

NMGMS  
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#### Next Meeting

Saturday, February 19, 2011 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Location: Lee County Library  
Program: "Working with Stained Glass"  
Presented by: Sherrie Cochran NMGMS Member  
See the last Page for directions.

### Notes: From the President's Desk for February 2011

Thank You, Dr. Panhorst! We had an absolutely fantastic turnout for the Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (NMGMS). There were 41 members, six guests and our speaker in attendance. The program was extremely interesting and very informative. I didn't know that granites had radioactive components, did you??? I also wish to thank our members who provided the excellent refreshments and door prizes.

Since the first of the year, we have had 54 previous members renew and have added 2 new members to our club roster. Welcome Anthony Talluto and Souzen Deavers! So I'd say that we are completing our tenth year as a nonprofit organization, by being a very viable rock and mineral club.

Yes, that's right, in March NMGMS will be celebrating its tenth birthday. The club was officially formed on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and has been growing ever since. Those of us who were members those first few years, remember how we moved our meeting place from town to town every month and had different members responsible for finding a meeting place. As the club grew, a consensus was taken and Tupelo was voted upon to be the "seat" of our organization. This move has helped the club to grow and has given us an area community of which to be an

active part. We have participated in activities for school and scout groups in the area, have held several "Kid's Day" events, have had several "teaching" workshops in conjunction with the community college and have even participated in the municipal Christmas parade!

So where do we, as an organization, go from here? First, we need to ask why, we ourselves, are members of a rock and mineral organization. I'm sure that most of us would answer that it is because we have an interest in rocks, minerals, gems, fossils and lapidary activities and we wanted to be a part of a group that shared our enthusiasm for these interests. But I am sure that each of us was hoping to learn from other members, to gain more knowledge in those areas we were most interested in and to pick up a few new skills along the way. So, in order to continue to grow and learn, we need to keep sharing the knowledge and interest that we have with, not only our fellow members, but with the area communities on an "outreach" basis.

Another thing that we need to continue to do is to keep letting the community know that we are here. Is our organization large enough now for us to consider having our own rock and gem show or possibly our own fossil road show? What other kinds of events can we sponsor that will not only get the word out about us, but will help us to share our interests, skills and knowledge with others? Also, we should continue to invite others to

attend our meetings and workshops.

These are things that all of us, as a part of NMGMS, should be thinking about as we close out the tenth year of our fantastic, fun, educational, growing, vibrant, wonderful and exciting organization.

These past ten years have enriched my life so very much. I can't begin to tell you how much I have learned and gained not only in knowledge in my area of interest, fossils, but also in lapidary skills, friendships and self confidence. I am hoping that

at the end of the next ten years, some other member who is new now will feel the same way too. If we keep going like we have been and continue to grow, I know this will happen!

**Respectfully,  
Nancy Roberts  
President NMGMS**

**NMGMS Meeting Minutes for Saturday, January 15, 2011**

Victoria led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Two new officers were sworn in: Vice President –Ted Thompson and Secretary – Belinda Loyd

Introduce guests and new members:

*Guests*

Bizet's 3 grandchildren, Cannon, Carson & Kenzie  
Adrianna Cabral (*Thompson's guest*)

*New Members*

Marilyn, Remy, and Dana Jones, guest Taylor Pilkington  
Anthony Talluto (*Kendal Bullock's guest*)

Do I have a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Nugget?

*No "official" minutes for the Dec. Christmas Party – Motion to approve the article NMGMS Meeting Agenda for Dec. 18, 2010 printed in the January Nugget as the December minutes – APPROVED*

If there were any changes, be sure the secretary got them and have them printed in the next issue of the Nugget.

**Treasurer's Report:** Closing Balance as of 1/15/2011 \$1988.42

Our 2011 renewal to the Southeast Federation has been sent in, cost \$128.75.

**Field Trips:**

On Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011 there will be a field trip to Alabama for Mississippian fossils. *This is in conjunction with the Alabama Paleontological Society.* We will be collecting in Franklin County (See Nancy's e-mail field trip announcement dated 01/24/11 for additional details) and then in the afternoon at the Hwy 247 road cuts. We will meet at 9:30am at the gas station/convenience store on Hwy24 in Belgreen, AL. This is 17 miles east of Red Bay. (See Nugget, or **hand out.**) *Nancy Roberts provided two (2) sample trays of items that could be found at these sites.*

Ashley Allen of APS is setting up a field trip for Feb. 12, 2011 to one of the Alabama coal mines for Pennsylvanian plant fossils. *Nancy Roberts will email/snail mail announcements when they are finalized.*

**Publicity:** (Reginald Rose)

**Membership:** At the close of 2010, NMGMS had 103 members, 71 adults and 32 youth members. The membership dues for 2011 are due.

**Hospitality:** There is a sign up sheet for hosts/hostesses responsible for refreshments at our upcoming meetings. We hope that everyone will sign up for at least one meeting during the year. We need two volunteers per meeting.

*Floy Hawkins and Nancy Roberts have volunteered for February. More is needed for the rest of the year.*

**Website:** (Robert Shinn)

**Stamps:** If there are any to turn in, give them to Mary Reed or Kathy Westbrook.

**Historian:** (Susan Curry) Susan will be putting together our 2010 scrapbook, so be sure to turn in any photos, newspaper articles or other club memorabilia before our March “birthday” meeting.

**Newsletter:** (Robert Langford) Ted and Anthony Thompson have volunteered to put together safety articles which will appear in the Nugget each month.

### **Old Business:**

1. At the Nov. 20, 2010 meeting, we voted for Mary Reed and Susan Curry to receive scholarships in order to attend one of the Southeast Federation’s (SFMS) Lapidary Workshops in 2011. Mary’s will be paid by the Federation and Susan’s by the club. \*\* (If they are in attendance, give them a big hand for this honor and all of their hard work for NMGMS)

*Mary Reed and Susan Curry thanked the club for awarding them the scholarship to attend the workshop. Mary’s will be paid by the Federation and Susan’s will be paid by the club. Both members are being honored because of their work for the club during the past 10 years.*

*Ted and Anthony Thompson have volunteered to write safety articles each month for the Nugget. The newsletter has been judged in past SFMS contest and this is an item suggested for inclusion. The SFMS newsletter/bulletin contest is on hold until the position as a judge can be filled. Contest entries are not accepted in the American Federation contest unless they have placed in the SFMS contest.*

*The club SFMS membership dues have been paid for 2011 and as a Federation member our club can attend Dixie Mineral Council field trips. Several interesting ones are coming up; a summer one is planned in Oregon. If anyone is interested in a trip west contact Nancy Roberts.*

2. W.C. McDaniels, president and 2011 show chair for Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society (MAGS) said that we could have a table at their April rock and gem show which will be held on April 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>. We will need ideas for displays, posters, etc. for the table and volunteers to man this table during the show. W.C. will be sending me more particulars soon. If you are interested in doing something for this, let me know.

*The show is at the Agra-Center in Memphis. The guest speaker, Terry Panhorst, encouraged the club to participate since the show will be attended by approximately 3000+ people and it is an excellent way to advertise the club. This is the first time the MAGS club has invited our club to attend.*

*Nancy reminded the group of the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show on February, 26 & 27, at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds, Jackson, Ms.  
Hours: Saturday 9AM-6PM; Sunday 10AM-5PM.*

Is there any other old business? None was brought up.

### **New Business:**

1. Last year, we started the Junior Rock Hound of the Year Award, and we had some of our junior members start working on this achievement. I am most confident that we will see some of them complete it this year. To get this award, the junior member has to complete three things: help out at meetings and participate in club activities, write at least one article for the newsletter, and do a short “show and tell” at one of the meetings about their rock/fossil collection, a lapidary project that they have done or some other related topic or project. (See handout for details.)

*Nancy encouraged the adult members to assist the junior members in completing the requirements.*

2. I would like to form a junior member committee. The committee chairperson would help coordinate the club’s youth activities, help with the “Junior Rock Hound of the Year” program and help coordinate between NMGMS and outside

youth groups. The chairman of this committee would be considered the club's youth leader. Do I have a motion? Yes. Second? Yes. All in favor? All opposed? The motion was passed.

*The Federation has added a youth leader category to their club registration form. NMGMS currently does not have a youth committee. The purpose of the committee would be to promote youth activities within the club; oversee the "Junior Rock Hound of the Year" program and organize joint activities and fellowship between NMGMS and related youth clubs or societies dedicated to study in the areas of earth science and related fields and arts. **Motion to form committee – APPROVED***

*The Youth Member Committee chairperson was appointed by the club president Nancy Roberts. Kendal Bullock accepted the appointment as the chairperson of the committee. Bill Hawkins agreed to be the assistant chairperson.*

3. There will be a beading workshop on Saturday Jan. 22, 2011 in the small conference room at the library from noon until 4p.m. (See handout or the Nugget for details.)

*Workshop attendees may bring their own materials and any components they would like to work with and Nancy will be demonstrating lapidary skills.*

4. Linda Lodato and the Starkville Area Art Council have asked the club to teach a beading workshop in Starkville on Saturday, May 14, 2011. This will be a basic introductory, beading project. This workshop will give us the opportunity to introduce our club to the Starkville area community and to also earn a little something for the club's scholarship fund. Several members, who are bead-ers, have already volunteered to help out and any members interested in helping, please let me know. These workshops are always very enjoyable and you'll meet lots of fun and interesting people. We are in the process of working out the particulars for this workshop and will most likely have a separate meeting of all the volunteers to help put together the kits, handouts and lesson plan.

*Nancy Roberts has agreed to teach the beading workshop. A few more volunteers are needed to help out. Any moneys received will go toward the club scholarship fund. Linda suggested having membership forms available for anyone interested in joining our club and samples of beading and wire wrapping work for an advanced workshop next year if this year's response is good...*

5. Bill and Floy Hawkins elected as the 2011 SFMS state directors for Mississippi.

*Published in the January Lodestar*

Is there any other business????

*There was no further business at this time.*

**Reminders:**

THE MISSISSIPPI GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY'S ROCK AND GEM SHOW is on Feb. 26 and 27, 2011 in Jackson MS. at the fairgrounds.

*Some NMGMS members will be attending and assisting with table set up. If any members are interested in setting up displays of fossil collections; rock collections or geology projects let Nancy know and she will make the arrangements.*

MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE'S 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fossil Road Show – Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011- *If any members are interested in setting up displays of fossil collections, let Nancy know and she will make the arrangements. (This announcement was emailed.)*

MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, 2145 Highland Drive, Jackson, Mississippi

Please return the name tags to the basket before you leave.

Motion to Adjourn was made and seconded.

**Introduce the speaker:**

Dr. Terry Panhorst, with the Geology Dept. at the University of Mississippi. Program: Why is it that color?

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**Program January 15<sup>th</sup>: Why is it That Color?**

The NMGMS January meeting was held at the Link Center in Tupelo. Luckily there was no snow and we had a great turnout of members and guests to hear a talk by Dr. Terry Panhorst. Dr. Panhorst is a professor of Geology and Geological Engineering at the University of Mississippi and the subject of his talk was on the causes of coloration in various minerals. The program was extremely interesting and informative. I was surprised to find out that some of our most attractive gemstones are the result of extremely small amounts of impurities introduced into a rather plain looking mineral. In other cases, just a rearrangement of the same atoms in a specimen can produce a drastic change in its appearance. At the conclusion of the talk there was a lively question and answer session. I think I speak for everyone when I thank Dr. Panhorst for an excellent program. (Photos were taken and provided by Jim Roberts.)



Dr. Panhorst's Presentation



Dr. Panhorst Taking Questions



NMGMS Members Listening Carefully.

Submitted by, Jim Roberts, NMGMS Member

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**Next NMGMS Meeting!**

The next meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be held on [Feb. 19, 2011](#) from 1 to 3p.m. at the Lee County Public Library in [Tupelo](#). Our program for this meeting will be a demo and discussion on working with stained glass by NMGMS member Sherrie Cochran. Sherrie will be talking about the equipment and techniques involved when doing a [stained glass project](#). She will also have some "hands-on" stations for those who would like to try a few of the techniques. Sherrie is a renowned local artist with several pieces at the Caron Gallery on Main Street in Tupelo. This will be a very interesting and informative program.

Come and join us!

## Mathew Lambert Takes First Place In Science Fair

Here's a photo of Matthew Lambert, his project board, and trophy. He took first place in the Corinth School District's Science Fair and goes on to the Northeast Division. He did his project on the fossils of the Coon Creek formation. (Photo was provided by Roger Lambert.)



Way to go Matthew!

## The Musings of a Fossil Collector

Not long ago, I was telling my husband Jim, why I was so enthralled with fossil collecting. One of the reasons I gave, was that I am fascinated by the beauty that these natural objects possess. The fine detail that is preserved is astounding; the bumps on a crab claw, the ridges on a brachiopod shell, the compound eyes of a trilobite, the beautiful artistry of an ammonite's suture pattern and so on. Another reason was the awe that I feel when I contemplate the fact that I am looking at preserved evidence that this creature actually lived many eons ago and that I may be the first human to come into contact with this fossil. When I place the specimen in my collecting container, it is in a way giving testimony to the fact that now this creature has lived for a greater scientific purpose.

Amateur fossil collecting does hold an important place in the field of Paleontology, as a vast number of the specimens held by universities and museums around the world once originated in someone's personal collection. The professional sector does not have the same access to time and funds as many private individuals do. So many times, they rely on donated materials for their scientific studies. In knowing this, we amateur collectors have to think about the bigger picture when we are out in the field enjoying our hobby of fossil collecting. We need to conduct ourselves in a

manner that shows that we understand the scientific value of these fossils and that we consider the collecting site as a valuable asset too.

Over time, it has become more and more difficult to obtain access to fossil locales and with the passage of the Omnibus Land Management Act of 2009, it is becoming almost impossible. Some states have even put a stop to collecting on their highway road cuts. So, nearly all collecting is now limited to private properties. On the one hand, this is a sad state of affairs, as once a fossil erodes out of the matrix in which it had resided for eons past, it rapidly deteriorates, disarticulates and eventually decomposes past recognition. The only way in which a fossil is truly saved for posterity is thru collection. On the other hand, one can understand how things have gotten to this state of affairs when we hear about the fierce competition due to “commercial” interests and the “trashing” of sites by heavy volume collecting.

Private property rights are still one of the most treasured of American freedoms and when a property owner grants us permission to collect fossils on their property, they are sharing something with us that they have every right to own and claim as their own. We must consider this permission not only as a great privilege, but also as a responsibility. We collectors need to be considerate of the owner, his property and any restrictions that may have been applied. Just because one individual or organization has permission, doesn't mean the rest of the world has it too. Once we abuse our privilege, we not only will lose the opportunity to do any further collecting there, but we will also jeopardize our chances of being able to collect any where else. Needless to say, a bad reputation travels far and fast.

I have seen and heard where the actions of a few have caused sites to be closed down to any and all future collecting. And too, in today's environment of liability lawsuits, property owners are becoming ever more fearful of having outsiders on the premises. When a rock and mineral club has a club sponsored field trip, normally any quests are required to sign a liability release waiver and the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society has done that too. Some organizations go as far as having all members sign a waiver when they join the club.

Like all collectors, I have wanted to share my enthusiasm and interest for fossils with others, and on occasion have taken friends or family out to a collecting site for an afternoon. Hoping to inspire an interest in fossils or possibly gain a new member for your organization is one thing, but posting a site's location on the Internet can be an invitation for disaster. Just because a locale is well known in the fossil circles, does not imply that it is a “public” place. If others are collecting there without the owner's implicit permission, that is their responsibility. But, if they are collecting there by your invitation, then you in essence are accountable for any consequences. We as an organization have invited other organizations and individuals on our North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (NMGMS) sponsored field trips. If anything happens on these trips, NMGMS is accountable; we carry insurance for those very reasons.

The NMGMS is a rapidly growing organization and has enjoyed a reputation for being a club with a focus on education. We value our club's ability to provide many outstanding field trips and to its being invited by other organizations to participate in their field trips. Through our good reputation, we have access to many sites that we would not otherwise get to visit. If for any reason we should lose this, then our ability to continue to provide our members with a variety of exciting and interesting field trips would come to a halt. We would no longer be able to use field trips as an educational tool for schools and scout groups and we would lose our standing in the community as an outstanding organization.

I would hate to see anything like this ever happen to the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society. I want each and every member to feel proud of this fine organization and to be able to enjoy the benefits of being a member of said. So the next time you are out in the field, remember that not only are you enjoying your hobby, but also that you can be furthering a better understanding of the past history of the environment and creatures that existed at that particular site. Please respect the property and leave something for the next collector.

Submitted By,  
Nancy Roberts,  
NMGMS Field Trip Chair

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### **Fossil Collecting and Where We Stand**

When the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (NMGMS/we) first started out, we were a small organization and only had a few members that were active fossil collectors. We were collecting because we enjoyed being outdoors, loved fossils for their beauty, scientific and educational value, and just enjoyed the camaraderie of a group of people with similar interests.

Today, we have grown in numbers to the extent that we have a lot more members who are interested in fossils and their collection and we have access to more collecting sites than we had early on. Also, the Internet now plays a more major role in our lives than it might have ten years ago. Due to my naivety and lack of foresight, I have been publishing the location of our field trip sites in the Nugget, thus disclosing these locales to other clubs and outsiders. (I won't be doing that any more, as I was told that the Saturday sites were visited ahead of the field trip.) Also with the increase in postings to Internet fossil sites, the interest in and exposure to our sites has increased tremendously.

This has made some of the other organizations with whom we have shared field trips very nervous. We are starting to appear as a club with perhaps more "commercial" interests than just as collectors for our own personal enjoyment. Remember, we are a "not for profit" organization and do not exist for the benefit and enrichment of any one individual.

Many clubs and property owners have been "burned" by having people collect at a site that are "in the business" and destroy a site by over collecting or actual damage to the property. If we are disclosing information about these sites to anyone and everybody, then we will lose access to some of these sites and not be invited on any more joint field trips.

We need to consider these fossil sites a great treasure. When we are granted permission by the property owner to collect on his premises, we must understand that that permission is a privilege not to be abused. The same goes for invitations which we receive from other organizations allowing us to accompany them to one of the sites that they have permission to be on.

So, when dealing with fossils with anyone outside of our organization please use discretion (myself included!). We want to continue to be able to provide the club with the many great field trips that we have enjoyed. It is one of our club's very valuable assets. I work very hard to procure collecting sites for us and to ensure that we have the necessary permission and/or invitation to be there. So, I thank all of you for your cooperation in this matter.

Submitted by,  
Nancy Roberts,  
NMGMS Field Trip Chair

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### **Precious Opal, Mississippi's First Gemstone**

*By: James E. Starnes,  
Geologist, RPG*

MDEQ  
Mississippi Office  
Of Geology

Mississippi has been endowed with extremely rich fossil deposits dispersed throughout much of the exposed geological section. Many of Mississippi's unique geological treasures adorn local personal collections and professional collections in museums as far away as Japan. Though the interest in Mississippi's geology by collectors and scientists is mainly in excellently preserved fossil specimens, many coarse-grained, aggregate-bearing deposits such as the Citronelle and Pre-loess gravels are regularly combed for semi-precious stones such as agate, carnelian, jasper, clear quartz, and fossil palm. Until recently, no precious stones have been reported from Mississippi.

In neighboring Louisiana, small-scale mining of gem-quality opal has been done in the basal Fleming Formation (Catahoula Formation equivalent in Mississippi) of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, near the Texas border for over a hundred years. The vibrantly colored opal cements coarse-grained sand into hard sandstone and quartzite which were fashioned into gemstones and once sold to Tiffany's of New York. Much of the Louisiana Opal on the market today can be credited to recent prospecting by Ben F. Stevens, whose mine is closed at present. ("**Louisiana Opal-The One That Dares To Be Different**" by Ben F. Stevens, 1999)

Recent detailed geological mapping of the Catahoula Formation in Claiborne County by the Mississippi Office of Geology's (Mississippi Geological Survey) Surface Geology Division under a United States Geological Survey (USGS) State map Grant led to the discovery of another precious opal deposit much like the Louisiana locality. The material was first tested for gem quality by the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society's artisans, Janie Hand, Joy Rushing, and Donnie Chandler. The exquisitely crafted stones show brilliant flashes of fire, ranging in color from green to red.

A 7.5 min geological map of the area was published by the Office. Though, no specific details on the location of the outcrop(s) are being divulged to protect it from being raided before it can be completely studied by scientists and accessed by the landowner(s). The site is sensitive, not only because of the precious opal it contains, but also the pre-

historic artifacts that have been found in association with the site. These artifacts include pottery, artifacts made from local chert gravel, and artifacts of Catahoula Quartzite (some of which are opalescent).

Because of the amount of volcanic ash that was deposited in the Catahoula Formation, a number of quartzite bearing exposures can be found along its outcrop belt in central and western Mississippi. Therefore, it is entirely possible that other exposures of the Catahoula Formation, as well as, other quartzite bearing Formations, such as the Hattiesburg and Tallahatta, in Mississippi may contain precious opal deposits that have yet to be discovered.

For more information about the geology of Mississippi contact MDEQ at [www.deq.state.ms.us](http://www.deq.state.ms.us) or call us at (601) 961-5500.

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## **Brad Smith's BENCHTIPS**

### **Modify Tools For Prong Setting**

When setting stones in a prong mount, you should avoid slipping by grinding a groove in the face of your prong pusher or one jaw of your flat-nose pliers. The easiest way to cut the slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to cut the slot on your pliers is with either a Foredom or a Dremel cutoff wheel.

### **Sanding Disks**

One of the flex shaft tools that saves a lot of time is the snap-on sanding disk. I mainly use the medium and fine grits, but sometimes I need the very fine ones sold for working with platinum. Ordinarily, you'd think of placing the disk on the mandrel with the grit side facing away from your hand, but notice that you end up with your elbow up in the air. Instead, try flipping the disk so that the grit side is towards your hand. It's a much more comfortable pose because the elbow is down near your side, and it gives me a better view of what I'm sanding. I use these snap-on disks so frequently that I keep multiple mandrels with different grits already mounted in the bur stand. Some mandrels have the grit facing out and some facing in.

Submitted by, Brad Smith

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at  
[groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/)  
or  
[facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips)

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## **Program Line Up for 2011:**

February: "Working with Stained Glass", workshop presented by NMGMS member, Sherrie Cochran.

March: NMGMS Birthday Celebration! Displays done by club members showing what they have collected, made, or worked on over the past year.

April: \*\*Meeting will be held at the New Albany museum\*\* Program TBA

May: "Micro- Mounting Mineral Specimens" presented by NMGMS members Harvey and Brenda Johnson from MT. Home, AR

June: DVD, "Dinosaur Trackways" from the Dinosaur Museum in Rocky Hill, CT

No meetings for July or August

September: "Making a Chainmail Keychain", workshop presented by NMGMS member Robert Langford

October: Second annual NMGMS picnic and rock swap

November: “How to Make Ming Style Gem Trees”, workshop presented by NMGMS member Nancy Roberts

December: Annual Christmas Party

I will be lining up the 2011 field trip schedule, so if there is a particular field trip you would like to see us do, please mention it. Thanks, Nancy

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### **Useful Web 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](http://www.oceansofkansas.com) (great for Cretaceous fossils)
- 5) [www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com](http://www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com) (Fossils stuff and Fossils Coloring sheets for the Kids)

[http://www.elasmo.com/frameMe.html?file=genera/cretaceous/rhombodus.html&menu=bin/menu\\_genera-alt.html](http://www.elasmo.com/frameMe.html?file=genera/cretaceous/rhombodus.html&menu=bin/menu_genera-alt.html)

<http://www.thefossilforum.com/>

<http://www.fossilgalore.com/Fossils%20Galore%20Fossil%20Database%20and%20Collection.htm>

#### **For Rocks and Minerals:**

- 1) [www.Mindat.org](http://www.Mindat.org)
- 2) [www.minerals.net](http://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.
- 4) [www.sdnhm.org/kid/minerals](http://www.sdnhm.org/kid/minerals)
- 5) [www.fi.edu/fellows/payton/rocks/indexz.html](http://www.fi.edu/fellows/payton/rocks/indexz.html)

#### **Geology Books:**

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

If you should have additional web sources that you would like to contribute, please e-mail The Nugget editor.

**Presented by**

**NMGMS**



### Internet Savvy

In today's world, more and more people are using the internet and electronic messaging. And as you know, the internet is an endless supply of information and knowledge, some good – some bad...just like the intent of people that monitor the internet, some good – some bad. With this in mind, we should keep our personal information usage to a minimum and protect ourselves in every way to prevent identity theft and ensure our security. Man; one wrong person gets your information and you spend the next year fixing bad credit reports, fighting off collectors for a bill that isn't yours to begin with, and heaven forbid the lawsuits. Think of the time and money you would be out trying to correct the issue.

Speaking of the internet, there are numerous ID sites and forums in which photos can be uploaded and fossils can be openly discussed. Some of which we list in our monthly newsletter. These sites can be a valuable resource when used in the proper manner. However, bear in mind, just as we watch and filter what our children access online, we must be aware of what exactly we are disclosing. For instance, the field trip localities we are so thankful to have access to, not only the ones within our immediate area, but those of neighboring clubs that may invite us along from time to time. When we are given access to this privileged information, we should take care to keep it just as it is. Secure! General area (EX. North MS) and Geologic era (EX. Cretaceous) should be enough to ID most fossils by any given expert or educated collector. Not everyone on these sites is there to identify and educate. There may be fossil retailers, site raiders, as well as those with other ill intent.

So, remember that when you post on these sites, not all is private and not everyone has the same idea of collecting that you may have. Our access to the valuable sites we get to visit and collect upon are a privilege and one that the property owner can withdraw as quickly as it was extended.

Happy Collecting,  
Roger Lambert,  
NMGMS Member

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## **NMGMS Field Trip to Vulcan Materials Quarry, Parsons, TN, Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**This is a limited and controlled access site.** As always, the quarry personnel have requested that they be contacted again several days before the 12th to verify that they will be open on that Saturday and can let NMGMS in to collect. So watch your emails, or give me a call prior to the March 12, 2011, and be sure to bring the signed waivers ( for children).

This facility is huge and we have a very large area in which to collect. Be prepared to do some climbing, as some of the tailings piles can be a bit steep. There are plenty of easier collecting spots along the quarry roads where we will be. The Devonian fossils are very abundant here. You can't help but step on them! Large crinoid stems and some calyxes, many brachiopods, bryozoa, several types of coral and quite a few trilobites can be found. No one goes home empty handed!

Plan to meet at the quarry office, the small stone building with the radio antennae on top and inside of the stone entrance, at **7a.m. Saturday morning** to sign in and then be escorted back to the collecting area. The quarry closes at noon, so after a lunch stop at the Hardees® in Parsons, we will go down to the Hwy 69 road cuts near the TN River, where I have collected trilobites and other Silurian/Devonian fossils. If you would like to spend Friday night at the Deerfield Inn in Parsons, the telephone No. is 731-847-4700. Rooms are \$52.99 plus tax per night. There are several campgrounds in the area also.

If you can't make the quarry office exactly at 7a.m., that's okay. I contacted the office personnel and you can come anytime as long as you sign in at the office first and tell them that you are with NMGMS. They will escort you back to the collecting site. You still have to be out by noon. The Vulcan Quarry requires that all under aged children **MUST** have a waiver that is signed by a parent before they will be allowed into the quarry to collect, so be sure to fill out the one provided and bring it with you, if you have children attending this field trip. We all have to sign the quarry waiver when we get there. Call or email me if you plan to go and let me know what time you think you might get there, that way if you are not there by seven, I can let the office personnel know who is yet to come.

See Nancy's e-mail notifications for directions.

Thanks, Nancy Roberts

731-689-5336 H (731-727-5574 Cell) or [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)

P.S. I will have copies of the waiver available at the Feb. 19th meeting and copies of the directions to Parsons, TN

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## **NMGMS Scheduled Lapidary/Beading Workshop**

The next NMGMS Lapidary/Beading workshop will be on **Friday March 4, 2011** in the auditorium at the Lee County Public Library from **11 to 4:30p.m.** (We are having a hard time getting the library for Saturdays) We all thought that it would be a good idea to have the next workshop be "mini" classes, where everyone brings the project of their choice and we work together in little groups. For example, those that want to do [wire wrapping](#) or continue with the copper project can work together and those that want to continue to do seed bead weaving work in another group, etc. If you want to do it all, well make the rounds!!!! But this way, if you want some serious instruction on a particular point, you can get it from the person most knowledgeable. We all have lots of interesting ideas, skills and techniques to share, so bring your favorite tools, books, and supplies and come join the fun! We can eat in this room, so bring your lunch or a snack. If you prefer to eat out, you can either leave and come back or come in any time.

If you are planning on coming or have any questions drop either Floy or myself a line or call.

Thanks, Nancy

[therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) 731-689-5336

or Floy Hawkins

[studiohawkins@gmail.com](mailto:studiohawkins@gmail.com) 662-231-1178

## Beading Workshops are a "Sell Out"!

NMGMS has held 2 workshops so far this year and the attendance has been fantastic. I can't begin to tell you how much we are all learning and how much fun we are having at these workshops, so I will let the comments and photos speak for themselves. What I will say is this; we have a very talented, creative, and fun to be with group getting together, so if you are interested and want to join in the activities, be sure to mark **Friday March 4th on you calendar!**

### **Comments from members who have attended some of these workshops:**

This workshop provided a new window of creativity for me. It was a great opportunity to learn from experienced teachers, Nancy and Floy, and from the other workshop members. **Clarice Turner**

It was nice to have a follow-up workshop on a technique we had learned once before to reinforce what we had done, to finish the original project (if we chose), and to allow those who could not attend the first one to learn this wonderful beading project. These workshops are a fantastic opportunity to learn just a small part of what Nancy and Floy know and it is very gracious of them to share their expertise with us. Thanks so much to both of you for your patience and "giving" nature to let us experience these workshops. **Linda Lodato**

I thoroughly enjoyed the [peyote stitch](#) workshop. I just joined the Gem Society and am a beader and a silver smith. However, I've never worked with seed beads. It took me some time to get the hang of this beadwork, but once I did, I could see a number of applications I can use in my own work. Hats off to Nancy; I look forward to our next event. **Souzen Deavers Steelhammer**

The workshop was great fun, and we really learned so much. It is nice to be with such a great group. I love being able to learn with people who make you feel so comfortable and provide so clear instruction. Thanks Nancy and Floy!!!! **Beth Wells-Parker**



Floy Hawkins giving a demo.



Cheryle Langford giving a demo.



Brittani Lambert hard at work!



Kim and Bridgitt Southworth



Dana and Remy Jones



Nikki Kenney, Tabitha and Brittani Lambert



Beth Parker and Clarice Turner

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**UP COMING EVENTS:**

**MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fossil Road Show –  
Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

I want to thank all of you who have participated in our **Fossil Road Shows** of the past and extend again an invitation to come out and enjoy the fun!

If you've never been, this is a day venue (10:AM – 3:30) for fossil collectors—*novice* and *expert* alike—and their families to bring out their fossil discoveries and show them off to others, as well as to get unidentified specimens *identified* by our panel of invited paleontologists and outside institutional professionals. We'll also have activities for kids, special displays, and our latest traveling exhibit from NHM (London) and Minotaur Mazes—[Amazing Butterflies](#)—will be here (see attached).

Admission, which unfortunately goes up in March, will be \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children/teens 3-18 (see admission changes below). However, institutions and civic organizations who participate in the Fossil Road Show by reserving a table(s) ahead of time will get in **FREE**. So, Ole Miss, Miss. State, MDAH, MGMS, etc. will not be charged (up to 3 persons per institution). Also, any geologists and/or paleontologists offering to assist as fossil experts will get in FREE as well. Please inquire with yours truly for details!

And don't forget about the brand new [Mississippi Children's Museum](#) that opened right next door to us over the holidays! (\$8.00 flat rate per person)

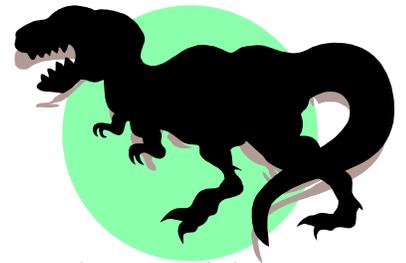
Hope to see all of you soon! George Phillips

## Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society

Announces it's 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual

Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show  
State Fairgrounds  
Jackson, Mississippi  
Trade Mart Building

Saturday, February 26, 9 am – 6 pm  
Sunday, February 27, 10 am – 5 pm  
Adults \$5.00 \* Students \$3.00



24 Dealers of Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, Beads, Lapidary  
Tools and More  
MGMS Demonstrations of all Lapidary Art including  
Cabochon Cutting, Faceting, Flint Knapping, Wire  
Wrapping, and much more.

Junior Demonstration Table - Exhibits – Touch and See  
Colleges and Groups

*<http://missgems.org>*



**North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society  
2011 Meeting Schedule**

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

Hostesses/Hosts: Floy Hawkins and Nancy Roberts  
Lee County Public Library  
Program: Working with Stained Glass  
Presented by Sherrie Cochran

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

Hostesses/Hosts: Bob Reinhaus and John Byzet  
Lee County Public Library  
Program: Happy Birthday NMGMS!  
Displays, show and tells and a “brown bag” auction

Sat. April 16, Time 1 to 3p.m.

Union County Heritage Museum

Sat. May 21, Time 1 to 3p.m.

Hostesses/Hosts: TBA  
Lee County Public Library  
Program: Micromounting Mineral Specimens  
Presented by Brenda and Harvey Johnson

**Directions**

**Directions to Link Center**

Take East Main Street to Madison St. (near United Methodist Church); turn North; go two blocks to the corner of Madison & Jefferson St. Library is there. **Or** from Gloster Street turn east onto Jefferson St. until you get to Madison St.

**Rockhound Shows**

