dredging and High Banking are extra fees. You can also find red garnets, fossils, citrine, and Indian artifacts.

Also near Lineville, AL is Flat Rock Park

<http://www.toureastalabama.com/attraction/flat-rock-park/>

A day-use park where swimming, picnicking, fishing and a short nature trail await. The unique location sits on 25 acres of granite with excellent access to beautiful [Lake Wedowee](#).



Rockheads: June 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

At the May meeting of the Rockheads, junior members worked on their solar system project as part of the FRA "Earth in Space" badge. The presentation of their completed project will be at the October 17th NMGMS meeting. Should be a real "out of this world" display!



Our Winter Field Trip by James, Marion and Alice Carr

We were off school January 19th, so our grandparents took us fossil hunting. When I got there, I saw lots of fossils. I enjoyed climbing on the rocks. I found two big fossils. (Said Marion)

It was a pretty day. I loved to pick up rocks and we had a picnic. (Said Alice)

I went to a bank and found lots of little rocks. That was neat. Then we drove to the little cliffs and I found a blastoid, (Said James) We went to Alabama and we are going to bring our fossils to the next meeting to show everyone.



NMGMS MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 16, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given and the March meeting minutes were approved. Two new members, Steve Adamson and Lacey Sipsey were introduced.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance of \$ 3,518.41

Field Trips: Next field trip will be to 20 Mile Creek on Saturday, June 20th. Fall trips with MAGS, APS, and to the Vulcan site in TN are pending with more information on those later.

Publicity: John is having more club brochures printed.

Membership: There are 111 members total on the club roster with 85 adults and 26 juniors.

Hospitality: Mike and Alison Schuchs and Brenda Manning are responsible for refreshments in September.

Website: Check us out at www.nmgms.org

Newsletter: Dana is having computer trouble and is calling for help publishing The Nugget.

Youth Members: The Rockheads are currently working on the FRA "Earth In Space" badge.

Historian: Cheryle Langford is gathering club related items for the yearbook.

Geology/Kids Day: Tentative dates for the next Geology Day with Oren Dunn Museum are either April 2 or 9, 2016 with plans to set up displays in March and let them run until mid-May.

Safety: Safety articles/tips are welcome.

OLD BUSINESS:

Specimens and grab bags are needed for our next Geology Day. We need at least 100 more bags sewn for this. If anyone has ideas for kid activities talk with Nancy or Roger Lambert.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jill Smith with the Union Co. Heritage Museum in New Albany would like us to set up some of our NMGMS jewelry classes and workshops at the museum.

Either John Byzet or Roger Lambert to represent our organization at the SFMS quarterly meeting during June show at Tannehill State Park on June 6th.

Our next meeting will be Sept. 19th at Tupelo library. Line up for fall programs include Terry Panhorst, with information on earthquakes and the New Madrid Fault, and Dave Hanes who will be presenting his Fossil Discovery program. We also hope to work in another polymer clay project as well.

We haven't heard from anyone about doing any summer camp programs this year.

There won't be a Fossil Road Show at the Union County Heritage Museum in June due to construction/renovations on the facility.

Club is pricing a Power Point Projector.

There will be an addendum to add new members to club roster.

Other new business: it was suggested that we do a rock/fossil/mineral exchange with other clubs throughout the country, in order to get material from areas that we might not ever have a chance to visit. Mary Reed is checking into having more Tshirts made up for NMGMS, like the long sleeve gold ones that say "WE ROCK" on the back. A field trip to the Ackerman, MS lignite mines was also suggested.

Motion to Adjourn.....

Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips The Dixie Mineral Council is a program of the Field Trip Committee of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. It is an association of field trip leaders within the federation who have agreed to join together and share one of their mineral or fossil field trips. "Field trips are open to all members of associated clubs of the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and to all members of SFMS member clubs who have provided their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements, members of the GENERAL PUBLIC are NOT invited on any DMC program field trips!" (From the SFMS website)

NMGMS is not presently an associated club of the DMC, but some of our members have participated in a few of the DMC field trips hosted by other SFMS clubs. Becoming a member of the Dixie Mineral Council is something that NMGMS should consider, providing that we can acquire a suitable site for taking groups. As a participating member club, we then can advertise the DMC trips as official NMGMS club field trips and then email the notices to all NMGMS members and print them in our newsletter. This will open up a whole new realm of collecting sites to our membership. Nancy

For more information check out: http://www.amfed.org/sfms/_dmc/dmc.htm

Some pictures of specimens collected on a few recent trips:



Glass Slag collected by Roger

Our slag cleaned up pretty well. A lot of it may end up in the flower bed, but there is a decent amount that looks to be cab grade. If we get to go back, I won't be in such a hurry and will take the time to wrap more pieces. A very big mistake we made this time. We ended up with a lot of broken shards! I'll also be more selective as this time we collected anything with a tad of color showing. A lot of these pieces wound up being a large chunk of iron infused slag with a tiny bit of colored glass infused into the piece: definitely not cabochon material! Regardless, it was still a neat trip and we definitely enjoyed ourselves, so it was well worth it. Beats spending the day under a television! Roger Lambert



Agate collected by Roger

"There were even boulder sized yard rocks with agate bands running all over the face!" This site looks just like a big pile of dirt, but believe me and my hands, there were more sharp rocks there than dirt. RL