



The Nugget

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

October 21, 2013 Issue 3 Volume 13

Every once in a while, I like to take the opportunity to do a little bragging about NMGMS, and since yet another club member is attending the William Holland Lapidary School on a club scholarship, this seemed like a good time to brag! Through the hard work and generous efforts of the NMGMS membership over the past twelve years, our organization has been able to send six adult members to William Holland for week long classes in such lapidary arts as beading, wire wrapping, faceting, lampwork beads and more. Also, through the club's participation in the SFMS stamp collecting program and their junior scholarship programs, we have had three more members, one adult and two juniors, attend classes on full scholarships funded by the federation. Of these accomplishments, I am very proud!

Sometimes I've heard someone ask, "why does a non-profit need to make money?" These scholarships are a prime example. We have managed this funding despite the fact that we do not hold an annual rock and gem show. Dues alone can't cover the tuitions involved with these lapidary classes. Your membership dues help to pay our club's operating expenses like the P.O. Box rental, our federation membership and insurance, printing costs, stamps, program supplies, etc. It's our extra events that we hold during the year that enable the club to have enough available monies to use for these scholarships. The silent auctions we hold, our grab bag sales, the fishing game, spin and win and other activities that we held at the Geology Day, and the biggest of all, the outside classes that members teach to the public in conjunction with several other area organizations which generate the necessary funds needed for these scholarships.

So, you see, fund raising is a vital part of a growing organization like ours. We are not just a hobby oriented –get together to have a good time club (although I love that part too!), but we are also a very educationally oriented one.



That aspect is very important to NMGMS; we need to continue to share our knowledge, interests and expertise with the younger generation. That keeps us growing as individuals and as a viable organization. By sending our members to "school", we help to increase our club's ability to share and teach the lapidary skills to others. So pat yourselves on the back NMGMS for a job done well so far, but let's not drop the ball now. Please, let's all of us continue to support these extra activities in any way we can, so that NMGMS can continue to issue these scholarships. There are so many hard working, deserving members who would love to take a class at William Holland!

NANCY ROBERTS

Top Left:

Basilasaurus Zyorhiza Kochii
from the Museum of Natural
History in Jackson MS.

Late Eocene

Scott and Jasper Counties MS
Grant Parish LA

Known as "Ziggy", it is the state
fossil of Mississippi.

Photo Dana Jones, who takes a
picture of it every time she
goes, and goes to the Museum
every time she goes to Jackson
MS, or even through Jackson.

Bottom Left

Nancy Roberts Fairy Stone
Hunting in Virginia, see inside
for details.

Photo by Jim Roberts.

Editor's Note:

This issue is missing some
features like "What Is It",
Table of Contents, and other
things due to the computer
issues.

Not all photos could be
labeled due to said
computer's lack of
cooperation.

NMGMS

Meeting Minutes



Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Jake Carr and Liam Langford. No guest or new members were present.

Motion to approve the April and May meeting minutes as printed in the September Nugget (or via email). APPROVED and seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as today \$2296.89.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Field Trips: The next club field trip will be Sept. 28th to the old lime pit on Birmingham Ridge Rd. We will meet at the site at 8a.m. (See email or handout for details) There will be a joint field trip with APS on Sunday, Nov. 10th to one of the AL coal mines for plant fossils. Watch your emails for details.

The group showed interest in going back to Mt. Ida for quartz crystals in March 8th and 9th 2014 and attending the October DMC field trip to Coon Creek in McNairy County, TN. Be sure to check out the Lodestar or the SFMS website for the DMC field trips since we can attend these. http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html

Publicity: (Bob Reinhaus). Three display cases are still set up at the library, but they will be coming down the first week of Oct. Check them out, if you have not yet seen them.

Membership: (Ann Byzet.) The club has 121 members. New member packets are available, if you have not gotten one, and club patches available for \$2 each.

Hospitality:

Refreshments: Need two volunteers Nov.: Nancy & Jim Roberts

A volunteer to do the ham for the Christmas party pot- luck luncheon December 14th deferred until next meeting.

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

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) The deadline for submissions for The Nugget is the **second Friday of the month**. If any member took any interesting trips this summer, collected anything unusual, visited a museum or rock and gem show, took a lapidary class, etc. drop Dana an email about it, so we can insert that in the next issue of the newsletter. We would like to hear about what our fellow members did or learned this summer.

Remember to email anything for the newsletter to: nuggeteditor@gmail.com

Youth Members: (Dana Jones and Jim Roberts) Volunteers: David Loyd

The Rockheads are in need of a few more vests. Muslin material and volunteers are needed to make them. Contact Dana for information regarding sizes needed.

Stamps: (Kathy Westbrook) Members are encouraged to save stamps for the William Holland Lapidary School scholarship.

Historian: (Shirley Randel) Members were encouraged to continue to collect 2013 club related photos, newspaper articles, show flyers or other memorabilia for the scrapbook.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Loyd, Bob Reinhaus, John Byzet and Robert Langford) Planning has begun for the 2014 event. The Club is in need of specimens; things for the grab bags and material for the fishing game. Small lapidary items can be used too. Members with knowledge about sewing are needed to make the cloth bags used for the grab bags.

Safety: (David Loyd) Attention new members!

***** **Please be sure and sign a liability release waiver, if you have not yet done so.**

Liability waivers are needed for all members and should be a must for all invited guests on field trips.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **The Peterson Field Guide to Feeder Birds of Eastern North America** has been purchased as the bird book being donated to the library in Bill Hawkins' memory.
2. The Club is still going to proceed with registering as a corporation and a nonprofit charity with the state of MS. NMGMS member, Mike Schuchs, has agreed to help with any necessary paper work, if we move forward to file as a 501c3 with the IRS.
3. Cheryle Langford will be using the William Holland Scholarship for a wire wrapping class during the SFMS October session, Oct. 13th-19th this year.

No further old business was discussed.

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Mark Your Calendar

ROCK SWAP!

October 26

11am-4pm

Ballard Park

Tupelo, MS

See Announcement

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

(aka Announcements)

NMGMS Rock Swap

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is having its fourth annual Rock Swap Picnic October 26, 2013. The Rock Swap will be held at Ballard Park, West Main Street/Highway 6, Tupelo, MS. We would like to invite all rock hounds from the surrounding areas to join our members for a day of great fun, trading and fellowship. There is no charge to attend or to set up and trade. The area is located in a large covered pavilion (on the west side of the lake) with many picnic tables. There is room to park and tailgate, or you can set up easy-ups. Indoor restrooms, bike path, outdoor skate park, lake, Oren Dunn Museum and children's playground are close by. Bring something to trade or just come by to join the picnic, look around and visit with fellow rock hounds. The Swap is from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (Set up to begin at 9:30a.m.) The Park closes at 10p.m. We will be having a club auction (donated items are most welcome!), and a "Fishing Game". NMGMS will have hot dogs, chips and drinks. Members are asked to bring a dessert and folding chairs.

Meetings

November 16

Tupelo Library
12-4:30pm
History of Fossil
Collecting
George Phillips

December 14

Tupelo Library
10:30am-3:30pm
Christmas Luncheon

Field Trips

November 2

With APS to a coal mine
for plant fossils

December 7

Blue Springs

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The October meeting is the NMGMS picnic/rock swap on **October 26th from 11 until 4p.m.** at the large pavilion in Ballard Park on the west side of the lake. We will have the "Buy it now or Bid" silent auction and the "Fishing Game" for the kids. We will also have hot dogs, chips and drinks provided by the club and members are asked to bring a dessert. Silent Auction items are needed. Check out your collections and see if you have any extras to trade. *Invite a friend!!!!!!!*
2. It is time to start thinking about our club's 2014 officers. Nominations will be taken at the November meeting. Officers serve a two year term. So be thinking about who you would like to have leading your organization in 2014. All present and previous officers are automatically on the nominating committee. If you would like to serve on any of the committees, we'd love to have you! Motion to defer until next meeting. APPROVED and seconded.
3. The new junior members were remind that NMGMS has a Junior of the Year award given during the December meeting to those juniors who complete the following:
 - Is a member in good standing (attends events)
 - has done a "show and tell" presentation or display
 - has had a review or article printed in the Nugget
4. Roger Lambert met with Rae Mathis, the director of the Oren Dunn Museum, and plans are being made to host another Geology Day in Nov. 2014. Members were asked for ideas regarding displays or activities to be held. Vendor tables similar to the New Albany road show will be new this year.
5. The November 16th meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be "The History of Fossil Collecting in MS" by George Phillips.

No further new business was discussed.

REMINDER:

1. There is no regular October meeting at the library on the 19th. See ya'll at the picnic!
2. Don't forget the Huntsville show on Oct, 12 & 13th from 10-6p.m. and noon to 5p.m. on the 14th at the Von Braun Center, 700 Monroe St. Huntsville, AL.

Please return the name tags to the basket before you leave. **Is there anyone who needs a name tag printed up for them?**

Motion to Adjourn.....



Old Bones

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

Ever hear of a Fairy Stone?

BY NANCY ROBERTS



I knew that the mineral staurolite was sometimes called a fairy stone, because I used to watch the Waltons and that's what the locals from Virginia called the "cross" twin crystals. So, I knew that staurolite was found in VA, but never thought to check out where. Jim's family lives in VA and after all these years of going to Blacksburg, never once did anyone mention that there was a place to collect these crystals just a little over an hour away!

It never did cross my mind either for that matter, until this last trip when we stopped to visit on our way home from Vermont. Gosh, and I call myself a rockhound!! Dah! Well, I finally "googled" fairystones; it happened to be on the night before we were going to leave for home. We were all packed up and ready to leave, but when I found out how close the collecting spot was, well, I just couldn't pass up the chance to pay it a visit. So, we stayed the extra day and drove the winding mountain road over to Fairystone State Park near Stuart, VA.

It's a beautiful state park, the collecting is easy, the site is well marked and the trip through the mountains is gorgeous. We even crossed over the Blue Ridge Parkway on the way to the park! Can't say the staurolite that we found are pretty crystals, but they're very interesting. Was a fun trip anyway and I did finally get a fairystone!

For more information on the park, the crystals and the legend of the fairystones, check out: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/fai.shtml

photo courtesy of crystal-cure.com Photo above by Jim Roberts



Field Trip

Birmingham Ridge by Matthew Lybanon



On Saturday, September 28, we packed some water and snacks and headed for Birmingham Ridge. It took the Memphis group about 2 hours to get there. The weather could not have been better. A group of people was already there when we arrived.

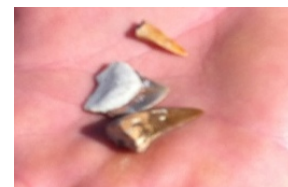
The locale on Birmingham Ridge Road is an old lime quarry that contains numerous Cretaceous period fossils. There were Exogyras everywhere. But the abundant fossil is hardly ever the one that people really want. They prefer looking for the needle in the haystack. Most people were looking for shark and Mosasaur teeth, and vertebrae. Only a lucky few were successful.

While others wanted the largest perfect Exogyra, our personal goal was to find the smallest perfect specimens. Carol uses rocks and fossils in her stained glass work, and she can only use small ones.

After searching for several hours and enjoying the social part of the event, we left with a nice variety of Exogyras, a shark tooth, some other kind of fish tooth, and a selection of our favorite other shells. This morning we spent the last couple of hours on another search: finding the small plastic bag that contains the teeth. We failed. So our picture only gives you a partial idea of what we found.

We always enjoy going on NMGMS field trips. If you miss a field trip you're missing a good time.

top left: enchodus tooth, found by Samantha Harris, and VERY badly wrapped by D Jones. Middle photos M Lybanon, bottom photo of Roger's teeth. Top tooth enchodus, crow shark, and Mosasaur.



Meeting Program

APRIL

NANCY ROBERTS

The program for our April meeting was presented by NMGMS member Myra Soroczak. Myra covered all of the many varieties of quartz and in her presentation, we learned that an agate is translucent, where a jasper is opaque. There are macrocrystalline, cryptocrystalline and noncrystalline forms of quartz too! Myra also informed us that a type of quartz can have more than one name, for instance Red Creek Jasper is also known as Picasso Jasper. Also, different inclusions give certain quartz specimens their striking appearances, like in Tigereye, Rutilated quartz and Aventurine. Myra brought along many beautiful specimens to show us, representing the vast array to be found in the fascinating family of quartz; nearly from A to Z! Thank you Myra for a very educational presentation.

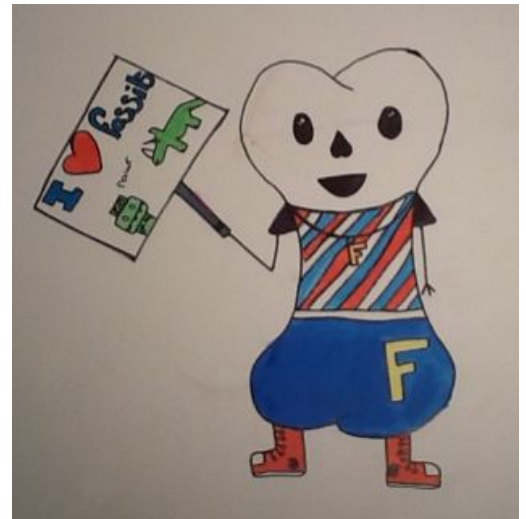


Rockheads

"The fossil hunter does not kill, he resurrects."
G. G. Simpson



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm



There were three Rockheads who set up a display at the Sept. 21st meeting. Jake Carr, Matthew Lambert and Brittani Lambert. The September NMGMS meeting is set aside for our junior members who wish to display the collections or lapidary work that they have been working on over the past year. This gives them the opportunity to complete the requirements for several of the FRA badges, such as collecting, fossils, rocks and mineral, etc. and it also counts towards earning our club's Junior Rockhound of the Year award. Good work Rockheads!!



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David Lloyd

Rockhead Officers
President
Matthew Lambert
Vice President
Robin Langford
Secretary
Remy Collins
Field Trip Organizer
Brittany Lambert



Bead Soup

A place to share knowledge about the lapidary arts.



Wire Wrapping Workshop in West Point...

It's a Wrap!

Clarice Turner

On Saturday, May 11, 2013, Nancy Roberts, Nikki Kenney and I traveled to an Episcopal Church in West Point in Nancy's new silver Toyota Tundra, in order to teach a wire wrapping class there. Kathy Dyess from the West Point Arts Council and Brenda Manning, a fellow NMGMS member from Belmont, greeted us and helped with the unloading and set up of our class materials. Other NMGMS members on hand to assist with the class were, Souzen Steelhammer, Myra Soroczak, Mary Reed and Susan Curry.

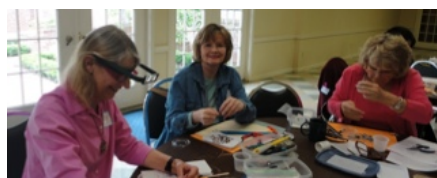
Nancy started her workshop presentation with participant introductions and then reviewed the various materials and tools that we would be working with. From there, she demonstrated some basic techniques like simple loops and talked about wire gauges, etc. Nancy had prepared some pendants and wire components to place at each table, which proved very helpful, especially for beginners.

The workshop progressed from practice to application and it wasn't long until conversation slowed down and concentration set in. New wrappers commented, "Oh, look, I love this!", as their copper circles got filled in with beautiful crystals, gemstones, seed beads, copper beads, and creativity. At the table where Nikki was working and assisting, I overheard her comments about Lisa's pendant, "I like that. It's like Valentine pretty!" As others worked, Nancy circulated; showing other tips of cutting and wrapping, too busy, as usual, to make a pendant of her own!

After Nancy gave instructions for making the clasp and finishing the ends of our leather cording, Myra gave each of us a gemstone pendant of our choice and some copper wire for us to use. She then demonstrated how to use the wire to make a bail for our pendants, so that they would hang from a cord or chain. I shared the technique of ring-making, using copper wire, glass pearls and gemstone beads.

Bernadette and her mother, Marie from Starkville, finished their pendants and ventured into making matching earrings and a zigzag pendant; spurring others to try some new things too. Lucy Betcher, who was at my table, commented, "This has been the best workshop I've ever been to. I have a beautiful pendant, a gemstone pendant and a ring to show for it!" Marie then said, "This class was my most wonderful Mother's Day gift!" Two class participants, Kim Wilson and Angie Miller, both science teachers from West Point, joined NMGMS that day too!

Everyone seemed to have a very good time at the class and we all appreciated the refreshments that the Arts Council provided. I believe, that all attending agreed, that the class was fun and a very big success!



Helpful Tip

NANCY ROBERTS

Last year at the Gumtree festival in Tupelo, I had a wonderful conversation with a silversmith artist, Erin Michael, who was exhibiting there. Erin is with the Huntsville, AL rock and mineral club. She gave me a very good tip for keeping those pesky tool marks off of your nice metal wire or jump rings. Use masking tape around the jaws of your pliers! That's right, just wrap the cones of round nose pliers or the long tips of the chain nose pliers and you have instant "cushions", which can be replaced as often as needed. Voila! A handy, readily at hand, and inexpensive solution. Thank you, Erin!