

NMGMS  
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#### Next Meeting

Saturday, March 19, 2011 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Location: Lee County Library  
Program: "NMGMS Birthday", displays and auction  
Presented by: NMGMS Members  
See the last Page for directions.

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

Spring has definitely come to the Mid-South! My daffodils are all in bloom and the Forsythias are too. The wild plums and redbuds in my yard are starting to show blooms and the elm trees' buds are swelling. On the trip down to Jackson, MS last weekend, I noticed the Bradford pears and wild plums along the highway were in bloom and many of the fields were pink with spring flowers. What a nice change from the cold and snowy weather that we were having!

Now is the time of year when we start up our field trips in earnest and we have several already on the docket. Everyone always looks forward to our trip to the quarry in Parsons, TN and I am keeping my fingers crossed that we won't get those awful tornadic thunder storms that weekend! There will be a few other clubs joining us on that field trip. Hopefully you spent some time this winter making room for all of the new specimens you'll be collecting! I am hoping to line up a trip into the old Trebloc lime quarry for next month and Kendal Bullock is working on helping me find a few new places for future trips. Robert Langford still has the cave cleanup project in the line up and we'll be gathering a group to help us with trash pickup in the cave soon.

We have had a really great response among club members to our lapidary/beading workshops and so far have managed to schedule one at least once a month. I would

like to encourage all of you to take advantage of these, the guys too, as skills like wire wrapping or working with copper wire are for everyone! Hey, where else can you get free lessons and learn a lot of different techniques from a really friendly bunch of very talented people!

I am really looking forward to our birthday celebration and to seeing everyone's display at the March meeting. I hope we'll have lots of neat "stuff" to look at and admire! I especially want to see all of those Prentiss and Union County fossils that were collected over the summer by some of our members. Maybe there will even be some finished workshop projects on display! If you spent the summer traveling around in order to escape the summer heat, bring some photos to share or something unique that you picked up along the way. This is your chance to show the rest of us what interests you most.

So, now that spring is here and we're getting on into our calendar year of club programs and activities, it is time to start planning our fall picnic and rock swap and to look ahead to the 2012 program schedule and other field trips. Any ideas and input that you may have on these and any other club activities, please don't hesitate to speak up and share your thoughts. This club belongs to all of us and everyone's ideas and input is important.

**Respectfully, Nancy Roberts  
President NMGMS**

**NMGMS Meeting Minutes for Saturday, February 19, 2011**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Joey Shields.

Introduction of guests and new members:

- Nester Curiel (new member)*
- Debra Byrd*
- Joey Shields*

A motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Nugget. If there are any changes, be sure the secretary gets them for printing in the next issue of the Nugget.

**APPROVED and second**

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of 2/19/2011 \$2083.26

Our 2011 renewal for the Southeast Federation insurance will be due by the end of March \$164.80

**CHAIRPERSONS' REPORTS:**

Field Trips:

Our next field trip will be to the Vulcan quarry in Parsons, TN on March 12, 2011. We will meet at 7:00am in the quarry office to sign in and then be escorted back to the collecting area. Under aged children need a signed waiver in order to enter the quarry. We will be collecting Devonian fossils from the Birdsong shale. (See Nugget, or hand out for directions and more details.)

*Liability release waivers were distributed for junior members.*

APS will be collecting at the Blue Springs crab site on March 5<sup>th</sup> and they have invited us to join them for this trip. I have already gotten Mr. John Young's ok.

Publicity: (Reginald Rose)

*Reginald Rose (Master Gardener) talked about pruning the limbs and roots of trees during a workshop held at the Tupelo Creative Commons.*

*Tina Betts (Master Gardner) had an article published in the NEMS Dailey Journal "A few bat facts you might not know". She will also be holding a workshop on September 13, 2011 on seed saving.*

Membership: Last chance for 2011 renewal. If you have not renewed by the March meeting, you will be dropped from the mailing list.

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. **March:**

**Bob Reinhaus and John Byzet**

**Anyone want to volunteer to get the cake???**

*Yippee - Kathy Westbrook agreed to bring the cake.*



Website: (Robert Shinn) John Byzet do you want to give us an update on your website search?

*Mr. Byzet updated the group on his findings regarding an independent webpage for the club. Group discussed the monthly cost and the web space needed to meet the clubs needs. A motion was made to proceed in creating a club web site at a cost of under \$100 per year.*

**APPROVED and second**

Stamps: If there are any to turn in, give them to Kathy Westbrook

Historian: (Susan Curry) Be sure to turn in any photos, newspaper articles or other club memorabilia for the club's scrapbook. We need the 2010 material.

Newsletter: (Robert Langford)

Youth Members: (Kendal Bullock)

*Kendal Bullock and Roger Lambert have suggested the club might be interested in having a Merit Badge day as a fundraiser for the Boy Scouts and the club. They have suggested visiting the website [www.meritbadge.org](http://www.meritbadge.org) to view badges that could pertain to the club. They will have more information and speak to the club at the March meeting. Discussion by the group brought forth additional suggestions on possibly including events for the Girl Scouts.*

**Old Business:**

1. If there are any junior members who are working towards the club's Junior Rock Hound of the Year award, the March meeting would be a good time for you to do your "show and tell" presentation if you would like to. Would like Matthew Lambert to talk about his science project then.  
*Matthew Lambert (1<sup>st</sup> place in the Corinth School District's Science Fair) agreed to speak to the club regarding his project on fossils of Coon Creek.*
2. If we are going to set up a booth at the MAGS Rock and Gem show at the Memphis Agra-Center in April, we will need members to volunteer to come to the show and work the booth. The show is on April 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> (*Easter weekend*). We will need ideas for displays, posters, etc. for the table. If you are interested in doing something for this, there is a sign up sheet on the back table. **(ask if this is something the club wants to do)**  
*Cheryle Langford and Bernice Burkeen have agreed to help. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this event a sign up sheet is on the sign in table.*
3. We are still scheduled to do a basic introductory beading class in Starkville on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> and will need a few volunteers to help out. (so far, Floy, Nikki, Beth and Carolyn Price) We will be putting together the kits sometime before the class, so if you are willing to help with that please let me know. We will also need lots of "samples" of our work to show the class. If you are interested in taking this class you can do that too!  
*A couple of volunteers are still needed for this event. The class requires a minimum of 5 participants in order to be held.*

*Workshop Announcement*

**Baubles Bangles and Beads!** Want to learn to create attractive jewelry with a variety of beads? Join North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society members for an introductory beading class. Learn to make a beautiful bracelet and pair of earrings as you work with a variety of beads and components; also beading wire, crimp beads, toggle clasps, head pins and more. Tools and materials will be provided. There will be a 30 minute break for lunch.

**Date:** Saturday May 14, 2011

**Time:** 10: 30 a.m. to 3p.m.

**Fee:** \$30

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

**New Business:**

1. There will be another beading workshop on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the library here in the auditorium. We will be having little "mini" classes, macramé with beads, wire work with copper, peyote stitched bezels, etc. So bring your tools, supplies and any beads you wish to work with and any unfinished projects that you would like to continue with. Bring a lunch or you can eat first or leave and come back; we're very flexible! **(See email notice or hand out)**  
*Nancy Robert asks that all material left over from the last workshop be returned to the club.*
2. Terry Everett and her sister Ellen are participating in the 2011 "Relay for Life" and they are raising donations in honor of their mother, Rena Everett, who has been battling colon cancer for 5 years now. George and Rena

Everett are founding members of NMGMS. I would like to propose that the club make a donation in Rena's honor.

*After some discussion regarding George and Rena Everett's accomplishments as founding members, a motion was made to make a \$200.00 donation to the American Cancer Society (ACS) in Rena's honor. **APPROVED and second***

3. Our March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting is our annual birthday party. This is the time when we "show off" what we have been working on over the past year. So I encourage every one to bring in something to display. It can be a part of you rock, mineral or fossil collection, your lapidary/ beading work or just something interesting that you may have pick up in your summer travels. This is your chance to "shine"!

We will also hold our "Brown Bag" auction at this meeting. Members are asked to bring two items, each one packaged in its own brown paper bag. One item is to be a "nice" rock and gem related item (not absolute) and the other item can be silly, funny or cute, (kind of "white elephant") but no garbage, please! These bags will be set out on the table for silent bidding during the meeting. We have always had some really nice surprises and this is lots of fun, especially with the younger members!

*Nancy Roberts encouraged all members to bring items to display at the birthday party and to participate in the "Brown Bag" auction.*

4. Do we want to do the picnic as a rock swap again this year? I need to reserve the pavilion soon. Same location? October 29<sup>th</sup>? Think about how we can get other clubs to join in or maybe even get the public involved. Would like to have some kids' activities lined up. We might try a fossil dig or sifting for small rocks and minerals. ??? Fishing game???

*The club approved having a rock swap and auction again this year possibly in conjunction with the Fall Festival at Ballard Park on October 29<sup>th</sup>. If that date doesn't work, may have it on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. David Loyd suggested advertising the event in the local paper to generate public awareness. A motion was made to serve hot dogs and chips. **APPROVED and second***

**Is there any other business????**

*Floy Hawkins commented on the club possibly participating in the Community Partners in Education Program the school district is developing. She will contact the organizers for more information.*

**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.

The Museum of Natural Science in Jackson is holding their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fossil Road Show at the Museum on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to Adjourn.....**APPROVED and seconded**

**The Cub Scouts say "Thank You"!**

The Webelos Pack #5 of Saltillo, MS, would like to express their sincere thanks to Mr. Bill and Mrs. Floy Hawkins for their rock talk presentation given to the pack at their March 7, 2011 meeting. The Cub Scouts said that they learned a lot and thoroughly enjoyed the program. Some of the scouts even brought a few specimens for identification.

NMGMS also wishes to add a big "thank you" to the Hawkins for helping out with the club's outreach programs.

**Program February 19<sup>th</sup>: Working With Stained Glass**

Sherrie Cochran, a talented artisan who creates her stained glass work with meaning as she highlights the type and color of the glass that will make each piece unique. The colors sparkle, as she brings life to every stained glass piece she creates. It doesn't matter where her work is destined to be viewed; it's made with her love and energy. Sherrie concentrates on her design down to every minute detail. She loses herself in her work as she designs, selects the glass, cuts, grinds, wraps with copper foil and solders each piece with her abounding energy.

Stained glass has been around since the 12th century. Cathedrals are aglow with beautiful stained glass windows which help to give each stained glass artisan thoughts and ideas for future projects. These windows are admired from afar, but some of the stained glass works of art most sought after by private collectors today, are the original Louis Comfort Tiffany's stained glass lamps. Many modern day stained glass works can be seen at restaurants like Applebee's; where their interior windows depict modern day events like hot air ballooning and many cities use stained glass to depict their skylines in public offices.

With stained glass art, the light is refocused and transmitted through the glass, thus making an ordinary material glow and shimmer. Sherrie Cochran designed a unique piece of stained glass work containing the "NMGMS" logo. We can enjoy the fact that the beauty of this piece is not faded by sunlight but enhanced by it and will still be beautiful in a hundred years. We can display the logo piece that Sherrie did, in a window, or on a table in front of a lamp or candle; either way, the piece comes to life as only stained glass can.

Sherrie and other stained glass artisans have utilized designs from history to produce their art. The way in which the artist produces the piece is virtually the same as it was in medieval Europe: design the pattern, cut and grind the glass, wrap the glass with foil and solder with lead. The techniques remain the same but modern technology, specifically the improved soldering irons and glass cutters, makes the process easier and faster.

Listening to Sherrie as she presented her program about stained glass has enthused many of our members to try working on their own or with friends. Our members were enthralled as Sherrie gave each of us a chance to experience how to select various glasses by texture and color and gave each member a chance to try their hands at cutting out part of her design for the NMGMS logo piece. This program was a wonderful learning experience. Sherrie explained how to find ideas for stained glass pieces in magazines, posters, art prints, and books and also from other stained glass pieces. Remember, copying is a place to start, but Sherrie also said it was important to do original designs, where you can enjoy going through the creative process and end with one's own stained glass work of art!

Photographs taken by Bernice Burkeen, NMGMS Member, during the Stained Glass Workshop.



**Photo 1**, Sherrie Instructing the Workshop



**Photo 2**, Sherrie in one on one



**Photo 3, Laying out the Project**



**Photo 4, Note the Lay out sheet**



**Photo 5, NMGMS Stained Glass Work Shop Project Nearly Complete**

All of NMGMS thanks you Sherrie for giving of your time, talents and expertise and for sharing your enthusiasm for this fascinating art form with us.

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**Next NMGMS Meeting!**

The next meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be held on [March 19, 2011 from 1 to 3p.m.](#) at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo. Program will be member displays, show and tell and a silent auction.

The April meeting will be held on April 16, 2011 at the Union County Heritage Museum located at 114 Cleveland Street, New Albany, MS 38652. The Museum will be hosting the program and refreshments.

Come and join us!

### **Happy Tenth Birthday NMGMS!**

Don't forget that March 19<sup>th</sup> marks the tenth birthday of our gem and mineral society. The display for this meeting will be anything that members have collected, worked on or made over the past year, in the field of rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, jewelry, etc. If your talent lies elsewhere, that's okay, bring it! Let's show everyone what we have been up to during our tenth year as a club. I know that we have some very talented members, so show us your stuff!

**NOTE: Any Junior NMGMS member that brings a display and then gives us a short "show and tell" presentation on it at the March meeting will have that count toward their NMGMS Junior Rock Hound of the Year Award. Go for it!!**

### **Brown Bag Silent Auction**

Going, going, gone to the highest bidder! Don't forget about the "brown bag" auction to be held at the March 19th meeting. All members wishing to participate are asked to bring a "nice" item and a "silly or cute" item (no garbage please). Each auction item is to be packaged in its own brown bag. These bags will be set out for a silent auction during the meeting, so bring your \$\$\$. This event is lots of fun and helps to raise funds for our treasury. We've always had some really nice things and some funny surprises in the past. The "nice" items should be rock and gem related, but not absolutely necessary.

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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.

Presented 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)

**Remaining Program Line Up for 2011:**

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
- 2) Lapidary Stone Publications [www.agatesofscotland.co.uk](http://www.agatesofscotland.co.uk)
- 3)

**Safety: New Listing**

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

**Presented by**

**NMGMS**

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**Follow-Up to the NMGMS Field Trip to Vulcan Materials Quarry, Parsons, TN, Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

Hello! I hope that ya'll have had a fantastic day at the quarry. I know I did and hopefully we all brought home some nice specimens. Here is the information that needs to go on the identification tags for your specimens and the link below will help you identify a few of those more common fossils that you may have collected today.

Nancy

Site: Vulcan quarry, Parsons, TN, Decatur County

Formation: Ross

Member: Birdsong shale, Lower Devonian

This link will show you ID's for the fossils that can be collected at the Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, TN

<http://www.nashvillefossils.com/fieldtrips/parsonsfeldtrip/parsons.html>

P.S. As I may not have the email address for everyone in attendance, please pass this info along to those that you know who attended the March 12th NMGMS trip to Parsons. Thanks

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**Field Trip Schedule: Trebloc Lime Quarry, Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>**

This trip will be to the old Trebloc, MS lime quarry. The owner has again graciously given us permission to collect here. We went there last year and found lots of goodies! Fossil crab pieces, turtle shell, sea urchin spines, shark teeth, Enchodus teeth, oysters of all kinds and even some Mosasaurs vertebrae.

**Meet at the quarry at 9:30 a.m.** Be sure to pack a lunch and drinking water. You will need good sturdy shoes, a bucket or other container for your specimens and a screwdriver or pick for getting the fossils out of the clay. Most of the specimens are laying on the surface and are readily collected.

Hope to see you all there!  
Nancy Roberts, field trip chair NMGMS  
RSVP Please! [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) Home Phone 731-689-5336

Directions will be e-mailed and handed out at the March meeting.

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### Another Great MGMS Show!

What a busy weekend! I just got back from Jackson, MS where Jim and I helped out at the rock and gem show there. We took our pop-up down on Friday and camped out in the fairgrounds' parking lot. They really do have hook-ups for RV's there! Friday afternoon, I set up a fossil display in one of the MGMS display cases and then Jim and I helped NMGMS member Christy Criss set up her booth, as she was one of the dealers selling at the show. Bill and Floy Hawkins also came down on Friday and set up several display cases. We all thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of the Friday evening pot luck with the dealers and MGMS members.

Jim and I worked with Christy at her booth all day Saturday. It's hard work, but great fun too. I love looking at all of the gemstone beads! Bernice Burkeen came by early on Saturday and helped out too for awhile. The show picked up after lunch, so when Beth and Bill Parker and then Belinda and David Loyd came by, we didn't have a lot of time to visit, but it was really good to see some of our NMGMS members down there. I hope they enjoyed it and found lots of good bargains! I know there was a stupendous amount of material to look at: everything from finished jewelry, to fossils, geodes, slabs and equipment. Bill and Floy helped fellow MGMS members sell tickets both Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society really goes all out to put on a good show for everyone. Many of their members set up display cases containing either their collections or lapidary work. This year, George Phillips, the paleontologist with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, had displays set up showcasing many of the fossils that were donated to the museum by amateur collectors. This display showed how very important these donations are to the scientific and public communities.

Many of the state's universities had booths at the show, where you could get information about their geology curriculum and see some specimens from their collections. The State Department of Geology was also there with many of their publications for sale. MGMS members had several demonstration tables going where you could watch members doing a variety of lapidary techniques from faceting to beading and wire work.

All in all, it was another great show. We enjoy visiting with the other dealers at the show and with all of the really super MGMS club members. It's nice to see what other organizations are doing. By the time Jim and I finished helping Christy pack up all of her wares Sunday evening, we couldn't believe it was all over, but our bones told us that we were glad it was!

Nancy Roberts



Photo 1, Nancy's Plant Fossils Display

Photographs taken and provided by Bernice Burkeen, NMGMS Member.



Photo 2, Helping out in Christy Criss's Booth

## Mid-America Paleontological Society Fossil Expo

The Mid-America Paleontological Society's Fossil Expo show is being held April 1 thru 3rd in Macomb, IL. I have heard that this show is absolutely awesome as to the fossils that are seen there! Check it out.

Their Web add can be found at <http://www.lakeneosho.org/MAPS/2011flyer.pdf>, more info is available at <http://www.lakeneosho.org/MAPS/index.html>.

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

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 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.

## Rockhound Shows

