

NMGMS  
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#### Next Meeting

Saturday, January 16, 2010  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Location: Lee County Library  
Program: Painting on Rocks  
See Page 5 for directions.

## Notes from the President's Desk

The North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society (NMGMS) is looking at the close of a very good year for the organization. We added some new members, had lots of good programs and field trips, awarded two scholarships to the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts and wound the year down to a great finale by doing a superb job on a float for the Tupelo Christmas Parade and taking second place in the non-profit category. Way to go NMGMS! Many thanks go to those of you who worked hard to make 2009 such a great year and kudos to all of the officers and committee chairpersons who dedicated their time and efforts to the support of the club. I and all of NMGMS thank you for your dedication and hard work.

As the 2010 officers and chairpersons take on their new responsibilities, I hope that all of the club's members will continue to pitch in and give of their time and talents, which is so necessary to keeping our organization the active, vital, exciting, learning, growing and fun group that it is. I am looking forward to another fantastic year and I hope that you all are too.

Respectfully,  
Nancy Roberts

## Safety Tips:

While sampling at most mines, it will be required that each member wear level 1 personal protective equipment (PPE-1). PPE-1 should include hard hat, steel toed safety boots, long pants, long shirt, safety goggles. There

will be few exceptions as the mines operate under their Site Specific Health & Safety Plan (HASP) and larger operations take their HASP very seriously.

While inspecting outcrops along highways, set out safety cones 50 feet before and after the parked vehicles, to allow traffic to slow in the area where you are parked. It is also appropriate to wear traffic safety vests and hard hats.

Respectfully,  
Robert A. Langford, RPG

## Program: Painting on Rocks

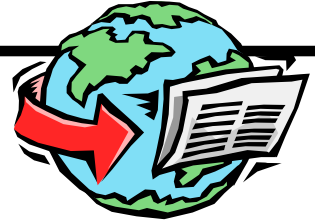
On Jan. 16th, NMGMS will be painting on rocks. We will start our program with a discussion of the pictographs found in the caverns of Lascaux, France in 1940. Please feel free to bring your own cleaned rocks and any pictures that you would like to put on your rock. If you don't have a rock to paint, NMGMS will provide the rock. We will also provide pictures, paints and instructions and how to proceed with the painting. We will be using acrylic paints so bring your enthusiasm & painting outfits.

Respectfully,  
Floy Hawkins



NMGMS kids decorating prize-winning float.

# News Briefs



## WE LOVE A PARADE.

Jim and I went down to Bill and Floy Hawkins' house on the Friday afternoon before the Tupelo Christmas parade in order to help put the finishing touches on the club's float. Along with Bill and Floy and Kim Tudor, a good friend of theirs, we managed to get the sign on the front of the truck, the rocks painted onto the truck's sides, sticky tape onto all of the letters that Annette Kelly had cut out and finish up the Boy Scout Geology merit badge signs. Luckily, the Tybors, Langfords and Southworths had come by over the Thanksgiving holiday and worked on the main part of the float, so that was pretty much finished.



The finished Parade Truck with Boy Scout Geology Merit Badge.

Saturday morning, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, was rather frigid for early December, so we had to layer on heavy clothes and still manage to look like miners and rock hounds. Bill carefully maneuvered the float over to the Bancorp South Center without too much jostling around; we were worried that the Christmas tree might fall over. The Langford family was already there and we all worked on getting the last few things finished. We got all of the wording onto the truck and filled the buckets with the rock and mineral specimens to be handed out during the parade. It was really hard to get those letters on because our hands were so cold that our fingers could hardly function. Some of the kids got in the back of the truck to keep warm.

The judging took place around 9:15a.m. The judges seemed to be very interested in the rock and crystal ornaments on the tree and the simulated rock sides of the trailer that everyone worked so hard on. Those of us participating had on hats and bandannas and we had a few rock hammers and picks too. As the parade started up and we began to move off of the parking lot, we noticed that three girls carrying a large banner had been placed in front of us. They marched there through the whole parade and we



Left to Right: Victoria Langford, Hannah Tybor, and Nancy Roberts

were three quarters of the way through the parade before we found out that the banner stated that our float had taken second place in the non-profit division. NMGMS received \$75 dollars for this honor!

Bill Hawkins drove the truck during the parade and Floy, also in the truck, held a Christmas tree figurine that played "Rock around the Christmas Tree". Victoria Langford rode on the float sitting upon Rock, the dinosaur, while Jim and I, along with Robert, Cheryle and Robin Langford, Hannah and Steve Tybor and Kim and Bridget Southworth were dressed as miners and we walked along beside the float, handing out rocks to the children sitting on the curb. Often times, we all had to run to catch up to the float, as the parade moved along faster than we thought it would. We spent more time waiting to start the parade than the parade itself took to complete. Needless to say, we couldn't hand out a rock to all of the kids as there were so many! But we handed out an awful lot that day and it was

fun to see the excitement on the kids' faces when they saw the shiny rocks we were passing out.

By the time we turned the corner and were finished marching, all of us were ready to head for the Hawkins' and warm up. Bill and Floy had invited all of the participants back for a bowl of hot chili and this was immensely enjoyed on such a chilly December day. I think that all of us who worked on the float and who did the parade had a great time. This was a club activity that provided a marvelous

opportunity for family participation and it was great to have all of us working together on a project and having fun at the same time. We also received several phone calls afterwards from spectators that wanted more information about our organization. So all in all, it was well worth the time and effort to do this and thanks to all of you who made it so!

**By Nancy Roberts**

## NMGMS 2009

Poem By Floy Hawkins

January, February, March, April, May and June,  
2009,  
All came and went in such a short time!  
There was lots of interest during the first six months,  
Meetings, programs, workshops & many rock hunts!  
July and August found us taking a break,  
We were traveling or just staying inside for goodness sake!  
The hot, humid days are not fun to find,  
Rocks or fossils of any kind!  
It was good to see the summer go and the fall to appear,  
Functions came toward us at this time of the year!  
Our September meeting was to get our feet wet,  
Trying to do our very best to get the rest of '09 set!  
October was our annual picnic at Choctaw Lake,  
We all had lots of good food to partake!  
Decision was made to enter Tupelo's Annual Christmas Parade,  
Our theme was set and our plans were made!  
Rock around the Christmas tree was our theme,  
For our club's float in the annual parade to be seen!  
Our second place finish was in the non-profit group,  
While riding behind a marching Boy Scout Troup!  
Our gem and mineral club's holiday party the Hawkins held inside,  
For it was really too cold to picnic and eat outside!  
Food, conversation & gifts for our Christmas celebration,  
We all enjoyed with extreme elation!  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

Poem By Floy Hawkins

**NMGMS's Next Field Trip to the Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, TN on Saturday, Jan. 30th.**

This is the first field trip of the New Year and the Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, TN is one place where we can safely collect during hunting season. 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, 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 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 number is 731-847-4700. Rooms are \$52.99 plus tax per night.

If you can't make the quarry office by 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. 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.

Thanks,  
Nancy Roberts 731-689-5336 or  
[therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)

P.S. I or someone from NMGMS will have extra copies of the waiver available at the Jan. meeting.

### Directions to Parsons. TN:

From Tupelo

Take Hwy 45N heading to Jackson TN. About 13miles N of Selmer TN at Henderson, you will come to a 4 way stop where Hwy 100 crosses Hwy 45 (this is now a traffic light). Turn right (head east) onto Hwy 100. Take Hwy 100 to Hwy 69 in Decaturville (approx. 30 miles). Turn North (left) onto Hwy 69, heading to Parsons, TN. The quarry is on the right side of Hwy 69 north of Parsons, approx 3 miles N of the Hwy 69 /412 intersection in the town, or about 2 miles N of the Deerfield Inn. (You will see a lot of dump trucks entering the quarry.) Report to the office to sign-in.

Directions from Pickwick TN: Take Hwy 128 over the Pickwick Dam, heading toward Savannah. Before you get to Savannah, turn right onto Hwy 226, take this Hwy to a "T" stop at Hwy 64. Turn right onto Hwy 64, heading east. Shortly after you pass the Savannah Vulcan quarry, turn left onto Hwy 128 N. Take this to a "T" stop at Hwy 114. Turn left onto 114. This takes you over the TN River Bridge. Stay on this Hwy114/69. About a mile or two after the bridge, Hwy114 goes off to the left DON'T TURN stay straight (this is now Hwy 69N) Take this all the way to Parsons and the quarry. Parsons is approximately 20 miles north of the TN River Bridge.

Optional Directions from Tupelo: Take Hwy 45N to Corinth. Turn onto Hwy 72E and go to Hwy 25 in Iuka. Take Hwy 25N all the way to Hwy 57 in Counce and at the stop sign there, turn right, go over the dam and then follow the directions from Pickwick to Parsons.

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### Beading Workshop!

Notice to all members: Floy Hawkins and Nancy Roberts will be holding a beading workshop on Saturday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> from 10a.m. until 3p.m. This will be held at Floy's home at 606 S. Church St., Tupelo, MS. We will be working on projects that will introduce you to several seed beading stitches such as the brick, ladder, herringbone and peyote. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Also, bring any tools you already have, beading thread and needles (if you have

them), and any beads that you would like to work with. We will have some supplies and tools on hand. If you are interested and plan to attend, please RSVP Floy Hawkins 662-231-1178, or [studiohawkins@gmail.com](mailto:studiohawkins@gmail.com).

This will be a fun, relaxed workshop, where you will get a chance to try your hand at seed beading and see some of the exciting jewelry that you will be able to create using these techniques.

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### Door Prizes, 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!

### Letter from the old editor

#### The club's newsletter welcomes new editor

NMGMS members,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as the club's newsletter editor the last eight years. We've come a long way as a new rockhound club in these years, and I've made many new friends I probably wouldn't have met otherwise.

The most exciting things I've done as a club member were attending the Southeastern Federation Mineralogical Societies Show in Roanoke, VA and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show in Roswell, NM. Both trips were in conjunction to winning awards for *The Nugget*.

However after eight years and three computers and computer problems, I am looking forward to the monthly break from the publication.

At this time, I would like to welcome Lilly Langford to the position of editor. I thank her for volunteering, I wish her the best in this new venture, and I look forward to her new fresh ideas in carrying on the publication.

Sandy Grych  
Former editor, *The Nugget*

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society  
2010 Meeting Schedule

**Sat., Jan. 16 Time 1 to 3 p.m.**

**Program:** Painting on Rocks  
**Hostesses/Hosts:** Susan Curry,  
Nancy Roberts, & Cheryle Langford  
**Location:** Lee County Library

**Sat., Jan. 30 Time 1 to 3 p.m.**

**Field Trip:** Vulcan Quarry,  
Parsons TN  
(See Above)

**Sat., Feb. 13 Time 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Program:** Beading Workshop  
Hostesses/Hosts?  
**Location:** Lee County Library

**Sat., Feb. 20 Time 1 to 3 p.m.**

Hostesses/Hosts?  
**Location:** Lee County Library  
Program: Pending

**Sat., March 20 Time 1 to 3 p.m.**

Hostesses/Hosts?  
Lee County Library  
Program: Pending

**Sat., April 17 Time 1 to 3 p.m.**

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

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

## Around the Country

### Rockhound Shows



**January 15-17, 2010, Largo, Florida-Pinellas Geological Society.** 34th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale, Largo Cultural Center, Parkside Room, 105 Central Park Drive. Hours: 15th & 16th, 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.; 17th, 12:00 Noon-5:00 p.m. Contact: Hugh Sheffield at Telephone: 727.894.8440, Cell: 727.707.3236, or 2440 Southshore Dr. SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33705.

**January 16-17, 2010, Deland, Florida, Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society.** 39th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Minerals and Fossils Show and Sale, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Building, State Route 44 (1 mile east of I-4, Exit 118). Hours: 16th, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; 17th, 10:00 a.m.--5:00 p.m. Contact: 386.226.4032 or [fndesign@aol.com](mailto:fndesign@aol.com).

**January 30-31, 2010, Panama City, FL, Panama City Gem & Mineral Society.** 19th Annual Show, Bay County Fairgrounds, American Legion Hall, U.S. 98 & Sherman Ave. Hours: 30th, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; 31st, 9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Contact: Ruth Alldredge at 850.784.0740

Reprinted from the *Lodestar* & the SFMS website

**February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Jackson, MS, MGMS Gem and Mineral Show** in the Trademart Building at the Fairgrounds at Jackson, Mississippi

## The Nugget

### NMGMS Newsletter

c/o Robert A. Langford, Editor  
121 Willow Creek Road  
Saltillo, Mississippi 38866

### Directions

#### Directions to Lee County Library

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 on to Jefferson St. until you get to Madison St.