

NMGMS

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President's Desk**

I am writing this while riding in our truck with Jim and his mom, as we are all on our way to Vermont. As I was packing and getting ready for this trip, I was also working on club related emails and notices for the next issue of the Nugget. I got to thinking about how great our Nugget is and how important it is to our society.

An organization's newsletter is its main line of communication. The newsletter's main function of course is to notify members of all upcoming events and other club activities, but it also can be a great resource tool. Many rock club newsletters contain articles on field trip or workshop safety, mineral and fossil identification, cleaning and displaying, on subjects relating to geology, geomorphology or paleontology and many other areas of interest to its readers.

I receive copies of four other newsletters besides the Nugget and I always enjoy reading them. I especially find it interesting to see what other clubs are doing for programs and how they are tackling the challenges that all societies face, such as fund raising and attracting new members. Many times I read something and say to myself "Now that's a good idea!"

Sandra Grych worked very hard for 8 years, putting together the NMGMS newsletter the Nugget and Robert Langford has done a great job since he took over as editor this past January. I appreciate the efforts of all of the newsletter editors and I sincerely hope that you do too. In order to help make the editor's job somewhat easier, we all need to contribute articles, notices, photos or even just submit a few lines on a

favorite website, project idea, tool or book.

Robert Langford mentioned this good idea to me awhile back; he said that if we all would keep a journal when we are on a field trip or at a workshop, gem show or whatever, then we could very easily write up a few lines about our "rock" related activity and post these to him for printing in the Nugget. So, while ya'll are out rock collecting this summer or whatever you are up to, jot down a few lines about your activity and send them in to our Nugget editor. We would all enjoy hearing from you and I am sure we all could gain from your experiences.

So, when I receive my electronic copy of the Nugget, I pass it on to all of the other newsletter editors on my contact list and to other people who have expressed an interest in our organization. Many rock clubs post their newsletters on their websites and Robert Shinn has been doing that with the Nugget too. So please take the time to read the Nugget when it comes and pass it on to others that you feel would enjoy reading about us and our activities. Also, avail yourself, if you have Internet access, of the opportunity to go on-line and read some of the other rock club newsletters, as well as those of the federations. They are all excellent sources of information on all of our club's areas of interest, not to mention keeping us informed of new rules and regulations, lapidary school classes, field trips and much, much more. All newsletter editors work very hard to publish these important communication tools, so show your support by reading the newsletters that you get and passing them on to others for their enjoyment. Happy Reading!

**Respectfully,
Nancy Roberts
President NMGMS**

Next MeetingSaturday, June 19, 2010
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Lee County Library
Program: "Leonardo the Dinosaur/DVD"
See the last Page for directions.

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!

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. 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 May 15, 2010 Meeting

Since the polymer clay items needed to bake for at least 30 minutes, it was decided to have the program first and to hold the meeting along with the refreshments after the program. It was announced that the Langfords and Southworths were doing the refreshments at the June meeting. President Nancy Roberts said that the Byzets were scheduled to do the September meeting and that we needed one more volunteer for that month. Annette Kelly said that she would help out with the refreshments for the September meeting.

The upcoming field trips were discussed. Robert Langford said that he would chair a club field trip to the Twenty Mile Creek Monument site for shark teeth on June 5th. Nancy Roberts asked if Bernice Burkeen would be willing to chair a trip in September to the Trebloc lime quarry and Bernice said that she would check her work schedule to see which weekend she had available. Nancy passed out a few announcements for a DMC trip on June 19th to an area near Monteagle, TN for Pennsylvanian/Mississippian fossils. She also said that we have set up a trip with the Memphis and Jackson clubs to the Memphis Stone and Gravel facility in Senatobia, MS on October 2nd, for agates, petrified wood and chert fossils.

Nancy reviewed the upcoming meetings and programs. The June 19th meeting will be at the library with a "Leonardo the Dinosaur" DVD as the program. There are no meetings in July and August and the September meeting will be at the library, with the program being "Basic Mineral Identification" by Robert Langford.

Floy Hawkins said that she had the addendum to the membership roster available, plus additional copies of the original roster and new membership packets for anyone who needed them. Mary Reed had the club's new brochures which had been printed up and these were handed out to members to post or pass out.

Nancy Roberts announced that the club's picnic and rock swap would be held on October 30th at the west pavilion at Ballard Park in Tupelo, MS from 11:00 a.m. until dark. She told members to bring whatever they wanted to swap and that they could bring some things to sell, but she didn't want it to look like a flea market, as this park is in town. Nancy showed the club members a banner which Floy Hawkins had purchased for herself from Vista.com. The cost for this nice vinyl banner was \$10, so the club members voted to have one made up for NMGMS.

Next was discussed having members donate a few really nice items for an auction to be held at the club's picnic/rock swap in October. Some suggestions made were: a nice slab of petrified wood, a nice piece of lapidary work, an unusual fossil, rock or crystal that not everyone would already have in their collection, a book or a tool.

Nancy mentioned that she receives copies of other club's newsletters and that some of them have instigated the idea of selling advertising space in the newsletter. Some charge \$3 for a member to advertise and \$5 for a nonmember. Members could have copies of their business cards printed up as the advertisement. This idea was tabled for further discussion.

Floy announced that the club had some new members, the family of Ted Thompson, with Ted and his son Anthony present at the meeting. She also asked that everyone please return their new name tags to the basket before leaving. Kathy Westbrook took whatever stamps the members had brought in and took a big box of stamps home with her that Rena Everett had been working on.

Nancy Roberts told the club that she had successfully filed the IRS "e" postcard/form 990-N and it had been accepted, so NMGMS was now square with the IRS! She gave the treasurer's report of \$1,678.23 in the bank account. Nancy also thanked all of the club members who helped out at the May 8th field trip for the Cub Scouts. She stated that it was a great field trip, a lot of fun and that the scouts and their parents were such interested and enthusiastic fossil collectors. They were a great bunch of folks to have on a trip. Kendal Bullock told the club that he had gotten a lot of phone calls from the parents thanking NMGMS for hosting the trip and that they had such a great time, they all want to do another one! Nancy asked if there was any other business. Being none, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned.

**Submitted by Nancy Roberts,
as Secretary Kim Southworth could not be present.**

Parsons Tennessee, One of my Favorite Places for Fossils

We fossil hunters were finally handed a great weekend weather wise (Blue Sky Conditions) for our field trip to the Vulcan quarry in Parsons, TN on April 10, 2010. I think that lots of fellow rock hounds were itching, as I was, to have a chance to collect at this marvelous locale. There was such a great turn out; 29 people were in attendance. They came from Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama. WOW! That alone attests to how popular this quarry is with fossil collectors. The Devonian fossils found in the Birdsong Shale at Parsons are numerous to say the least and many of the trilobites, crinoids and brachiopods found there are quite large. It is really an awesome place for collecting, so no one wants to miss out on an opportunity to go into this quarry. We all really appreciate the Vulcan Corporation for allowing us to collect on Saturday mornings at their facility.

Our group gathered in the quarry office at 7a.m. Many of the out of town members chose to spend Friday night at some of the local motels and campgrounds. I was told that the campgrounds are very nice. Most of the closest motels were full, due to a local "coon-hunt" scheduled for that weekend. I had brought along a tray full of specimens that I had collected at Parsons before, so those who were new to this area could see first hand what they would be looking for. I also had some identification sheets, so we looked at these, while waiting for everyone to get signed in.



Group Parked at top of Quarry Spoils Area



Spoils Area, Full of Fossils on the Surface

The morning started out a bit on the chilly side, but the sun came out and we were soon shedding our jackets. The roads into the back part of the quarry where we were taken to collect were muddy, but the tailings piles were not too bad. Actually, the winter's freezes and rains had washed out a lot of nice specimens. There were numerous fat crinoid stems, as well as, nice trilobite pygidiums and many, many bryozoans and brachiopods. Several collectors spotted some really large crinoid floats (*Camarocrinus*) of which we got several pictures. These were as large as grapefruits! Sid and A. J. Johnson from Mt. Home, AR managed to gather up many segments of two very nice cephalopod specimens (*Michelinoceras*, previously *Orthoceras*) and Jason Reeves of Jackson, TN located some great looking, shiny chunks of Pyrite crystals in limestone. Bob Neuschaeffer from Huntsville, AL collected one of the largest brachiopods that I have seen so far and I managed to locate two crinoid calyxes. Without a doubt, I think everyone collected a trilobite pygidium or two.



Crinoid Float



Nancy's First Calyx



Nancy's Second Calyx

The crinoid calyxes that I found were embedded in large limestone slabs, so Robin Langford helped me break down these slabs into more manageable pieces, which I could then carry back to my truck. One slab was quite heavy and thick, so it took us awhile to break chunks of it off, but we finally got it. Watch out for Robin; she's strong and wields a mean hammer! I think that without her help, I would have given up and left them. Bernice Burkeen from Tupelo took pictures of both of my specimens just in case I couldn't get them out.

Keith Peacock, president of MGMS, and his son, Aaron from Jackson, MS, came up for this trip. It was the first time they had collected at Parsons and I think they are now hooked on fossils! Richard Keyes from Huntsville, AL was there and he, along with Robert Langford and Bernice, shared their expertise with the group and helped out with the specimen identifications. Victoria Langford was on a mission to collect as many crinoid stems as possible. She hoped to save all of the pieces that went together, in order to glue them back and to see how long of a piece she could come up with. She was hoping for a Guinness record!

Cecil Perkins, one of our Memphis members, came out and brought his brother, David from Smyrna, TN. We welcome David as a new member of NMGMS who signed up during this trip. NMGMS members Brenda and Harvey Johnson came over from Arkansas and by invitation, they brought along several other members of the Ozark Earth Science Gem Mineral and Fossil Club. Gary Mathews, Leisa Law and Cheryle Langford of NMGMS rounded out our group. The collecting area at this quarry is so vast, that even with a group as large as we were, there was no way we could cover all of it and as always, noon came way too soon. We all wished that we could have stayed all day, as it was such a perfect day for fossil collecting. But alas we couldn't, so we all reported back to the office to check out and then make our way to the local Hardees for a much needed rest stop and lunch.

While eating lunch, we got out the fossil identification guides that some of us had brought along and proceeded to have a "show & tell" session and work on getting some of our specimens identified. Everyone had some really very nice things to show. After lunch, most of our group continued on down Highway 69

south to collect similar fossils of the Silurian age at several large road cuts down near the Tennessee River. While at our first stop, we were joined by Allan J. Trently, an ecologist with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Allan was so glad to finally meet up with some fellow fossil enthusiasts who could help him identify what he had been seeing in some of the areas where he worked. Allan stayed with us for the rest of the afternoon.



Show and Tell Session at Restaurant

At this point, it was getting rather hot, so we made our way down to the big double road cut near the Tennessee River Bridge, where we could at least get into the shade of the bluffs on the south side of the highway. We collected there until about 4 o'clock. It was hard to stop and we were so enjoying the camaraderie of talking about our favorite hobby with fellow fossil collectors, that it was hard to quit. You learn a lot when you get together with folks that share your interests. You are never too old or too advanced to learn a little bit more about something that you truly enjoy. The thrill of the treasure hunt, the excitement of a spectacular find, being outdoors in the company of fellow friends and collectors, it just gets into your blood. That's what being a rock hound really means!

Submitted by,
Nancy Roberts
Edited by: Robert A. Langford

P.S.

Fossil Label Information:

Site: Vulcan Quarry Parsons, TN Decatur County
Formation: Ross
Member: Birdsong Shale
Age: Lower Devonian

Some of the fossils collected at the Parsons quarry where:

Horn and dome corals, cephalopods, gastropods, crinoids, trilobites, bryozoa, brachiopods, such as, *Leptaena*, *Psuedoatrypa*, *Discomyorthis*, *Meristella*, spirifers and many others.

Some identification sources:

Upper Silurian-Lower Devonian Biotas and Paleoenvironments of the Western Tennessee Shelf, edited by Thomas W. Broadhead and Michael A. Gibson UT Dept. of Geological Sciences Studies in Geology 25:1-4 1995

KieranDavis: The Paleobiography and Palaeoenvironment of the Birdsong Shale (Ross Formation, Lower Devonian, Tennessee Report)

Presented to Coventry University, School of Natural and Environmental Science; April 1996

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/mibasins/>
- 4) www.oceansofkansas.com (great for Cretaceous fossils)
- 5) www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com (Fossils stuff and Fossils Coloring sheets for the Kids)

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

NMGMS Members Mark your Calendars

Alan Parks of the Memphis Stone and Gravel Company in Senatobia, MS has set the tentative date of Saturday, October 2nd for a field trip to his facility. This trip will be in conjunction with the Memphis and Jackson rock and mineral clubs. Alan will confirm this date as we get closer to October. We will be going through piles of river gravel at this facility and a spray bottle of water is recommended. We will be collecting petrified wood, river agates and chert gravel fossils.

Announcement: Fossil Road Show at Union County Heritage Museum

The Fossil Road Show will be at the Union County Heritage Museum, which is located at 114 Cleveland Street in New Albany, Mississippi, on Saturday, June 26, 2010 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. George Phillips with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science as well as John Conway with his collection of Ice Age Fossils will be special guests. George will speak about the time of the Ice Age in Mississippi. Fossil Collectors are invited to bring their collections for display that day. There will be activities for children. The Memphis Gem and Mineral Society will have an exhibit "Petrified Wood: Mississippi and Beyond" from the collections of W. C. and Cornelia McDaniel and Don Blalock.

For more information call 662-538-0014 or go to www.ucheritagemuseum.com

NMGMS Members Mark your Calendars

The June field trip will be to the Monument Site on Twenty Mile Creek in Prentiss County, MS on **Saturday June 5th**. We will meet at the site by the Hwy 45 Bridge at 9:30 a.m. Parking is on the NE side of Hwy 45, just off of a side road on the flats by the monument and also under the bridge. We will be sifting through the creek's sand and gravel for shark teeth and other small Cretaceous fossils. This is the famous Frankstown Site. Be prepared to get wet! You will be down in the creek, so you need to be able to go down the bank and get in the water. Wear shoes that can get wet and a walking stick is a good idea. There is a somewhat steep, sandy path of sorts leading down the bank. You can work your way up or down the creek on either side of the bridge. Bring a screening device, like a colander, sieve or homemade screen made out of hardware cloth and a wooden frame. Also you will need a small garden trowel or scoop. Small jars with tight fitting lids, zip loc bags or pill bottles make excellent storage containers for the fossils. There are no facilities here. Be sure to bring plenty of drinking water, a hat, sunscreen, your lunch and watch for poison ivy and

snakes on the bank. You will find many different kinds of teeth here, shark, ray, bony fish, mosasaur, and crocodile; also some vertebrae, turtle bone, scutes, petrified wood and lots more. Many of the teeth are good sized, but much is very small. So be sure to check out anything that is black and shiny! This will be lots of fun for all ages. If you plan to go on this field trip, please notify Robert Langford 662-869-2278H 662-871-0184C rlangford@cobbenv.com thechainmailman@yahoo.com 731-689-3684

Directions: From Tupelo, take Hwy 45 N, and head toward Booneville. After you drive passed the stop light in Baldwin, go about three miles and watch for the Hwy 30W, Wheeler exit. Do not take this exit! Go under the Hwy30 overpass and continue on Hwy 45 for a short ways. There will be a hillside on the right with lots of tractor trailers on it. Directly ahead, there will be the Twenty Mile Creek Bridge. Cross the bridge and immediately turn right. Then take the first right there by the monument and park.

If you are coming south on Hwy 45, the monument site will be on your left, just before you cross the Twenty Mile Creek Bridge and half a mile or so before the Hwy 30 overpass.



View showing the stream and boulders at the Site.

NMGMS Members Mark your Calendars for a Special Summer Program

The NMGMS field trip to Monument Site on Twenty Mile Creek in Prentiss County, MS on **Saturday June 5th** will be the kickoff of a summer program at the site. The NMGMS will be represented at the site by a Registered Professional Geologist, Robert Langford, who will be onsite on a voluntary basis to help the people who collect fossil teeth and other fossils there to identify their fossils and to promote the NMGMS by handing out NMGMS information fliers.

Robert’s summer schedule (additional volunteers are welcome) will be as follows:

June 2010

June 5th Kickoff date

June 12th

June 26th

July 2010

July 10th

July 24th

August 2010

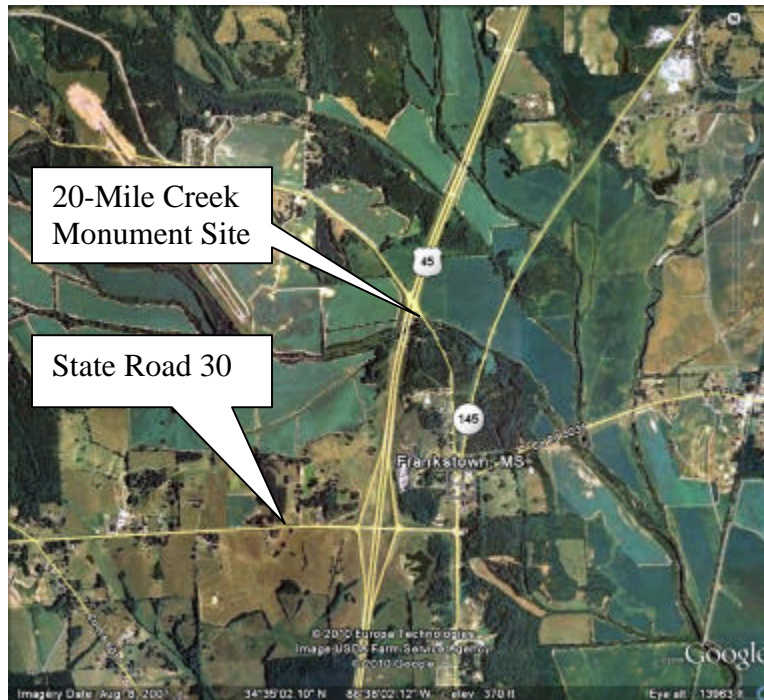
August 7th

August 21st



This site is extremely wet. So, be prepared to get wet. Don’t catch “Shark Tooth Fever”.

A summary report detailing these summer activities will be published at the end of September 2010.



Areal View showing the Monument Site on Twenty Mile Creek in Prentiss County, MS.

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

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 and Annette Kelly
Lee County Public Library
Program: Basic Mineral Identification, Robert A. Langford, RPG

Sat., October 30th, Time 11 a.m. to Dark

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

June 5 & 6, 2010: Birmingham, AL - Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society. 37th Annual Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show, Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park. Hours: Sat & Sun 9 - 5. Show is free with paid admission to state park. For info call Gene Blackerby (205) 807-6777 or gene@lapidaryclub.com

June 5-6, 2010: Marion, KY—Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum. 5th Annual Ben E. Clement Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show, Fohs Hall, 201 North Walker St. Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 11-5. Day & night digs available. Contact 270-965-4263 or www.clementmineralmuseum.org

June 18-20 2010: Whittier, California - AFMS/CFMS Show and Convention hosted by North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society. Hours: 10-5 daily. Contact Mike Beaumont (714) 510-6037 or www.nocgms.com
August 13-15, 2010: Gulfport, MS - Harrison County

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The Nugget

NMGMS Newsletter

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

Around the Country

Rockhound Shows

