



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

December 21, 2012 Volume 12 Issue 6

I can hardly believe that it's December already and that 2013 is right around the corner. Keeping busy certainly makes the time go by fast and boy have we ever been busy! So, this is a good time to look back over all of the things that NMGMS has been doing over the past year and make our plans for the new one ahead.

Over the past year, we had some excellent speakers and some very exciting programs. We covered a wide variety of topics from fluorescent minerals (one of my favorite!) to fossil cleaning and preparation. Our meetings were well attended and our members did a great job with helping out and serving in many different capacities. There was even a separate program and display done by our junior members, the Rockheads.

NMGMS has been very fortunate to be able to provide members with field trip opportunities and this year we had some really good ones. We sincerely appreciate all of the property owners who grant our club permission to collect on their property and to the other organizations that invite us to attend some of their trips. The club field trips continue to have good turnout, especially the spring break trip we took to Mt. Ida for quartz crystals. That was a totally awesome trip, as was the trip to the coal mine!

NMGMS was invited to set up a display table at several fossil road shows and a rock and gem show this year. We also worked several beading workshops into our club schedule and were asked again to teach lapidary classes in West Point. We are very fortunate to have many talented members who offer their time and talents in these endeavors. Several club members were able to work with local scout groups in helping them earn their geology belt loops and merit badges. We also had some scout troops attend field trips with NMGMS members. These events help us to get the word out to the public about our organization and they also provide us with the opportunity to share our interests and expertise with others. We meet some great people and make new friends too!

One of our junior members applied for and was awarded a scholarship to William Holland by the Southeast Federation and NMGMS awarded two other members scholarships to also attend a lapidary class at this excellent school in northeast Georgia. All of our outside teaching efforts have enabled us to provide these scholarships and we hope to be able to continue to do this. Hopefully we will be able to offer a larger variety of classes and have more teachers too!



Nancy in the Garden of the Gods. See p for more details.
Photo by Jim Roberts

NMGMS isn't all work and no play by any means. We had a really great birthday party last spring, a super (albeit chilly!) fall picnic and I am sure the Christmas party will be a success too. So, it really looks like we were kept busy this past year and had a great time in the process. I want to personally say "Thank You" to all of our members who have put forth the effort to make NMGMS the great organization that it is. Good job, well done!! Here are a few of the comments that I have heard said: "best geology club I've been in", "I've learned a lot since joining and I'm still learning!", "always hear something new and interesting at each program", "love to read your newsletter; your always doing something!". So it looks like we've had another fantastic year as a rock and mineral club and I'm looking forward to 2013 with great anticipation. I truly hope the Mayans are wrong!

NANCY ROBERTS



What's Inside

Meeting Minutes p 2

Calendar
Bead Soup
Guess What It Is
Workshop p 3

Old Bones p 4

Rockheads
Announcements
Mea Culpa
Field Trip p 5

Field Trip Cont
Meeting
Safety/Travel Advice
Travel Photo p 6

December 15
Tupelo Library
11am-3pm
Christmas Luncheon
Short Meeting
Lunch at Noon
Ham, Potluck and
Gifts

Whiskey Hill Montage. Moss from a washout on Whiskey Hill. AKA a ditch. This particular ditch washed out when the Tallahatchie was flooded to form Sardis Lake. It's approximately 70 feet down from the highest point of Whiskey Hill. It's covered in fern and moss, and at the moment leaves. See page 6 for details. After moss is under botany, not mineral, gem, or fossil.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2012



Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Nancy Roberts and Bob Reinhaus.

Introduction of Guests:

Scout Troop 8 Assistant Scout Master Steven Johnson, Life Scout Reed Johnson and Star Scout J'Narious Owens.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as printed in the Nugget.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of today \$1358.90. The October club rock swap and picnic made \$269.25 and the beading workshop netted \$185.50.

Review of Committee's:

Field Trips: The Dec. field trip will be on **Saturday Dec. 1st** to the Blue Springs crabsite in Union county. We will meet at the site on Hwy 9 at 9a.m. (**Watch your emails for announcement and directions**) A field trip to the Park Hills area of Missouri is being set up for March 8-10th 2013. We will be collecting drussy quartz specimens and also touring the lead mining area and museum.

Publicity: (Bob Reinhaus). We need our flyers revised with current information and copies by 2013. Belinda Loyd has volunteer to update and print the flyers.

Membership: (Ann Byzet). It's time to renew your NMGMS membership for 2013. Dues have increased to \$12 per person and \$20 per family.

Hospitality: Shirley Randle has volunteered to bake the ham for the Christmas party pot luck luncheon. Jan. refreshments will be provided by Nancy Roberts and Shirley Randle.

Website: (John Byzet) Website has been updated.... Check us out at www.nmgms.org

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) The Bead Soup and Old Bones sections of the Nugget are for all members to contribute stories, a place to share information, tips, ideas, websites, whatever. Remember to send anything that is for the newsletter to Dana's email at:

nuggeteditor@gmail.com

A big "Thank You" to those of you who have been writing articles for the newsletter!

Youth Members: (Dana Jones, Jim Roberts & David Loyd) Bernice has asked to be replaced since she can't be present at the meetings. Dana Jones has volunteered to help with the Rockheads. Jim Roberts and David Loyd have also volunteered to assist as needed.

Stamps: (Kathy Westbrook) Stamps can be turned into Nancy Roberts or Belinda Loyd during any meetings.

Historian: (Susan Curry) REMINDER -If you take photos at any NMGMS event, please print out a few to submit to for the yearbooks.

Show/Kids Day: (Roger Loyd, Bob Reinhaus, John Byzet and Robert Langford) It looks like the display and "geology day" that we will be doing for the Oren Dunn Museum early next year will be taking the place of our "Kids Day" for 2013.

Old Business:

There was 11 students attending the November 10th workshop in West Point. Everyone had a really great time, enjoyed the project and it was considered a very successful day.

NMGMS will be setting up two display cases at the Tupelo Oren Dunn Museum in Jan. 2013.

The big case will have a fossil display representing the oldest deposits to the most recent. The smaller display will contain rocks, minerals and some lapidary items depicting different uses of the rough materials. We will be trying to keep it as close to a representation of Mississippi as possible. In conjunction with this display, we will participate in a "geology day" at the museum on Feb. 16th. NMGMS will set up a club tables with "hands on" rock, mineral and fossil specimens, possibly a spin and win type game and a table containing info for the scouts who are working on the geology belt loop. George Phillips will be on hand to ID any fossils that patrons bring in. Robert Langford will be teaching the Boy Scout Geology Merit badge that afternoon from noon - 3pm. The museum will have TV and radio spots covering this event. Members will be needed to help man the tables on the 16th and some to help set the display up in January.

Material still needed are some geodes, any specimens and or lapidary items from the quartz family, river agates, nice pieces of chert and petrified wood, polished and unpolished and other rocks and mineral specimens from around the state. Any donated items will be on loan to the museum from Jan 15th through March 16th. (Lignite, Bentonite, etc...)

Members were asked for nominations for the 2013 NMGMS officers. Officer elections are scheduled for next month. A motion to roll over all present officers & committee chairpersons to serve in their present capacity was APPROVED and seconded.

President: Nancy Roberts

Treasurer: John Byzet

Vice President: Roger Lambert

Secretary: Belinda Loyd

New Business:

The December 15th meeting will be the Christmas Party/ Luncheon at the library from 11 to 3p.m. The club will provide a ham and members are asked to bring a potluck dish. We will have a gift exchange (\$10 max.), everyone who wants to participate brings a gift either for a man, woman or child. The group decided to collect foodstuffs for a local charity and bring a "Toy for Tots".

NMGMS members voted to make a donation to the library in appreciation for the use of the facilities. A motion to purchase a 2 year subscription to the Rock and Gem Magazine \$29.95 was APPROVED and seconded.

The Jan. 19th meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be "Mineral Twinning", presented by Dr. Terry Panhorst of the Geology Dept. at the University of Mississippi.

Motion to Adjourn.....

2012 Officers

President/Field Trip Chair:

Nancy Roberts
25 Amber Lane
Counce, TN 38326
(731)689-5336

therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Vice-President:

Roger Lambert
1817 CR 7002
Corinth, MS 38834
(662)286-3750

roger.lambertjr@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Belinda Loyd
7834 Cherry Valley
Southaven, MS 38671
(662)280-1317

bloyd_utlady@yahoo.com

Treasurer/Webspinner:

John Byzet
1209 Queensgate Dr
Tupelo, MS 38801
(662)844-9841

wa4jax@comcast.net

Appointees

Historian:

Susan Curry
P.O. Box 61
Mathiston, MS 39752
(662)312-1988

sgcurry@netdoor.com

Stamp Chair:

Kathy Westbrook
2753 HWY 82W
Starkville, MS 39759
(662)324-1601

k-westbrook2010@hotmail.com

Publicity Chair

Bob Reinhaus
150 Wright Lane
Counce, TN 38326
(662)872-0461

gulfssouthern@gmail.com

Membership:

Ann Byzet
1209 Queensgate Dr
Tupelo, MS 38801
(662)844-9841

annbyzet@comcast.com

Hospitality:

Robin Langford
121 Willow Creek Rd
Saltillo, MS 38866
(662)869-2278

Nugget Editor:

Dana Jones
1868 HWY 310
Waterford, MS 38685

nuggeteditor@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

December 15
Tupelo Library
11am-3pm
Christmas Luncheon
Short Meeting
Lunch at Noon
Ham, Potluck and Gifts

For a list of rock and gem shows:
http://www.amfed.org/shows.htm

Rock and Gem magazine:
www.rockgem.com/showdates

January 19
Tupelo Library 1-3pm
"Mineral Twining"
Dr. Terry Panhorst
Geology Department
University of Mississippi

March 16, 2013
Tupelo Library 1-3p.m.
NMGMS 12th Birthday!!
Displays by membership.

February 9, 2013
Tupelo Library
10a.m. to 12 noon.
Note the change in date and time
"Easy Wire Wrapping a Quartz Crystal"
Nancy Roberts.

April 20, 2013
Tupelo Library 1-3 p.m.
"Amazing Family of Quartz"
Myra Soroczak

February 16, 2013
Oren Dunn Museum Tupelo
10 to 3p.m.
"Geology Day"

May 18, 2013
Tupelo Library 1-3p.m.
"Lampwork Basics"
Dana Jones
Remy Collins

January 11-13, 2013
Largo, FL
Pinellas Geological Society
37th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show
Largo Cultural Center
Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5
Admission free
Contact Hugh Sheffield
(727) 894-2440 or cell (727) 707-3236



Image courtesy of sciencebuzz.org

This geologic feature is a line of deposit that encircles the earth. It represents an extinction event. This bit happens to be caught in solid rock. What is it?

Contact
nuggeteditor@gmail.com

Last month was the giant cast iron statue of Vulcan in Birmingham. Identified and located by Sherri Cochran. Vulcan is also the namesake of a planet that is home to Mr. Spock. It's a desert planet, explosively hot, with a thin atmosphere. Hence, Vulcan. It's worth note, Mr Spock is half human, due to technological advances.

Image Courtesy of www.kineda.com



HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

(aka Announcements)

Bill Hawkins Please keep Bill and Floy Hawkins in your thoughts and prayers.

Poster Contest

There is a poster contest for the junior members sponsored by the Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio. See Rockheads for more information

The Weather Outside is Frightful...Start Planning for Summer

It's never too early to start planning for summer issues of the nugget. We would like to try again to have issues in July and August. This time, we have themes for each issue. For July- The Jackson Dome Volcano Since the volcano was active during the Cretaceous: For August- Cretaceous Mississippi Of course any idea is welcome.

Please contact
nuggeteditor@gmail.com

Mea Culpa

The calendar was not updated last month. It has been updated.

Attention NMGMS Members!

2013 is fast approaching and it is time to start thinking about renewing your NMGMS membership. You may renew anytime between now and the end of January. Our club treasurer will be available to collect your dues at the Dec. 15th Christmas party, or you can make checks payable to NMGMS and mail them along with an application form.

NMGMS
P.O. Box 1445
Tupelo, MS 38802

Application form is attached to the end of *The Nugget*

The Holidays are Coming!

We are already seeing signs of the approaching Christmas holiday. Christmas trees and holiday lights are being put up and all of the surrounding towns are hosting their Christmas parades. To get us all into the holiday spirit, we will be having our NMGMS annual Christmas party and potluck luncheon on Saturday Dec. 15, 2012 from 11 until 3p.m. upstairs at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo, MS.

The club will provide a ham for the party and members attending are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. We will have a gift exchange also. If you wish to participate, please bring a gift (\$10 max) and label it as either a man's, woman's, or child's gift. We are also asking members to please bring a few canned goods or other nonperishable food items for our club's contribution to a local food pantry. We will also participate in the "Toys for Tots" program, so please bring a new toy to donate. The toys will be dropped off at the Oren Dunn Museum after the party.

Hope to see everyone there to help NMGMS celebrate a great year. Merry Christmas!



Old Bones

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

By Matthew Lambert

Label Your Specimens

In my time spent with NMGMS, I have had many opportunities to travel to places and collect fossils. Many times, we collect various locations along a route making it hard to remember which location a particular fossil may have come from. Other times, the fossils may sit around for a long while and we can no longer remember where exactly the fossils may have come from. This is a problem if the fossil is to have any scientific value. As the old saying goes..... "A fossil without site relevance is just a pretty rock. (author unknown)"

Now what do we do???? If we had only taken a few moments and filled out a documentation sheet, we could have avoided the whole headache associated with this. There are almost as many versions of documentation sheets as there are collectors. However, almost all contain the same base information. This is a short list of information to include on your documentation sheet:

- Collected by – The person actually collecting the fossil.
 - Date – Date the specimen was collected
 - City, County, State – Area of Locality
 - Site Location – A written description of locality. Road cut, quarry, mine, wash, gully, etc...
 - GPS coordinates. For those that have this capability, a large burden is lifted. Some smart phones have the capability of giving the pinpoint location in which you are standing at the moment the specimen is collected. Free GPS cell phone downloads such as those from Trimble Outdoors ® are really helpful.
 - Formation / Member – The geologic formation and member (if any) in which the specimen was collected.
 - Age – Geologic age of strata
 - Genus, Species, Common Name – This information usually isn't included on a initial documentation sheet. However, I make copies of the sheet for cataloging purposes.
- I use this simple format to log the initial site and individual specimen once identified.

Collected By:	Matthew Lambert
Date:	11/23/2012
City, County	New Albany, Union Co.
State	Mississippi
Site	Hwy spoils
GPS Coordinates	N/A
Formation	Prairie Bluff
Member	NA
Age	Cretaceous
Genus	Harunia
Species	Mortonis
Common Name	Sea Urchin (Echinoid)



The labeled specimen.
Photo by Matthew Lambert

Rockhunting in Kentucky

By John Byzet



There are many nice places in Kentucky to find rocks, but I went the easy way this trip. I got off the I-65 at exit 53 and drove about 6 miles to find Mike's Rock Shop. A lady at the welcome station told me about him so I thought I'd take the time to check the store out. Ann wonders why I chat with everyone. Getting off the interstate was out of character for me since I never stop to look at anything other than a gas station or McDonald's when on a trip.

I didn't have to quite go all the way to Mammoth Cave to find the store. There were gems and minerals from all over the world. The selection was fantastic and most of the prices were okay but not great. Rocks and geodes were priced from \$2 to \$3900. The most expensive one looked like a stalagmite that had been cut open to show a crystal filled interior. After a great time of looking and shopping, I started driving back to the interstate. I noticed that every other store down that road had Kentucky geodes for sale – all at the same price - \$10 for the medium sized ones with no dickering. Two small geodes from Mike's were good enough for me. Even the knife store had geodes and agate slabs from Brazil. The slabs were a better buy so I picked up five. I'm not sure what I'll do with them, but they are pretty. I did find one large geode for \$8 so I bought that. I've yet to cut it. I understand most Kentucky geodes from that area have yellowish to brownish crystals inside and not a big hollow space inside. Better yet, one old codger told me where he got his geodes. He takes his old pickup truck and two grandsons over there to stock up. Next trip I'll go over to the creeks that have geodes and hopefully pick up a few (dozen, that is). It's public land so there should be no trouble picking. No, I can't tell you where. You have to come with me to find out.

John's hunting photos.
Photos by John Byzet



John. Photo by Jim Roberts

Old Bones Continued

The Garden of the Gods

A Marvelous Wonder Found in Southern Illinois

BY NANCY ROBERTS

Most of us visualize the state of Illinois as a vast expanse of very flat farmland where the winds come howling across from the western plains. For the most part this is true, especially when you are driving north to Chicago. Nowadays you'll even see fields of wind generators alongside of corn fields and storage silos! But the hills of southern Illinois tell us a very different story.

Approximately 300 million years ago during the Carboniferous period when most of Illinois, western Indiana and western Kentucky were covered by a giant inland sea, rivers and streams carried vast amounts of sediments into this sea which were then deposited along the shorelines. Over time, these sediments formed a very thick, grey bed of sandstone which was later uplifted well above sea level creating a sandstone plateau.

This plateau was not glaciated like the rest of Illinois, but exposure to the erosional forces of wind, rain water and ice left dramatic erosional patterns which formed "hoodoos" and other interesting and unusual formations.

Many of these formations provide very scenic overlooks from which one can view thousands of acres of the Shawnee National Forest. These formations conjure up many imaginative images which spawn names like "monkey face", "camel rock", "anvil rock", etc. I even got a picture of one that looks like and Indian face!

These sandstone formations also contain iron deposits called "Liesegang bands". These deposits do not erode as quickly as the surrounding rock, thus leaving bands of iron which form intricate swirling patterns. Many of the boulders contain small, very white pebbles that are in rows and clusters, making them look like they were deposited right at the water's edge!

At the Garden of the Gods Wilderness Area, one can take several hiking trails which lead you up, over and around these marvelous wonders of nature. This recreation area has a flagstone covered observation trail, horseback riding trails, hiking trails, a campground and picnic area and backpacking trails. The park is open all year. So, if you happen to be passing through Illinois and would like a change from the flat farmland scenery, this National Forest Service recreation area is absolutely well worth the visit!



The Garden of the Gods. Photos Nancy Roberts



Field Trip

Blue Springs
December 1, 2012

By Jim Roberts

The weather couldn't have been better for the club's December 1st field trip to the Blue Springs fossil site. 16 NMGMS members enjoyed the sunny and dry conditions with the temperature right around 70. It was hard to believe it was December! Although the ground was dry, recent rains had exposed a lot of new material, so everyone was able to bring home some interesting finds. Club members collected some shark teeth and vertebrae, lots of gastropod and mollusc shells, some turtle bone, a few spiny lobsters, and a variety of crabs. Everyone agreed it was a great field trip.



Right-a very delicate shell found by Robert Langford. Photo by Wooster



Above right, Jim at the Garden of the Gods. By Nancy Roberts
Right: Shells at Blue Springs.
Left: Hunters
Above left: Kendal Bullock's completely awesome ammonite. By Wooster





Bead Soup

A place to share knowledge about the lapidary arts.



Left: Always take company. Sam Quint is a most excellent companion. Above: Pre-1950 vehicles covered in moss. Right: Plastic, to prevent weeds from springing up.



Whiskey Hill Moss and Rock Garden

By Dana Jones

I can not tell you how I am besieged with requests 'Wooster, PLEASE, how, how do I do something with my large specimens and the spot in my yard where nothing will grow'. (this has never happened. Nor should it. How to train an ex-racehorse to act as right as a Thoroughbred can? Then I'm your guy. Taking care of your yard at large? I let the Thoroughbred cut my grass by eating it. Because I don't have to pay attention to him, just let him go and sit there and read a book with some wine-he tries to take coke and beer.)

Right: the garden in progress.



There were complaints by my family 'these rocks hurt my toes when I walk through the living room' 'why are there ROCKS in the kitchen cabinet'. (delivered in what could be called ear splitting screech for some reason.)

My grass cutting horse said he got bogged down in that part of the yard (because he's unreasonably large) and nothing grew there anyway, he didn't care that I liked to sit there because it was shady and cool.

While perusing books to identify moss and fern (one of the few things I've had success at growing-I won't lie. It's due to negligence. Why gardens won't take care of themselves after I plant them I'll never know.) I had a stroke of genius to appease family and horse.

Take some larger toe maiming specimens, some large rocks from the kitchen cabinet and go exploring through ditches for moss to put in the bog area that the Thoroughbred tended to sink to his knees in, but tried, because that's why I sat. (Andre like to be close to me. He didn't have a great life after leaving the track.)



Clean your chosen spot-basically just rake it. Lay down the plastic. This prevents weeds. Look for low spots-that will be where you should place your rocks. You can drown your moss. Don't worry about the kinda low areas. Go for the ones that hold water. Putting the plastic down just before a rain is a good tactic. Otherwise you're going to be on your hands and knees. Community water is POISON to moss.

What You Need

- A sufficiently bucolic setting
- Plastic (I used a cheap shower curtain)
- Cheap brown felt (it matches the ground)
- Tulle (to protect the transplanted moss)
- Rock/Mineral/Fossil Specimens

You can of course change the low spots-build them up, make one. It's yours, just be aware of the low spots. They will hold rainwater, obviously-this is good, the cheap felt will suck water up to the moss, gradually distributing it. The felt also gives the moss a foothold overtime. The rock in the low spot will hold the felt down in the water. Soak the felt, lay it where you want it. Place rocks where you want them-aiming for low spots, low spots should have a rock. Be aware-moss will grow on ANYTHING it can get it's little tiny feet into. Including your specimens. You can in fact GLUE the moss directly onto rock. 3 little strands glued can when watered and cared for will in short time over run the rock with no further glue. Now. How to get your moss. There are online stores, garden centers that sell it, but simply put, moss is EVERYWHERE. If you noticed the little blobs I used, I expect in less than a year those blobs to have overtaken the felt. I will be watering it, it's on a neutral surface, just this tiny bit of care has ensured that moss is going to explode in growth.

Moss

Water (do NOT use tap water-it will almost immediately kill your moss. Collecting rainwater is the best, If you have a friend with a well that has very pure water, use that, otherwise distilled water. Distilled. Not bottled-bottled is nearly all from a tap.)

You can gather moss from around your house. Parks. The middle of a highway. Trees. Your roof. (maybe it's just mine). Keep in mind some areas have laws against removing anything, and your neighbor might not appreciate you in his yard, so check laws for public parks, and ask permission. Your goal in gathering the moss is to take a small amount, the goal being what you gather being unnoticeable. Wild moss can take YEARS to grow. While a tiny amount explodes in your garden. My specimens are from very old growths. I took what was already loose, on limbs/bark, or



I know grows fast. Since I've been playing in these ditches for nearly 30 years-I have a good idea. I just use my fingers to get under the moss and pull it up, but, I've been gathering moss my entire life. You may find it easier to use a spatula. Take the dirt it pulls up with you. Be sure when you place it on your wet felt not to get the separate clumps too close together. They might not be compatible. In time the moss will naturally adapt. Then, loosely lay the black tulle over the whole thing, hold it down with rocks or whatever holds it in place. The tulle will prevent squirrels and birds from taking your loose moss. Also you can pick it up and shake leaves off until the moss adheres.

The



All photos Dana Jones. Above Nobu showing off pre-tulle garden. Left, moss, with lichen. Above left, garden with tulle. Top left, tin roof of a collapsed moonshiners' shack, where moss was specimens where taken. See p 7

Why Mr Butler how you do run on! Continued on p7

Whiskey Hill Moss and Rock Garden

Running On

General Tips and Locality Blabber (aka Life Finds a Way)

Moss is extremely hardy, it's an ancient life form after all. You can kill it with bad water, incompatible surface (hence the felt-it's neutral). If you find brown, dry, shriveled moss-treat it as if it's the liveliest, prettiest you've seen. Another words, get a reasonable amount, take it home. Give it some water and some sunlight. Almost immediately it will start turning green and deshriveling. In a few days with water-it will be lush and thriving.

Be aware of the specimens you use. Moss WILL grow over it, and it can damage friable material. Not to mention what the elements of North Mississippi will do to it. You can keep the moss cleaned off-this will take some effort as moss that is tended to grows enthusiastically.

Moss does not gather nutrients from roots. Only hydration. It needs wind, leaves falling on it. It isn't damaged by freezing. As long as it has enough sun for its type, and water-it will be green year round.

Rockheads PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

The Rockheads are back and better then ever. We have two awesomely cool advisors Jim and Dana who we love and respect*. Now that we're back we are trying to get a bunch of our badges. One of them is is a geo-cache badge. So we are making plans to go on a geo-cache trip, we love being Rockheads.

MATTHEW LAMBERT

*this statement had nothing to do with advisors nearby. Jim and Dana swear on....urban progress.

MIDWEST FEDERATION YOUTH POSTER CONTEST: FOSSILS OF THE WORLD

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair

For the past few years, the Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio has been sponsoring a poster contest for kids in conjunction with their annual show and the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies convention. The contest is open to any kids within an AFMS-affiliated club, especially those who already may be involved in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program. David Rich has emailed to let me know the tradition continues, and this year, the contest is focused around a theme of "Fossils of the World." Kids wishing to enter the contest should prepare a poster illustrating one or more fossils that interest them, from anywhere in the world.

The contest is open to kids in grades 1 through 8. Each grade level will have a winner. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 4th place, and 1st place winners will also receive a prize. Rules are as follows:

- all entries must be presented on 12X18-inch paper;
- artwork can be pen, ink, crayons, magic marker, paint, or any other artist's medium, but no three-dimensional posters accepted;
- include name, address, age and school grade of participant on *back* of entry;
- the title maybe on front or back;
- list of names of the fossils and *why* you chose them; and
- all entries become the property of Summit Lapidary Club and the Midwest Federation.

Points will be awarded as follows: Originality & Art Work—30 points; Design—25 points; Title—25 points; Listing of Fossils *and* Reason You Chose Them—20 points. Entries must be postmarked by **March 2, 2013**, and should be mailed to: **Jennifer Fike, P.O. Box 26276, Akron, Ohio 44319**. Winners to be announced April 6, 2013, at the MWF convention. Further contest info may be found at <http://Lapidaryclubofohio.org>, and if you have questions, contact Poster Judge Jennifer Fike by email at: SLC.youth.poster.contest@gmail.com.

Notes on Whiskey Hill

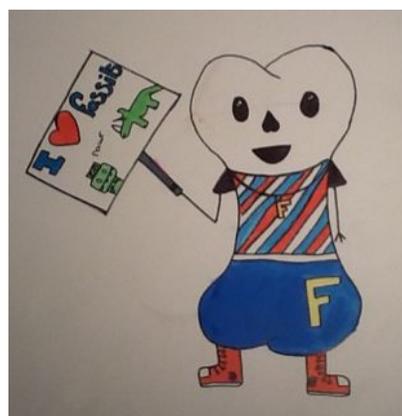
Whiskey Hill is named for the moonshine activity that went on during Prohibition and for some time afterwards to escape an alcohol tax.

Justice of the Peace Tommy Williams owned 'the Hill'. He bought the title with moonshine money. And didn't care who knew.

Judge John Shaw lived on the next hill over-Laws Hill.

The photo of the ditch full of cars/trucks-those are worn out then stripped moonshine vehicles. There are 3 cars and 4 trucks.

At one point there was at least 10 still sites scattered about Whiskey Hill. Should you ever come up on what you suspect is a still site be careful-they were booby trapped. I went around with Mr Williams and un-trapped Whiskey Hill (I wandered a lot and he worried I'd hit one.) they were traps that would most likely work 70 years later.



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Rockhead Officers

President

Matthew Lambert

Vice President

Robin Langford

Secretary

Remy Collins

Field Trip Organizer

Brittany Lambert

Youth Advisors

Mysterious Jim

Roberts

latorgator@yahoo.com

Dana 'Wooster' Jones
bertiewooster13@gmail.com

David 'Chop Chop' Lloyd

Bleeding Hands and Agonizing Back Prevention

Have you ever scrapped your hands climbing in a coal mine? Sliced your fingers gathering crystals? Rubbed your fingertips raw digging? All could be prevented with gloves. Keep a variety-you never know what type you'll need. For example in the coal tailings a pair of light riding gloves were great for climbing around and picking things up, but when hammering weren't much help, so bringing along heavy leather gloves was very helpful. Gloves don't take up much room, are inexpensive and can prevent sore hands. For riding gloves-which come from very light to heavy leather, and all are made to give maximum freedom of movement-check out www.doversaddlery.com. For back and tripping protection check out Treasure Scoops. They help keep balance over rough and you can scoop up specimens. They come in two lengths. Contact: ddavidmurr@hotmail.com. (870) 255-3679 or (501) 240-7108



Left, a sampling of gloves. Right, Treasure Scoops



Meeting Program

At our Nov. meeting, we had quite a few members who brought some fossils to work with during the fossil cleaning and preparation program. There were a wide variety of tools, some water and several glues to work with. Nancy Roberts and George Phillips presented those participating with hand outs explaining the wide variety of techniques and tools used by fossil preparators. There were even extra fossils for those who did not have one of their own to work on. Members thoroughly enjoyed the experience and had a nice specimen to take home! NMGMS wishes to thank George for once again coming up and sharing his expertise with us.

NANCY ROBERTS



Above left, George Phillips speaking on preserving fossils, he brought wonderful books from the museum that could be borrowed.

Above center, hard at work cleaning fossils.

Above right, Robert showing guests techniques.

Above, Cheryl Langford's lovely work.

Left, a Nugget header photo from the last field trip that wasn't used. What can I say, I'm changeable.



NORTH MISSISSIPPI GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

Application for Membership:

Name: _____

Address: _____

\$12 year Individual {}

\$20 year Family {}

Home _____

Cell _____

Email: _____

Family Membership Information:

Spouse: _____

Children: _____

Interests:

minerals____ fossils____ field trips____ beading____ cabbing____

faceting____ wire wrapping____ glass____ soldering____ chain making____

other _____

Talents, field of expertise, or hobbies: _____

Sign: _____

Date: _____

**Affiliated with the Southeast Federation
of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.**

Mail to:

NMGMS

attn. Treasurer

P.O. Box 1445

Tupelo, MS 38802

Make checks payable to:

**NMGMS (North Mississippi Gem
and Mineral Society)**

Treasurer:

Date pd _____

cash _____ check# _____

amt. _____