



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

September 18, 2014 issue 4 volume 14

OMG, BTW, FYI, IMO, in today's age of electronic communications and cell phone text messaging, I sometimes feel like I am learning a second language, or at least some kind of modern day shorthand. Seems like everyone has a cell phone now (what did we ever do without them?!) and I do admit that they are a very handy thing to have. I was talking to a friend of mine in Walmart the other day, and he said "wait a minute, while I text my wife to see where she is in the store"! Hey, that can work well on a field trip too, when everyone gets spread out and it's closing time at the quarry or you're wondering where the rest of your crew is, (there are a lot of boulders and tailings piles to hid behind in those quarries!) just send out a text. Kind of like an APB!!

"OMG", speaking of quarries and field trips, thanks to the efforts of MAGS, MTGMS and the Vulcan Quarry personnel, we are very fortunate to be getting back into the Parsons, TN facility for a field trip to collect Devonian fossils from the Birdsong Shale. I believe that our last trip there was in Dec. of 2011. For safety reasons, the quarry is now limiting the size of the groups, as well as, the age of the participants. Quarry personnel will be supervising the group at all times.

"BTW", it's hard to believe that our Geology Day at the Oren Dunn Museum in Tupelo is less than two months away. I hope that all of our members have spent, at least a little time over the summer months, going thru their collections and pulling out specimens that they can loan the club for display, or that can be donated for the grab bags and the other activities at this event. We had a really great turnout last year and I am hoping that this year's will be even better.

"FYI", we have a really fantastic line up, too, for the Geology Day. George Phillips, Dr. Terry Panhorst and Dr. Louis Zachos will be the professionals on hand to identify the items that attendees bring in. Also, Pat Arinder, who has been recognized by the state as "Educator of the Year" for 2014, will be presenting his Stone Tools display. Mike and Sherrie Baldwin of MAGS will have their geode booth, along with the geode cracker, on hand (that'll be loads of fun!) and W.C. McDaniels of MAGS/NMGMS will be setting up as a vendor and he will have all kinds of interesting things to offer. Coming right before the holidays, this should be a good venue for sales. Roger Lambert has been working on the museum display cases and we've added some new themes this time. We have based many of the displays around the Cub Scout belt loop requirements and activities. The local area scout council is enthusiastic about this event and is supporting it to all of the troops in its jurisdiction. Hopefully, even the NMGMS is not teaching a geology merit badge class this time, we will have many Boy and Girl Scouts in attendance.

So, "IMO", the fall schedule of events for NMGMS is shaping up nicely and promises to be a great fun and learning experience for all of us.

Humbly Yours, **NANCY ROBERTS**

Code: OMG- oh my gosh, BTW- by the way, FYI- for your information, IMO- in my opinion

TAF- That's all folks!!!

Nancy, doing something.
Photo: Jim Roberts



Above photo courtesy of www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-27441156. See p3

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

No minutes-except Board
Meeting Minutes:



NMGMS Board Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2014

In attendance were, officers Nancy Roberts and Nikki Kenney, past officers Floy Hawkins and John Byzet.

Items discussed that are still pending were:

A plaque for the fossil room at ODCM: honor the founding members of NMGMS or deceased members of the club?

Setting up a scholarship fund

Filing for 501©3 status with the IRS

It was decided to add to the May meeting agenda, a motion to make a memorial gift of books to the library in memory of Gary Law and Annette Kelly. Members voted and approved this.

Vendors at the Geology Day will be charged \$25 by the museum for setting up and the board decided not to charge any additional fees. The limit was set at 4 vendors for this year. Ticket prices for the club activities were raised to 3/\$1, or 50 cents each.

It was decided to participate in the New Albany Fossil Road Show again this year with a club information table.

Board and treasurer agreed to keep the Rockheads funds separate from the regular club treasury.

Submitted by Nancy Roberts

Giant Bones

This bone belongs to what is believed to be the largest creature ever on earth (that's been said before. I'm just saying.)

Based on its huge thigh bones, it was 40m (130ft) long and 20m (65ft) and weighed 77 tons.

Scientists believe it is a new species of titanosaur - dating from the Late Cretaceous period.

Dr Diego Pol is the man in the photo despite attempts to hide him with title.

Partial skeletons of seven individuals - about 150 bones in total have been excavated.

The new dinosaur is a type of sauropod similar to Argentinosaurus.

It does not yet have a name.

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HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

(aka Announcements)

Geology Day

November 1, 2014
Oren Dunn Museum.

Next NMGMS Regular meeting at the Library:

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be getting back into its fall routine with a meeting on September 20, 2014 from 1 to 3pm at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo. The program is, "From Grit to Glam", given by fellow NMGMS members who do rock polishing, cabbing, etc. The accompanying lapidary project will be making a key ring from polished stones. All members are invited to bring any polished stones that they would like to display and/or use for the key ring.

NMGMS Volunteers to Help!

In conjunction with a scientific seminar being hosted by MMNS and George Phillips, NMGMS members, Roger and Mathew Lambert, as well as, Robert and Cheryl Langford, will be hosts at two of the field trip sites that seminar attendees will be visiting on Oct. 11th.

The Lamberts will have a display and id table set up out at the Blue Springs crab site and the Langfords will have their id station set up at Twenty Mile Creek. Please feel free to come out and assist at either site, if you can.

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is proud to host the 7th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Vertebrate Paleontology, which will be held here at MMNS in LeFleur's Bluff State Park, Jackson, Mississippi, October 9-11, 2014.

ATTENTION all members attending the Sept. 27th field trip will be required to have either safety glasses or be wearing eye glasses, so be sure you have yours!! Harbor Freight has some that are less than \$2. Check Walmart too. Nancy

Note to NMGMS members,

Labor Day has just passed us and the end of summer is nearing. I trust you all have had a fun filled summer and gathered some nice specimens to add to your collection. With that, I'm sure there are some things you have gathered in abundance and are asking yourself, "what in the world can I do with all this stuff?" Well, I'm here to remind you that your club, NMGMS, is always accepting extra material to use at kids days, geology fairs, school groups, etc... In fact, we are now entering the final preparation stages for our 2nd annual Geology Day and still need that sort of material to make it happen. Nothing is too small or too bulky, we'll find a way to use it.

So, come join us at the Tupelo / Lee County Library on October 18, at 1 PM and help complete preparing for the upcoming Geology Day. Bring those extra or less than perfect specimens, items you intend to loan for the displays, or just come as you are. We'll be filling grab bags, cataloging loaned items, filling game bags, etc... There are lots to be done and the date is quickly closing.

Remember to mark Saturday, November 1, 2014, on your calendars for the 2nd Annual Geology Day / Fossil Road Show at the Oren Dunn City Museum in Ballard Park, Tupelo, MS. Doors open at 10 AM and run through 4 PM. Something for everyone!
Roger Lambert

HGMS Rock and Gem Show: Huntsville, AL

Location:

Jaycee Community Building, 2180 Airport Road, SW, Huntsville, AL 35802

Friday and Saturday, October 10 & 11: 10 AM to 6 PM

Sunday, October 12: Noon to 5 PM

Admission:

\$3 donation at the door – children under 5 free

The 25th Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show will be presented by

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

November 7th, 8th and 9th 2014

Jackson County Fairgrounds

Pascagoula, Mississippi

Hours:

Friday and Saturday - 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM

Sunday - 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM

Admission \$3.00 Adults 3 Day ticket \$5.00

Children 12 and under are free

MTGMS rock and Gem show: December 13-14, 2014 Franklin, TN Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, Fossil Show and Sale presented by Mid-Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society

Williamson County AgExpoPark, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, TN

Saturday 0900-1800, Sunday 1000-1700

Admission: \$4 (Two day pass \$6), students 18 and under \$1, children under 12 free with adult.

Contact: John Stanley, Show (615) 885-5704 email:

show@MTGMS.org

Web: <http://www.MTGMS.org/Show.html>

Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

8 am to 6 pm, Friday, October 3, 2014

8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, October 4, 2014

8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, October 5, 2014

"You are invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold two three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during the current year. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks: Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don't forget to bring some extra money to buy the special "Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig" T-shirt! **THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL. NO NEED TO SIGN-UP, JUST SHOW UP FOR ALL "ROCK SWAP AND DIGS"! Mark your calendar and tell all your friends about these great events!**

Graves Mountain is accessible and open for mineral collecting by colleges, universities, and gem and mineral societies. Groups as small as two INDIVIDUAL mineral collectors can now reserve the mountain! In order to gain access, (except for the two yearly "Rock Swaps and Digs") you will need to contact the caretaker, Clarence Norman, Jr (Junior) at 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.401.3173 (his cell). Give him a call and he can reserve the mountain exclusively for your group. All of the mineral societies that come here to collect, offer the caretaker a donation for his trouble and effort in keeping the mountain open and assessable to them. Please consider what it is worth to your mineral society to be able to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!

Graves Mountain code of conduct!

- Park your vehicle in the designated area (at the end of the paved access road but not much beyond the woods to the right of this road).
- NO child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed on the mountain because of all the dangers involved. ALL CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Digs" IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER STRICT ADULT SUPERVISION!
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- The caretaker, Junior Norman, has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!
- NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!
- NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BE-YOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

Rockheads

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

