

NMGMS
P. O. Box 1445
Tupelo, MS 38802
 Website: <http://nmgms.brigidsforge.com>

2010 NMGMS Officers

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Stamps Chair,
 Kathy Westbrook
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 (662) 324-1601

Next Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011 1 - 3 p.m.
 Location: Links Center, Choir room, Suite 105
 Program: "Why is it that color?" Program by Dr. Terry Panhorst

See the last Page for directions.

Notes: From the President's Desk for January 2011

I trust that everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends; I certainly did! It was also nice to see the snow falling on Christmas Day and the day after, but I am glad that the sun is out now and the snow has gone. So now it is time to put away the decorations and to start thinking about all of those New Year's resolutions that we made.

Besides the usual ones, like losing some weight, cleaning out the clutter and getting some of my unfinished projects done, I also made a few involving our fantastic club.

One of these resolutions is to get our youth members more involved and to provide more activities for all members at our meetings. I would like to see us have more member displays at each meeting and more "show and tell" sessions. We all like to see what other members are doing, be it field collecting, lapidary work or some other interesting project. The best way to learn more about all of the facets of our rock and mineral club is from each other. At the close of 2010, NMGMS had 32 junior members registered and I hope that we will continue to add to this number.

If we continue to hold a rock swap at our club's annual picnic, perhaps this year we will add a fossil dig, the "Fishing Game" or some other fun activity that can be enjoyed by the young and old alike.

Another possibility is to search the Internet for printable games that are rock, mineral and fossil related, such as crossword puzzles, word searches and others. Let's all "dig" around and see what we can come up with.

In order to help us facilitate our youth activities better, I would like NMGMS to consider forming a junior member committee and having this committee's chairperson be our club's youth leader. The Southeast Federation now has a slot for a youth leader chairmanship on their renewal forms, so this is something I think we should pursue.

So let's all roll up our sleeves, dig in and tackle those resolutions and help make 2011 one of our organizations very best!

Respectfully,
Nancy Roberts
President NMGMS

Officers Elect. For 2011:

President: Nancy Roberts
 Vice Pres.: Ted Thompson
 Secretary: Belinda Loyd
 Treasurer: John Byzet

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter Editor: Robert Langford
 Webmaster: Robert Shinn
 Field Trips: Nancy Roberts
 Historian: Susan Curry
 Membership: Floy Hawkins
 Hospitality: Robin Langford
 Public Relations: Reginald Rose
 Stamps: Kathy Westbrook

Also serving on the committees:

Brittani Lambert: Hospitality
 Bernice Burkeen: Field trips
 Robert Langford: Field trips

John Byzet: Website
Floy Hawkins: 2010 Yearbook
Annette Kelly: 2010 Yearbook

Any NMGMS member may serve on a committee. If you are interested in helping out with any of the committees, please contact the chairperson or any of the club officers. Don't be

afraid to step up; the more involved you are in an organization, the more you'll learn and the more fun and enjoyment you'll get in return!

NMGMS Meeting Agenda for Dec. 18, 2010

A very brief meeting was held at the end of the Christmas festivities on Dec. 18, 2010. Nancy Roberts mentioned that the new officers would be inducted at the January 15, 2011, meeting. She reminded everyone that this meeting would be held at the Link Center in the choir room, which was the same room that the party was in and that the speaker for that meeting would be Dr. Terry Panhorst of Ole Miss. Several possible field trips for 2011 were mentioned and Robert Langford then gave a brief account of his on going mapping project of Walker Springs Cave near Clifton, Tennessee. Robert invited NMGMS members to participate, if interested. Jim Roberts took a group picture of the party attendees and then everyone pitched in to help with the clean up.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Ongoing: 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!

Robin Langford

Ongoing: 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. Please get all of your friends and relatives saving too. Hey, even your place of business. So, get out those scissors and start today!

Display for January Meeting!

Hear ye, hear ye! Let's ring in the New Year with lots of color!

Since the topic of our January program is about color and why minerals are the colors that we see, let's dig around in our collections and see how many different colored rocks and minerals we can find and bring them to the January 15, 2011 meeting for a display. Let's see who can come up with the most unusually colored specimen! Got anything chartreuse or puce?

Next Beading Workshop!

Attention all beaders! Now that the holidays are behind us, it is time to get back into the groove and get creative. Now is your chance to start using all of those pretty little beads that Santa tucked into your Christmas stockings!! We have the small conference room at the Lee County Public Library reserved for Saturday Jan. 22, 2011 from noon until 4. We can't eat in this room, so be sure to have already had your lunch before hand. We can have a bottle of water with us.

You can bring any on going projects that you wish to work on or share with the rest of us. If you would like to start a new project or learn the peyote stitch, I will be demonstrating a peyote tube earring with fringe. Bring any beads that you have and wish to work with. Recommended supplies for the earrings project: Fireline 6lb. thread, #10 needle, size 11/0 and 8/0 seed beads in coordinating colors and any additional beads such as crystals or bugle beads for the fringe. If you have Japanese Delica beads (size11), these work very well too. If you are new to beading and would like to learn, please feel free to come along and join in. We always have a few extra beads and supplies that you can use.

Please, RSVP as soon as possible, so we can be sure this room will accommodate everyone who plans to attend.
Thanks, Nancy

P.S. any questions, feel free to email or call therockhoundlady@yahoo.com 731-689-5336

Dec. 11th field trip to Blue Springs...

Even though it was raining when we left for Blue Springs, we still had a good field trip. The rain plus several freezes had washed a lot of new crabs and other fossils out of the gray hillside there at the Union County crab site. It rained on and off nearly all morning. Some of us got there at 9 so we got a bit wet! Hey, that never stopped a serious collector! The wet ground made the darker fossils stand out against the gray sand. It stopped raining about 11 and the sun tried to come out, but it was getting cold and windy by then. Most of us didn't stay real long, as we wanted to get home before the T-storms later that evening. Jim and I left at noon and several others stayed awhile longer. Bruce Relihan from APS came and he found some shark teeth and he thinks a Mosasaurus tooth.

We all found some nice crabs and a few lobsters. Roger Lambert's son Matthew found a really nice notopocorystes (frog crab). I found some nice crabs and gave them to the Thompson family so they could see what to look for. Robert even believes that he has identified coprolites this trip. Everything was a bit muddy, so it was hard to tell what you had until you could clean it off! I did get some shark teeth, one shark vertebra, and one fish vertebra. I also found a small piece of a Belemite. Believe it or not, John Young (owner of the property) came by for a few minutes! He was glad that we were still making use of the site and finding some nice things.

Considering the kind of day that it was, I thought we had a pretty good turnout and a fairly nice number of specimens. Kendal Bullock and Ryan came, as did Robert Langford, Robin and Victoria. Bernice Burkeen and the Lambert family were there too. Can't wait to go again, but hopefully not in the rain!

Nancy

The Holidays Were HERE!

The NMGMS annual Christmas Party was held on December 18, 2010, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Link Center, which is located at 1800 W. Main Street, Tupelo, Mississippi. It was a time to partake of Hams, Turkeys, Pumpkin Pies, Christmas trees, and Holiday Lights.

The old choir room was filled with food, fun, and gifts. Members brought canned goods or other nonperishable food items for our club's contribution to a local food pantry for the needy.

A "Merry Christmas" was had by all!

Pres. Nancy Roberts, MNGMS



Lots-of-Food



Presents Under-The-Tree



Yes that's Nancy Roberts. Who gave her the weapon??



Ted Thompson and Brittani Lambert...just what he wanted!



Robert Langford, "Wow this would be great in a Cave!"



Jena Bramlett and Christy Criss admiring the Dinosaur puzzle!



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the NMGMS

NMGMS Special Projects

Cleanup and Mapping of Walker Springs Cave

During November, NMGMS began a new program of long term geology related educational projects. The first of these projects is the cleanup and mapping of the Walker Spring Caves located south of Clifton, Tennessee. This cave was first mapped back in the 1950's and was first visited by this author in 1973. NMGMS conducted its initial reconnaissance (IR) of the cave on November 13, 2010, and a follow up trip was conducted on December 28, 2010.

During the IR Trip, the property owner acted as our guide. I am personally glad that he accompanied us on this trip. We visited several areas within the cave, three of which were of great interest. Firstly, we saw one room that had a lot of stalactites and stalagmites; secondly, we were able to test out the rear exit to the cave; and thirdly we were shown the Pit. We did not have the right equipment with us to explore the Pit. We were able to identify a trash and graffiti problem in the cave. In discussions with the property owner we proposed to clean up the cave in return for the privilege of visiting and mapping this cave. He agreed to our proposal.

The Boy Scouts of Harrisburg Baptist Church were contacted and asked if they could volunteer to help clean up the cave. They were eager. Nine Scouts over the age of 15 and three leaders volunteered to help. Scheduling is in progress at this time.

During Trip 2, our guide was not available. We visited the previous points of interest. This time we were prepared for the Pit. I descended into the Pit using the existing old ladder with safety line and Numar® ascenders. The Pit is approximately 30 feet in depth and a tunnel is present at the bottom. This tunnel is approximately 200 feet in length, but it does not appear to be connected to other tunnels; however, the tunnel at both ends is filled and blocked with clay. Additionally, we collected our first big bag of trash and removed it from the cave. Most of the trash was recycled.



Figure 1*: View Showing the Spring Water Exiting From the Walker Springs Cavern System



Figure 2*: View showing the Upper Cave Level entrance



Figure 3*: View showing the entrance leading to the Pit



Figure 4*: View showing the Upper Cave Level at The Pit



Figure 5a*: View Showing Lunch Area From the Walker Springs Cavern System



Figure 5b*: View Showing Lunch Area



Figure 6*: View Showing Break Down Crossing



Figure 7*: View Showing Typical Crawl Tunnel

IR Trip Crew: Robert & Robin Langford and Jim & Nancy Roberts.

Trip 2 Crew: Robert, Robin, & Victoria Langford and Jim & Nancy Roberts.

Note: * The Walker Springs Cavern System Photographs were taken and provided by Jim Roberts of Counts, TN.

Respectfully,

Robert A.. Langford, TN RPG

Attention NMGMS!

[Be sure to mark January 15, 2011 on your calendar.](#)

This will be our first meeting of the new year and it promises to be a good one. Our program for this meeting is being given by Dr. Terry Panhorst from the Geology department at the University of Mississippi and he will be giving his talk "Why is it that Color" which he presented at the MAGS rock and mineral show last April. I have heard that this is an excellent and informative discussion on mineral colors. Don't miss it!

The Jan. 15, 2011 meeting will be held at the Link Center, 1800 W. Main St., Tupelo in the Choir Room, suite 105, from 1 to 3p.m. Parking lot on the corner of Main and Douglas is the closest to the meeting room. Feel free to bring along a rock or mineral specimen that you would like to have identified.

Program Line Up for 2011:

January: "Why is it that color?" Discussion on how minerals get their color, presented by Dr. Terry Panhorst, Ph.D. Asst. Prof., Dept. of Geology, Univ. of MS. ****This meeting will be held at the LINK Center 1800W. Main St. Tupelo, MS ****

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

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 (great for Cretaceous fossils)
- 5) 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.thefossilforum.com/>

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

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.
- 4) www.sdnhm.org/kid/minerals
- 5) www.fi.edu/fellows/payton/rocks/indexz.html

Geology Books:

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

Submitted by Robert Langford, Nancy Roberts, and Kendal Bullock

Notice for NMGMS Jan. 29, 2011 Field Trip to ALABAMA

The first NMGMS field trip for 2011 will be on **Saturday Jan. 29th**. We will be collecting Mississippian fossils such as bryozoans, crinoids, blastoids and corals. Commonly found are: Archimedes bryozoa, Pentremites blastoids, along with horn corals, brachiopods and some trilobites.

We will meet at the gas station/convenience store in Belgreen, AL on Hwy 24 approximately 17 miles east of Red Bay, AL. at 9:30 a.m.

For directions, see Nancy Roberts e-mail dated January 6, 2011.

We will be meeting up with members of the Alabama Paleontological Society and caravan the two (2) collecting sites.

Nancy Roberts therockhoundlady@yahoo.com
H: 731-689-5336

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

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

Hostesses/Hosts: Ted Thompson and Kendal Bullock
Location: The Link Center,
1800 W Main ST., Tupelo, MS
Choir Room, Suite 105
Program: Dr. Terry Panhorst
“Why is it that color?”

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.

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

Sat. June 18, Time 1 to 3p.m.

Around the Country

Rockhound Shows



The Nugget

NMGMS Newsletter

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

Directions

Directions to Link Center

The Link Center is located at 1800 West Main Street. From the intersection of Main and Gloster Streets go West until you reach Douglas Street, then turn to the right; you are there.

**North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society
Affiliated with the
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.**

Application for Membership: ___\$10/yr(ind) ___\$15/yr(family)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email: _____

Interests: minerals___ fossils___ field trips___ beading___ cabbing___

 faceting___ wire wrapping___ dichroic glass___ PMC___ soldering___

 silver jewelry___ chain making___ other_____

Talents, field of expertise, or hobbies: _____

If applying for a family membership: Name

Spouse: _____

Children: _____

Make checks payable to: NMGMS (North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society)

Mail to: NMGMS attn. Treasurer, P.O. Box 1445, Tupelo, MS 38802

Sign: _____ Date: _____

Treasurer: Date pd _____ cash___ check# _____ amt. _____