

NMGMS

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(662) 324-1601**Notes: From The President's Desk****Happy Birthday NMGMS!**

It was very enjoyable to be able to kick back and relax in the company of fellow NMGMS members at the Atlanta Bread Company Restaurant after our March meeting. It gave us a chance to share our thoughts on similar interests and the conversation around the table covered many topics. We talked about all kinds of things from program and workshop ideas, the latest techniques in the lapidary field, like working with ice resin, possible field trip sites, rock swaps, rock and gem shows, possibly getting a whole group of members to go together for classes at William Holland, to spelunking and to even running a workshop on solar power! This gave me cause to realize just how much interest there was in our organization, how many very talented members we have and how many good ideas for future activities are being discussed.

As of this writing, we have had several field trips, with several more on the calendar, we have held two beading workshops that were very well attended and enjoyed, plus we still have some fabulous programs lined up for the rest of the year. So I hope that all of you are getting as much fun, enjoyment, education and camaraderie out of NMGMS as I am. I know that you will if you continue to take advantage of all that this great organization has to offer.

Respectfully,
Nancy Roberts

Hello fellow NMGMS Members.....

The NMGMS April 17th meeting will be held at the French Camp Historical Site located off of the Natchez Trace Parkway approximately 20 miles south of intersection with US Hwy 82. We will meet at the Council House Restaurant at noon for lunch and an impromptu meeting. After lunch, we will tour around the historic site and then go on to the Rainwater Observatory. The Observatory has invited us to sit in on the seminars that they are conducting that day. These seminars are being given by professionals in the field of astronomy and are geared to amateur astronomers. There is a \$5 per person donation requested. Anyone who wishes to stay until dark will be able to view the heavens through their telescopes, which I have been told are some of the best! Please call, 731-689-5336, or email me at therockhoundlady@yahoo.com so we can reserve enough tables for lunch.

Nancy Roberts

Door Prizes, Door Prizes!

Yes, NMGMS still needs door prizes. We all like to have a chance to take home something new and different and we look forward to the door prizes that have been given out at our club meetings. We thank all of you members who have been bringing these in for us and hope that you all will continue to help out in this regard. So please check through your collections and projects and see what you could bring in for a door prize at the next meeting. So, happy hunting and make someone else happy too!

Next Meeting

Saturday, April 17, 2010
12 p.m. - Whenever
Location: French Camp Historic Site
Program: Tour, Astronomy Speakers, & Observatory Telescopes
See the last Page for directions.

Save those Stamps!

Kathy Westbrook, our stamp chair, is hoping to have lots of stamps to turn in to the federation so we'll have a good chance at a scholarship. So please watch your mail and start cutting off all stamps. It does not matter if they

are canceled. We are looking for stamps that are not torn or soiled. Special edition stamps and foreign ones are the best, but any will do. Please be sure to cut the stamps off of the envelope very carefully and leave about 1/2 inch of paper around all sides. You may have to fold open the envelope in order to

do that. Turn the stamps that you have collected in to Kathy at our regular meetings. Get all of your friends and relatives saving too. Hey, even your place of business. So, get out those scissors and start today!

NMGMS Minutes for March 20, 2010 Meeting

The March meeting for NMGMS was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by President Nancy Roberts (Nancy). The pledge of allegiance was led by Jim Roberts. New members Beth & Bill Parker from West Point, Tina Betts from Tupelo, and Linda Ladato were introduced.

Nancy asked if there were any corrections to be made to the March minutes as printed in the Nugget. None were given, so it was moved that the minutes be adopted as printed and the motion was carried. Nancy then gave out the treasurer's report and stated that the current balance in the bank account was \$1,671.53. She also reported that the dues to the Southeast Federation and the Post Office box rental had been paid.

Committees:

The upcoming field trip to Birmingham Ridge, set for March 26th was announced. The meeting time is set for 8:30 with the 8th grade class to arrive at 9:00 a.m. The quarry is located about 1 mile south of Hwy 348 on Birmingham Ridge Road and is a Cretaceous site. Directions were passed out. The field trip for April was discussed. No May field trip has been planned yet, but several suggestions were brought up that included a site close to Red Bay, off Hwy 247, or a site close to West Point, off Hwy 47.

The paid membership total was reported to be about 80, consisting of 58 adults and 22 juniors. Copies of the membership roster were handed out.

Hosts and hostesses were asked to sign up for May and June meetings. It was noted that for May Robert Langford & Reginald Rose signed up and for June Robert Langford & Kimberly Southworth signed up to bring in refreshments. Nancy said that we may not need anyone for the April meeting.

The club historian, Susan Curry finished the 2009 scrapbook. Nancy asked for a volunteer to take photographs for the club, and John Byzet volunteered for this. Robert Langford reported that he had finished the Nugget, but had not yet printed it off. He also stated that the pictures turned out nicely.

Nancy explained that due to health reasons, the club's current stamp chair, Rena Everett, had asked to be relieved. She updated the club members on Rena's situation and also explained the stamp program again, how the federation sells the stamps collected and then uses the proceeds to fund scholarships to the lapidary schools, William Holland and Wild Acres. She explained that by

savings stamps and sending them into the federation, NMGMS then gets a chance at getting one of these scholarships. Any stamps collected are to be given to Kathy Westbrook, club stamp chair.

Nancy brought up the point of designing a poster to place at the bottom of the stairs in the library, advertising the NMGMS meetings. Floy said she has an easel we could use, and I, Kimberly Southworth, volunteered to design the poster to be used. It was suggested that the poster be kept simple, to make it appealing to everyone, and maybe use a slogan such as "Keep It Rockin".

Nancy asked Robert Shin about how the club's website was coming along. It was determined that there were problems with the files. Robert said he was "working on the problem of sorting them and trying to solve the current problems with the site." He also stated that he is "hoping to have all Nuggets up to 2 years back downloaded onto the site."

Nancy asked if anyone had any suggestions about what, if anything, should be put on the front page of the website. Sherry Cochran is working on a Facebook page for the club because it is good to be able to put a face to the name of who you are emailing.

Nancy spoke about the changes made with the IRS laws in 2006 requiring all non-profit organizations to file for tax exempt status. It was also determined that, since NMGMS is such a small organization, we are not required to file for tax exempt status. Social clubs falling under category 501(3)7 are not required to, and John Byzet is researching this measure further at internet site www.irs.gov and reviewing the .pdf form 557.

Old Business:

Nancy passed out copies of the NMGMS constitution and bylaws to those who didn't already have them. Also at this time, the printing of a new club brochure was discussed. Mary Reed had gotten a quote from her friend who printed up the last brochure. The cost would be \$55 per 500 copies done in black & white on plain paper. Nancy discussed having a short application inside the brochure, along with other contact people in the club. Robert Langford was also asked if it was okay to add his name and information to the brochure, and he okayed it. Nancy passed around the present brochure and it was approved for printing.

Nancy talked about the upcoming April meeting/ program set to take place at French Camp on the Natchez Trace near Ackerman, MS. We would be meeting for lunch at the Council House first and then the planetarium invited us to sit in on some of the seminars that will be going on that day for amateur astronomers. Mary stated that these seminars will be given by professionals in the field. There would be a \$5 per person donation.

Nancy explained that in past years, the club has donated money to the library's book fund to show our appreciation for the use of their facilities. Instead of doing this, it was approved by Bonnie Gaines for us to donate a microwave to the library kitchen. It was determined that nothing had been done for the kitchen in quite a long time, and they were happy to get the microwave. We purchased a microwave oven and a splatter guard plate lid, with a total cost of \$59.00 and presented the library with it, and took pictures of it for the scrapbook.

New Business:

Nancy brought up the fact that NMGMS needed a new secretary and I, Kimberly Southworth, was volunteered. Since I was taking minutes for this meeting, I accepted, and was voted in.

Nancy mentioned topic/activities for following meetings. May's meeting will be at the library, working with polymer clay. June's meeting will include watching the DVD "Leonardo the Dinosaur." September's meeting will be basic mineral identification led by Robert Langford. November's meeting will include collecting and working with turquoise and held by Fred and Clarice Turner. Other suggestions were made about a rock/mineral swap amongst the members of our club. We can share, sell, or show what they have. This was the suggested activity for the club's October picnic that is to be held at Ballard Park on October 30th. The time will be determined at a later date, as will whether to have hotdogs or a pot luck as before, whether to invite other clubs or have it just our club, and whether to have a raffle or not.

Nancy reminded club members about getting together at the Atlanta Bread Company after the meeting, at about 5 p.m. just to sit and chat. Also mentioned was the beading workshop at the Hawkins' home on March 27th, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., with a brown bag lunch. The Hawkins' address is 606 South Church Street. Floy mention the Memphis club has their Rock and Mineral show coming up on April 24th and 25th, and that there is also a rock swap/ tailgate event in Little Rock, AR on April 17th. Nancy will email members about this event. Nancy concluded with inviting all to stay for the door prizes and the silent auction after the meeting.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting closed at 2:20 p.m. with a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted

by Kim Southworth;

Edited by Nancy Roberts & Robert Langford

FOLLOW UP TO: March 26th Field Trip to the Birmingham Ridge Lime Quarry**Science Club Field Day**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those NMGMS members who came out to help with the March 26th field trip for the Tupelo Middle School's 7th and 8th grade science club. Despite the chilly morning and the extremely muddy fossil site, we had a very good turnout. Bill and Floy Hawkins, Kendall and Ryan Bullock, Robert, Cheryle and Liam Langford, Kim and Bridgitt Southworth and I represented our organization. Twenty-one eager students and two teachers, Ms. Summer Allen and Ms. Elaine Ivy arrived on the scene shortly after 9 o'clock. We were also fortunate to have Chris Kieffer, the education reporter for the Daily Journal and photographer, Deste Lee along to cover the event.

After going over some field trip guide lines, I gave everyone the background history of why the Birmingham Ridge lime quarry was a marine deposit of Demopolis Chalk, formed during the Upper Cretaceous Period. Robert Langford showed the students where this location was on a geologic map of the state of Mississippi and on a topographical map of the area. Robert gave us the latitude

and longitude for the locale and showed the students the identification labels that he had for their fossil finds.

The students were quite impressed with the expanse of the old lime quarry and were amazed by all of the numerous mollusk shells littering the surface. Of course their shoes immediately became encased with the gooey, wet cement like lime, but that didn't stop them from collecting. Besides gathering up the large *Exogyra* and *Pycnodonte* shells, the students were able to collect many other oyster shells, especially those of *Agerostrea*. Several students also found *Squalicorax* and Goblin shark teeth, along with a few shark vertebrae, turtle bone, some ray skin, *Enchodus* teeth and some gastropod steinkerns (casts made inside of the shells, where the original outer shell material is now gone). After about an hour and a half of scouring the surface of the quarry for these different fossils, the students were getting very chilled and worn out from plodding along in their mud caked shoes. So they worked their way back up the hill and proceeded to remove as much mud as possible from their shoes before boarding the school bus. The bus itself had also suffered from the muddy conditions at the site, as it had sunk down into the soft clay of the gravel road. Finally, with the help of another bus from Tupelo, the students were off to enjoy a lunch out and hopefully, review their field day spent with NMGMS at the Birmingham Ridge lime quarry.

As a special note, I would like to give my most sincere thanks to Mr. W. T. Robinson for giving us his permission to hold this event on his property. Thank you, Mr. Robinson. I know this provided the students with a wonderful learning opportunity, as nearly all of them had never before been on a field trip to collect fossil!



Broad View of The Birmingham Ridge Lime Quarry
(Showing the Science Club Members)

As of yesterday, April 14th, I learned that W.T. Robinson recently passed away from pancreatic cancer. His son Mike Robinson has very graciously continued to give us permission for field trips to the Birmingham Ridge site. NCR



Exogyra



Agerostrea

Submitted by Nancy Roberts

QUALITY vs ECONOMY

The quality of the merchandise sold at the 2010 annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show was lacking, but the prices of these items were higher than usual. There were 47 shows going on at the same time and I was only able to attend the TEP Show as a customer. The rest of my time at the show was selling my own supply of gems, minerals, beads and other lapidary items at the Electric Park Show.

There was much talk among the vendors how things have changed over the years since the inception of this trade show back in 1955 with the first official event being held in 1958. Twelve men known as the Dirty Dozen are given credit for this action. Two are Mississippi's own Bob Schabillion of MS's Petrified Forest and internationally known gem and mineral dealer Bob Criss. Discussions going on now among the wholesale dealers are talks about moving this part of the Tucson show to Las Vegas. Tourism was down 20% for the second year in Tucson and tourists means dollars. Also the advent of international buying via the internet has increased. Fewer global wholesale dealers, store owners and museum buyers are able to be more cautious with their purchases because of the internet.

The best response of this years show was when Jim Miller of Miller Rock Shops, Arkansas, introduced the market to Vaseline glass. Vaseline glass is made with uranium and responds beautifully to black light. Vaseline glass is not new but was pulled from the US market for many years because of its uranium content. I have scored a small piece of this glass for our club and I will write an article about it later.

My two weeks ended as quickly as it started. I met a lot of wonderful people in that short amount of time. As an extra bonus I was able to reconnect with family members. Most of my cousins in Tucson are jewelry designers, giving us the benefit of a mini reunion with common grounds.

One of the beauties of the Tucson show is that one can find everything from dinosaur poop to dinosaur eggs, gold, silver and copper, and rough rock to finished jewelry. There is truly something for everyone and if you look in the right places, the quality is there. If any of you ever have the opportunity to attend the annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show during February, please do. You will absolutely over whelmed.

Submitted by,

Christy Criss

Go Green! Using Emeralds

$\text{Al}_2\text{Be}_3[\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}]$ is the chemical formula for emeralds. The physical properties of emeralds are basically the same as those of beryl. The color of emeralds varies from dark green to a yellowish green or to a bluish green. This is what gives emeralds unique value. However, you must be careful with emeralds around strong heat because they can lose their color.

Some people believe that emeralds have healing powers. They are thought to cure mental illness and Neurological disorders. They also believe that emeralds can drive out evil spirits, bring wisdom, and powers to tell the future. Some couples believe that emeralds are an emblem of an everlasting love. Other people just believe emeralds are gems that are beautiful to the human eye.

Emeralds are a rare gem, which makes them expensive to buy. Egypt was one of the earliest places to discover emeralds. The Cleopatra mines supplied fine emeralds from 330 BC until 1235 AD. Today the finest emeralds you will find come from three mines located in Columbia, South America. The names of these mines are the Muzo, Chivor, and the Cosquez. Emeralds from the Muzo mine are a dark green with a hint of yellow or blue. From the Chivor mine, the emeralds can be bluish and have some green in them as well. Nowadays, synthetic emeralds, aka fake ones, are manufactured in the U.S. They use aquamarine crystals and place them in a water solution that produces the fake emeralds. If you were to buy a real one based on the four Cs, carat, cut, color, and clarity, they could be very pricey, but are still worth buying for investments.

Throughout history people have been captivated by emeralds and their unique colors. We've seen how some people believe that emeralds can be used for healing powers and other health benefits. But these aren't the only reasons for people to enjoy emeralds. They can enjoy them by decorative jewelry, investment, or just plain value. But I enjoy them for their dark rich colors that bring them to life. So I say go green and go emeralds!

Written By: Amanda Cizek (Nancy Robert's niece)

Follow up on March 26th Beading Workshop

I LOVED the beading workshop. It was so much more than I could have even hoped. I learned something new, met a group of wonderful people, learned about lots of events, tasted great muffins, and feel as though I am part of a "family" of very talented people! In my opinion, the reason everyone learns so quickly is that the instructor is so good! Not to take anything away from the talented people, but a lot of responsibility lies with the teacher of that art or craft. You and Floy are a dynamic duo - you teach and she supports by helping people while you are helping others. I like the other ladies I met and felt very welcomed.

Thanks so much for a wonderful day and a fantastic new art.
Your newest grateful member,
Submitted by Linda Ladato



Niki working hard.



Cheryle and Bernice discussing a beading fine point.



The whole beading workshop.

Useful Webb Sites

Here are a few websites that we think everyone would find interesting and useful. This list will be updated as new items are brought to The Nugget.

For Fossils:

- 1) <http://www.uky.edu/OtherOrgs/KPS/pages/fossilphoto.html> (great for Paleozoic fossils)
- 2) <http://www.lakeneosho.org/Paleolist/index.html#91>
- 3) <http://strata.geology.wisc.edu/mibasin/>
- 4) www.oceansofkansas.com (great for Cretaceous fossils)

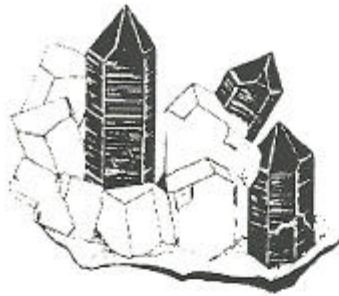
For Rocks and Minerals:

- 1) www.Mindat.org
- 2) www.minerals.net
- 3) <http://geology.about.com/library/bl/images/blrockindex.htm> they have great pictures and also have fossil and mineral pictures as well as ID.

Geology Books:

- 1) "Dictionary of Geologic Terms" by the American Geological Institute

Respectfully, Nancy Roberts and Robert Langford



Memphis Mineral Fossil Jewelry Show

Presented by the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

Sat. April 24 9-6 ❖ Sun. April 25 10-5

Agricenter-7777 Walnut Grove, Memphis

Adults -\$5, 12 & under - \$2, Scouts in Uniform- Free

Portion of admission benefits the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis

*Grand Door Prize- a pair of
Paleo Mastodon Molars (5-20 million years old)*

- ❖ 30 dealers from 15 states-rocks, fossils, minerals, gemstones, jewelry, beads, supplies, geode cracking
- ❖ Speaker's program
- ❖ Scout's merit badges
- ❖ Demonstrations, exhibits
- ❖ Kid's area with Gem Dig , "Rocks Around the Clock", and Paint a Rock
- ❖ Gem Flume
- ❖ Door prizes every hour

www.theearthwideopen.com info@theearthwideopen.com.

901 -274-7706

**North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society
2010 Meeting Schedule**

Sat., April 17th, Time: Meet at Noon

French Camp Historic Site
and Planetarium
Along the Natchez Trace

Sat., May 15th, Time 1 to 3 p.m.

Hostesses/Hosts: Robert Langford and
Reginald Rose
Lee County Public Library
Program: Working with Polymer
Clay, Flow Hawkins and
Nancy Roberts

Sat., June 19 Time 1 to 3 p.m.

Hostesses/Hosts: Robert Langford and Kim
Southworth
Lee County Public Library
Program: DVD
"Leonardo the Dinosaur"

July through August Summer Break
(No Meetings)

Sat., September 18th, Time 1 to 3 p.m.

Hostesses/Hosts: John & Ann Byzet
Lee County Public Library
Program: Basic Mineral Identification,
Robert A. Langford, RPG

Sat., October 30th, Time 11 to 3 p.m.

Annual Club Picnic and Possible Rock Swap
Location: Ballard Park West Pavilion
Tupelo, MS

**April 17th & 18th : 3rd Annual Gem & Mineral
Show, Westgate Park, Dothan, AL
Dothan Gem & Mineral Club**

Sat: 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Sun: 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

James Grant Recreation Center, 501 Recreation Road,
Free Parking

Show Contact: Arnie Lambert,
344-792-7116

Email contact: arlambert@comcast.net

**April 24th and 25th : Memphis Mineral, Fossil, and
Jewelry Show, Memphis International Agricenter
(MIA), Expo Center, West Pavilion & A-Wing
Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society**

Sat. April 24th 9-6 Sun. April 25th 10-5

MIA, 7777 Walnut Grove, Memphis, TN

Costs: Adults \$5, Children 12 and under \$2, and Scouts
In Uniform, Free

Show Contact: W.C. McDaniel 901-274-7706

www.TheEarthWideOpen.com

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The Nugget

NMGMS Newsletter

c/o Robert A. Langford, Editor

121 Willow Creek Road

Saltillo, MS 38866

Directions

Directions to French Camp

Take the Natchez Trace Parkway south from Tupelo and French Camp will
be approximately 20 miles south of where the parkway goes over Hwy 82
at Mathiston, MS

Around the Country

Rockhound Shows

