



Please contribute articles or pictures on any club interest. Unsure what a specimen is? Just proud of it? Bemused by it? Send a photo! Have information or a memory you'd like to share? Uncomfortable writing though? We'll help!  
Please contact Dana [nuggeteditor@gmail.com](mailto:nuggeteditor@gmail.com)

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

September 10, 2012 Volume 12 Issue 4

Now that Labor Day has come and gone, I keep asking myself "where did the summer go?" Guess I must have been busy! Hopefully ya'll were too; enjoying your vacation time and doing some interesting new things. One new thing that Jim and I did this summer was Geocaching. That's where you get the Lat/Long coordinates for a location and you try to find it and what's hidden there. We found two sites located on the Lake Champlain Islands and I left several mineral specimens and some fossils as my contribution to the hidden stash. Wonder what we did before GPS or iPhones!!

With fall fast approaching and the kids back in school, it's time to get back into our club activities. Our first fall field trip came early this year and was Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> to the gravel piles in Arlington, TN. That is always a really fun trip! Don't forget the September meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> at the library. Come on out and support our junior members, the Rockheads. They will be displaying the projects that they have been working on in order to earn FRA badges. I would like to thank Bernice Burkeen for spending time this summer in making vest for all of the Rockheads. Now they'll have something on which to display those badges!

It'll be picnic time before we know it and we will be needing items for the club auction. Anything is acceptable, from rocks, minerals, fossils, supplies, lapidary creations etc. If you are a lapidary artist, we would love to have something that you have created for this auction. The picnic/rock swap is your chance to swap out your extras for something different! Also in the fall lineup, is a Nov. field trip to an active coal mine for Pennsylvanian fossils, by APS invitation. The plant fossils being found are incredible. Since the mine is active, we have to schedule this trip on a Sunday.

Our club schedule is jam packed with activities right up to our Christmas party on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, so be sure and keep a calendar handy and mark those dates when they come out in the newsletter and emails. We are presently working up the program schedule for 2013, so if you have any ideas or requests, let us know. As always, please bring anything that you have collected or made over the summer to our meetings for "show and tell". We all enjoy seeing and sharing our finds, etc. Happy rockhounding!

### NANCY ROBERTS



Butler Island, planting a garden with magnesium. Photo by Jim Roberts

Top left: map of the Mississippi Embayment. Courtesy of USGS  
Top right: Mississippi River from the deck of a boat near Tunica, Ms. Photo Dana Jones.  
Bottom right: changes in the coastline of the Northern Gulf of Mexico  
Courtesy of: [http://www.americaswetlandresources.com/background\\_facts/detailedstory/MississippiFormed.html](http://www.americaswetlandresources.com/background_facts/detailedstory/MississippiFormed.html)

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**September 15**  
Tupelo Library from 1-3pm  
Rockheads Displays/  
Presentations  
Volcano DVD  
Refreshments: Belinda Loyd, Robert Diaz

# NMGMS Meeting Minutes



## June 2012

There was not an official meeting for June, which results in no Meeting Minutes. **HOWEVER** there was a rockin' meeting at the New Albany Museum. So there was a....

## Meeting Program (depending on how much of a stickler you are)

### June 9, 2012

The New Albany Museum hosted the First Annual Gem, Mineral and Bead Sale and Fossil Road Show.

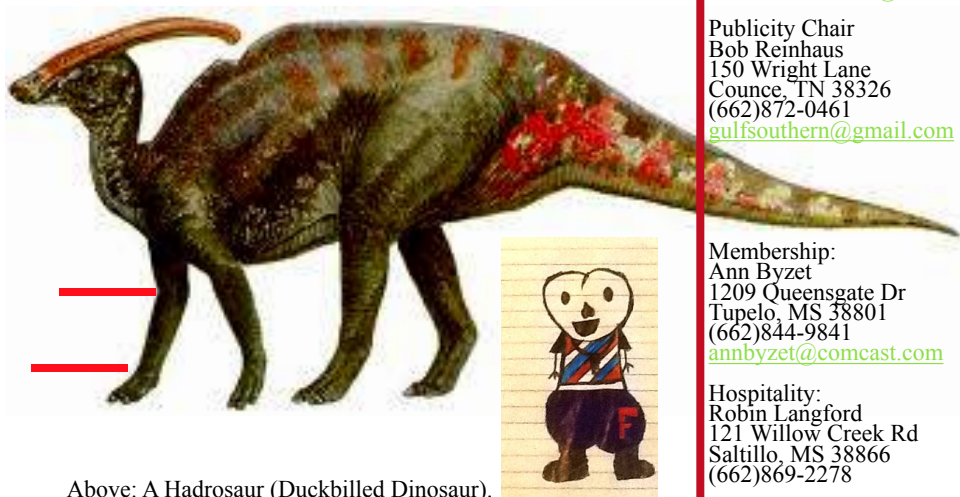
George Phillips, Paleontologist from Mississippi Museum of Natural Science was present to identify specimens and give a presentation on The Dinosaurs of Mississippi. A 65 million year old partial Hadrosaur tibia donated by American Pickers Mike and Frank to the Mississippi Natural Science Museum was on display as well. NMGMS members attended this in lieu of a regular meeting.



The Geode Guy cracking Geodes.  
Photo by John Byzet



Top: a booth with Native Artifacts and information on the Fleming Whale Dig, and Eocene Whales of Mississippi. Many visitors were interested in this booth. Ann with the Nationally Famous Shin donated by Antique Archaeology ([www.antiquearchaeology.com](http://www.antiquearchaeology.com)) To get an idea of the size-look to the right. Both photos by John Byzet.



Above: A Hadrosaur (Duckbilled Dinosaur). Frederick Fossilton, the American Bone is actually shaped rather like a tibia, as I'm told by his illustrator Remy Collins. The marked area above shows the tibial area. Comparing the bone size to Ann-you can see, this was a very large dinosaur. Illustration courtesy of: <http://hcs.w.lhwy.com/photo.html>

The donated bone was found more than 10 years ago near Baldwin, MS in a Coffee Sand deposit. It was sold at First Monday in Ripley, MS 10 years ago. The deposit it was found in is 82 million years old and contains many marine fossils.

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# Mark Your Calendar

## September 15

Tupelo Library from 1-3pm

Rockheads Displays/Presentations

DVD on Volcanos

Refreshments: Belinda Loyd, Robert Diaz

### October 27

Annual Picnic and Rock Swap  
Large Pavilion at Ballard Park  
Tupelo

### December 15

Tupelo Library 1-3pm  
Christmas Potluck

### November 17

Tupelo Library from 1-3pm  
Fossil Cleaning and Prep

### January TBA

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

**Rock and Gem magazine:**  
[www.rockngem.com/showdates](http://www.rockngem.com/showdates)

### September 29-30

**Murfreesboro, AR**  
Crater of Diamonds State Park Annual Show  
Diamond Discovery Center  
Admission is charged  
Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-4  
Contact Margi Jenks (870) 285-3113  
[margaret.jenks@arkansas.gov](mailto:margaret.jenks@arkansas.gov)  
[www.craterofdiamondsstatetpark.com](http://www.craterofdiamondsstatetpark.com)

### October 6-7, 2012:

Lexington, KY  
Rockhounds of Central Kentucky (ROCK)  
22nd Annual Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show  
Kentucky National Guard Armory,  
Admission is charged  
Scouts in uniform Free.  
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5.  
Contact Allen Ferrell, 859-277-2469  
[kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com](mailto:kyrock2010kentucky@yahoo.com)

### October 12-14

**Huntsville, AL**  
Huntsville Gem and Mineral Club  
44th Annual Rock, Gem and Mineral Show  
Von Braun Civic Center  
[www.huntsvillegms.org](http://www.huntsvillegms.org)

### October 27, 2012

**Tupelo, MS**  
North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society  
Annual Picnic and Rock Swap  
Large Pavilion Ballard Park  
Sat 11am-4pm  
Admission is free  
Contact Nancy Phillips  
[THEROCKHOUNDLADY@YAHOO.COM](mailto:THEROCKHOUNDLADY@YAHOO.COM)

### November 9-11, 2012

**Ocean Springs, MS**  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society.  
Magnolia State Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show  
Jackson County Fairgrounds Municipal Center  
Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5  
Admission is charged  
Contact John Guglik: (228) 818-5412  
[jguglik@cableone.net](mailto:jguglik@cableone.net)

### November 16-18, 2012

**Marietta, GA**  
Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society  
27th Annual Rock, Mineral & Jewelry Show  
Cobb County Civic Center  
Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5  
Free Admission  
Contact Mary Ingram: (404)915-3588  
[mandmingram@gmail.com](mailto:mandmingram@gmail.com)

### November 17-18, 2012

**West Palm Beach, FL**  
Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches  
46th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead and Fossil Show  
South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East  
Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5  
Free Parking Admission is charged  
<http://www.gemandmineral.cc>

### November 23-25, 2012

**Mobile, AL**  
Mobile Rock & Gem Society  
Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Fossil Show  
Abba Temple Shrine  
Fri 2-7, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5  
Contact Jim Patterson (251)510-85228  
[jimandde@mobile.com](mailto:jimandde@mobile.com)

### November 30-December. 2, 2012

**Montgomery, AL**  
Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society  
42nd Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show  
Garrett Coliseum  
Fri 9-6 Sat 10-6; Sun 11-5  
Free Admission and Parking  
Contact: Jane Barkley, (334) 277-2722 or Iris McGehee, (334) 262-7275.

### December 8-9, 2012

**Franklin, TN**  
Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society  
Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale  
Williamson County Ag Expo Park  
Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5  
Admission is charged  
[www.MTGMS.org](http://www.MTGMS.org)  
Contact John Stanley (615) 885-5704  
[show@mtgms.org](mailto:show@mtgms.org)

### 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



Leather wrapped bracelet. Photo Dana Jones.

## Field Trip

There were several trips to Frankstown this summer, led by Robert Langford.  
If you have any photos of the trips or would like to discuss your trip or just take photos of specimens collected and send them top Dana at [nuggeteditor@gmail.com](mailto:nuggeteditor@gmail.com)



All manner of silliness is enjoyed such as shown by Remy at Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, TN. Photo by her sister Meredith.

In their opinion Parson's Quarry is like a Star Wars planet. It's Meredith's favorite.

[nuggeteditor@gmail.com](mailto:nuggeteditor@gmail.com)

[www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org)

There was a field trip to Arlington Gravel Pit on Sept 8. No report or pictures yet. (send to [nuggeteditor@gmail.com](mailto:nuggeteditor@gmail.com))

There are further Field Trips in the works-stay tuned!

## Workshop

### Nov.10, 2012

**West Point, MS**  
Sat 10 a.m until 4p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation  
103 W. Broad Street  
Bring a brown bag lunch.

Have you been seeing those chic looking wrapped leather bracelets and wanted to learn to make one for yourself? Well, now is your chance! The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, in conjunction with the West Point Arts Council, will be offering this class.

In this class, you will be making a double wrapped leather bracelet. The class kits will include the Greek leather, beading thread and needle, a button for the closure and 6mm beads. You may bring a favorite shank type button if you have one. The class fee is \$35 per person. Class size is limited, so please register early.

For more information or to register for this class contact: Nancy Roberts, [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) 731-727-5574 Souzen Steelhammer, [souzenaivers@aol.com](mailto:souzenaivers@aol.com) 602-494-7288

Note: We will have a kumihimo review and lesson on how to finish the ends of the beaded braids for those who took the May class and wish to have a "refresher" session. Bring your kumihimo projects.

# Bead Soup

A place to share knowledge about the lapidary arts.



Do you have questions? Have a technique that you'd like to share? A fond memory of something you can share? Tips? Please contact [nuggeteditor@gmail.com](mailto:nuggeteditor@gmail.com)

[THEROCKHOUNDLADY@YAHOO.COM](http://THEROCKHOUNDLADY@YAHOO.COM).

## Tips

For beaders and jewelry crafters...be sure to check out [Beadingdaily.com](http://Beadingdaily.com) and [jewelrymakingdaily.com](http://jewelrymakingdaily.com). You'll find lots of free ebooks to download, many free patterns, project tips and lots of great bargains on books and magazines. Sign up to receive their emails; you'll be glad you did!

Kumihimo tip: Use a permanent marker to label your bobbins with either letters or numbers. Then when you are setting up your strands for a kumihimo braid, make a note for each bobbin as to type of cord, color, or beads that it contains. For example, bobbin A: 8/0 beads, transparent rainbow aqua. After stringing the loom, record the order in which you placed your bobbins by starting with the upper right position and going in a clockwise direction. For example, you may have bobbin "C" in the first position and go around with A,D,E,F,B,G and H. Now, if you wish to replicate this pattern or you end up having to undo all or part of this design, you will know exactly how it was initially set up.

## Thank you for helping to make our workshops a success!

I wish to thank all of you who have been participating in our NMGMS beading workshops. The enthusiasm and attendance has been great! These workshops are meant to be fun and enjoyable as well as a teaching tool. We do not operate under a "strict" classroom environment by any means and I appreciate everyone being so patient and helpful, especially to each other. We learn best by helping others. As Bernice put it so well, when you have to explain something to someone else, it reinforces your own understanding. Also, everyone has their own "style" and way of working. Nothing is absolute. Of course, the stitch or technique may be specific, but there are all kinds of little tricks and tips that can make it easier and you just might have the "neat" little idea that your neighbor needs to make everything "click" for them. Don't ever get discouraged if you don't finish a particular project. The important thing is that you enjoy the work, learn a technique and then take these skills and incorporate them into your own projects. Beading can be fun, relaxing and very rewarding. If something starts to "bog down", set it aside and work on something else for awhile.

Beadweaving and working with the small beads called "seed beads" has become my passion, I think because I love to do "needle work" of any kind, but it is only one small part of the whole jewelry making/lapidary family of crafts and skills. We are planning to expand these workshops and to start covering some of the other areas such as wire work, Macramé, polymer clay, metals and more. We have a lot of very talented and skilled members in our organization and hopefully we will be able to "tap" into their expertise. So I hope that everyone will continue to come to our workshops. I know there is a new skill out there just waiting for you to discover. Never give up!!

BY NANCY ROBERTS



# Old Bones

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

## Footprints!

The Connecticut River Valley, which divides Vermont and New Hampshire and also runs through Massachusetts and Connecticut, is one of the best places in which to view dinosaur footprints. These footprints were first discovered in 1802 by a farmer while plowing his field and later in 1833 proclaimed by an Amherst professor to be the tracks of an ancient bird, to finally being identified as the tracks of the dinosaurs *Eubrontes*, *Grallator* and *Anchisaurus*. In the Mesozoic Era, the river valley had an arid, dry climate with a monsoon season where the valley lakes would flood over large mud flats. As the waters receded, these dinosaurs would travel over the mud leaving behind footprints that were preserved as the mud dried out and hardened. As these seasonal periods alternated, layer after layer of dinosaur tracks became deposited.

One quarry where these footprints have been excavated is Nash Dinosaur Tracks in South Hadley, Massachusetts. This property was purchased in 1939 and has produced over 2000 footprints. You can still walk over the quarry and see more prints in the layers of rock. On the quarry premises, you will also find a nice museum/rock shop which is run by Kornell Nash, son of the original proprietor. He has a fantastic collection of fossils at his shop and many beautiful dinosaur footprint slabs from the quarry which are for sale. This quarry is not a large one and it is tucked into a hilly, wooded, exclusive subdivision.

Another exposure of the dinosaur tracks along the Connecticut River is in Holyoke, MA off of Hwy 5 near the power plant. Here beside the river, is an exposed limestone bank where you can literally walk along, following the path of the footprints. There is a rock shop not far from the site on Highway 5.

Following the river to the south, there is yet another very interesting exposure of these tracks located at the Dinosaur Museum in Rocky Hill, CT. This museum is a national landmark and is located just south of Hartford, CT. In 1966, during the excavation of this site for the construction of a state building, a dozer operator noticed six large three toed footprints on a slab of sandstone that he had over turned. Officials, newspapers and local scientists were notified and the site was fenced and guarded. Many more tracks were uncovered and within a few weeks, officials decided to preserve the site as a state park. A geodesic dome has been constructed over this excavation site. The present exposed bedrock on display contains over 500 footprints and there is another area waiting to be excavated when enough money is collected to construct another dome. This museum houses one of the world's largest in situ displays of dinosaur tracks and it is well worth the visit. So, if you are ever up in the New England area and are curious to see some really awesome footprints these locations will do the trick!

BY NANCY PHILLIPS



Jim Roberts by the foot print.  
Photos by Nancy Roberts.

(aka Announcements)

### Bill Hawkins

Please keep fellow NMGMS member Bill Hawkins in your thoughts and prayers. Bill is presently undergoing chemo treatments for colon cancer and is handling them fairly well; no nausea or hair loss. Bill has served NMGMS in many capacities, as well as been the Mississippi state director along with Floy to the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies. He has also attended classes at the William Holland Lapidary School in Young Harris, GA. We are sincerely hoping that Bill's treatments will be effective and that he will be able to come back again to our club meetings. He and Floy are greatly missed.

### Birthstone Stamps

Your Help Please

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is attempting to attain birthstones on U.S. stamps. We need you to actively support and promote the project by continuing letters or notes to the USPS. You do not have to be an AFMS member to write.

Please mail your PERSONAL letter to:

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee

C/O Stamp Development

U.S. Postal Service

475 L'Enfant Plazas SW, Room 3300

Washington, D.C. 2023-3501

Competition is stiff with about 50,000 proposals to the USPS annually.

We are convinced that birthstone stamps would be attractive. We and the public would use them, keep them, and we would all enjoy their beauty. Don't you agree?

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

### NMGMS ROCK SWAP

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is having its third annual Rock Swap Picnic October 27, 2012. 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 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!), grab bags for sale and a "Fishing Game". NMGMS will have hot dogs, chips and drinks. Members are asked to bring a dessert and folding chairs.

### The judges have decided!

The winners of the AFMS 2011 Bulletin Competition have been announced and NMGMS had many in the listings! All winners are posted in the September issue of the AFMS newsletter and can be viewed online at <http://www.afms.org/>

Here are the NMGMS winners:

Honorable Mention, Bulletins: The Nugget, Robert Langford

Honorable Mention, Original Adult Articles: Musings of a Fossil Collector, Nancy Roberts

8th Place, Junior Articles(age12-17): Spending a Day with Sue at the Space Center, Matthew Lambert

Honorable Mention, Written Features: Program, February

19:Working with Stained Glass, Floy Hawkins

Honorable Mention, Written Features: Notes from the President's Desk for Feb. 2011, Nancy Roberts

Honorable mention, Written Features: Trebloc Lime Quarry, Bernice Burkeen

10th Place, Adult Poetry: NMGMS 2011 Picnic, Floy Hawkins  
Congratulations everyone!

### Bill and Floy Hawkins' New Arrival



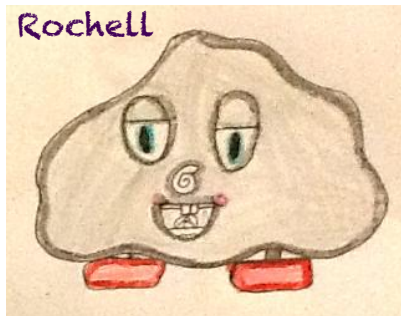
Great Grandson  
Kody Allen  
Thompson.  
Born August 4,  
2012  
Photographer's  
name not sent.



Baby Hadrosaur. Image  
courtesy of <http://www.stonecompany.com/dinoeggs/casts/embryos/hadrosaur.html>

### Rockheads

Rochell



Don't forget your displays for the next meeting! Bernice has worked hard on vests for your badges so check [www.amfed.org/fra/fra\\_badge.htm](http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm) for more information.

### Read the Footnotes

You may have noticed there was not even a single summer issue. I still hope we can start a summer issue, and eventually continue year long with only a slight format change during the summer months. It's not too soon to start planning for 2013 now, or for regular issues.

Such as:

See an interesting geologic feature? Take a picture (or find one) Send it to me with a little explanation. Even if it's just a general location.

A famous racehorse was named after these basalt columns formed by volcanic activity. Image courtesy of [www.guideoftravels.com](http://www.guideoftravels.com).

Contact  
[nuggeteditor@gmail.com](mailto:nuggeteditor@gmail.com)



## A Summer Field Trip Caveat:

BY NANCY ROBERTS

Do you love to go fossil collecting in the summer in your local creeks and streams? Well, I know that I do and I enjoy getting wet, just being outdoors and escaping the scorching heat. Oh, I forgot to mention having a chance to collect some neat shark teeth too! If you have done this kind of summer field trip, maybe you've noticed that sometimes the water can be stagnant in places or the water level is low and algae has started to grow. Also, many back road locals that are near bridges contain lots of trash that has been dumped into the creek. As with any outdoor activity, it pays to be aware of any risks or hazards and be alert to the environmental conditions of the locale that you will be collecting in.

One such possible risk from collecting in warm, stagnant, algal infested water, is a condition known as "swimmers itch". This is caused by exposure to water-borne Schistosomatidae and symptoms, which include itchy, raised papules, commonly occur within hours of infection and do not generally last more than a week.

A number of different flatworm parasites in the family Schistosomatidae are what cause swimmer's itch. These parasites use both freshwater snails and vertebrates as hosts in their parasitic life cycles. Mostly waterfowl are used as the vertebrate host. During one of their life stages, the larvae of the parasite, cercaria, leave the water snails and swim freely in the freshwater, attempting to encounter water birds. These larvae can accidentally come into contact with the skin of a swimmer. The cercaria penetrates the skin and dies in the skin immediately. The cercaria larvae cannot infect humans, but they

cause an inflammatory immune reaction. This reaction causes initially mildly itchy spots on the skin. Within hours, these spots become raised papules which are intensely itchy. Each papule corresponds to the penetration site of a single parasite.

Swimmer's itch mostly occurs in freshwater, on uncovered skin. Also, stimuli for cercarial penetration into host skin include unsaturated fatty acids, such as linoleic and linolenic acids. These substances occur naturally in human skin and are found in sun lotions and creams based on plant oils. Orally administered hydroxyzine, an antihistamine, is sometimes prescribed to treat swimmer's itch and similar dermal allergic reactions.

Research on schistosomiasis showed that water-resistant topical applications of the common insect repellent DEET prevented schistosomes from penetrating the skin of mice. Also 0.1-1% niclosamide formulation in water resistant sun cream or Safe Sea™ cream protecting against jelly fish stings were shown to be highly reliable protectants, having lethal effect on schistosome cercariae. Public education of risk factors can also reduce human exposure to cercariae. Experience at Higgins Lake, Michigan, where systematic research on Swimmer's Itch was conducted in the 1990s, shows that periodic brisk toweling of the lower extremities is effective in preventing Swimmer's Itch.

Information source: Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swimmer's\\_itch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swimmer's_itch)

So, the next time that you venture out into the field for some collecting, be sure to know what conditions you are most likely to encounter and always have the proper clothing and other safety gear necessary to ensure yourself of a great, successful and safe trip. You don't want to collect more than you bargained for! Nancy

## Go Explore! BY NANCY ROBERTS

Have an urge to do some rock hounding, but can't take the summer heat? Consider making a trip to the New England area for a change of scenery and cooler temperatures. Boasting the Adirondacks, the Green Mountains, the White Mountains and the Berkshires for instance, you're guaranteed to find lots of interesting rocks and minerals. Some well-known collecting sites come readily to mind, such as Herkimer, New York where you can collect the famous doubly terminated quartz crystals known as Herkimer Diamonds. Another New York locale is located near Gore Mountain where garnets abound. New York State is also known for trilobite and Eurypterid (sea scorpion) fossils.

<http://geology.com/articles/herkimer-diamonds.shtml> <http://fossilites.com/STATES/NY.HTM>

<http://gatorgirlrocks.com/state-by-state/new-york.html> <http://www.garnetminetours.com/rates.html>

Nearly every rock hound knows that Maine is famous for tourmaline and there are many old mines where you can still collect. Many of these are located near Greenwood in Oxford County. One of the best places to start off your visit was the Perham Rock Shop in West Paris Maine, where you could see some of the minerals of the area and get free topo maps and directions to the open sites. Sadly, Perham's closed in 2009, but there are other rock shops in Maine and the Oxford County Gem and Mineral Association meets in Bethel, Maine. By the way, if you get tired of busting rocks and need to stretch your legs, the Appalachian Trail goes through this area of Maine. <http://www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/frontendcollectors.htm>

Love collecting in high places? If so, then you must make a visit to Ruggles Mine in Grafton, New Hampshire. They call it the "Mine in the Sky"! This is a great place to collect those neat mica "books" as well as smoky and rose quartz, plus a myriad of other minerals. Several other New Hampshire locales are the Wise Fluorite Mine and the Deer Hill collecting area. The Keene Rock and Mineral club sponsors field trips to the Wise Mine.

<http://www.rugglesmine.com/> <http://www.gatorgirlrocks.com/state-by-state/new-hampshire.html>

<http://mineralbliss.blogspot.com/2009/08/latest-tips-on-new-england-collecting.html>

Vermont is noted for its granite, marble, talc and slate. Vermont marble graces parts of the Jefferson Memorial and Vermont slate is on the roof of the White House. The huge granite quarry in Barre, Vermont is definitely worth the visit, as is the Goodsell Ridge Preserve on Isle LaMotte. The limestones exposed in this nature preserve are a part of the Chazy Reef, the world's oldest reef where corals first appeared some 480 million years ago. You can take the trails and see many very large fossil deposits of huge cephalopods, gastropods and stomatopods. The shales and limestones all along Lake Champlain abound with Ordovician fossils such as trilobites, sponges, brachiopods, gastropods, pelecypods, bryozoans and graptolites.

[nuggeteditor@gmail.com](mailto:nuggeteditor@gmail.com)  
[www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org)

Vermont's world renowned collecting site was the Lowell Mine on Belvidere Mountain in Eden, Vermont. This was an active asbestos mine until 1993 and was open to collecting until the early 2000's, but has since been closed. Some of the world's best garnets came from this mine.

[http://www.ilmpt.org/ilmpt/The\\_Goodsell\\_Ridge\\_Preserve.html](http://www.ilmpt.org/ilmpt/The_Goodsell_Ridge_Preserve.html)

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/geo/pdfdocs/rockhound.pdf>

<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/mineralmuseum/gallery2.php?imit=&loc=Vermont>

Massachusetts and Connecticut are both home to the famous dinosaur trackways found along the Connecticut River. Also while in Connecticut, take a trip out to Greens Garnet Farm and fill a bucket for \$5!!

<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/trips/roxbury.htm>  
<http://www.dinosaurstatepark.org/>

<http://connecticut.cbslocal.com/top-lists/a-top-garnet-mining-adventure-in-roxbury-ct/>

<http://thethinkingmother.blogspot.com/2008/12/our-family-went-rock-hounding-for.html>

As with any successful field trip, prior planning can make all the difference. Many field guides are out of date and many of the old quarries are either closed or reclaimed and nearly impossible to find. So do a little research before you head out and you won't be disappointed. The Internet can be a great resource, as well as, contacting local rock and mineral clubs based in the areas in which you are considering doing some collecting.

## MISSISSIPPI EMBAYMENT

A good overview of the Embayment can be read here:

[http://www.geology.ar.gov/geology/strat\\_missembayment\\_gulfplain.htm](http://www.geology.ar.gov/geology/strat_missembayment_gulfplain.htm)

It's a low lying basin filled with Cretaceous sediment.

The northern end is the New Madrid Seismic Zone, location of the 1811-12 earthquakes.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_Madrid\\_Earthquake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Madrid_Earthquake)