



Club T shirt Logo



## The Nugget

*North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter*

### Notes from the President's Desk....Nov. 2015

November is moving on quickly and I imagine that we are all working toward getting ready for the holiday season. NMGMS is doing likewise, as we prepare for our last two meetings of the year. Jim Roberts, our junior member advisor, has been going over the Rockheads' badge worksheets and he says he'll be handing out a number of badges again at the Dec. Christmas luncheon. We can all be very proud of our juniors, as they continue to do such a great job and advance in their knowledge of the natural sciences.

Well, we were lucky that the fall rains held off long enough for us to have a very enjoyable day of collecting at the Parsons' quarry on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, but unfortunately, the rains let loose the day we headed to the Rainwater Observatory. Needless to say, we didn't get to see the sun through the solar telescope, but we still had a very enjoyable field trip. Director, Edwin Faughn, was a most delightful and gracious tour guide; he awed us with many wonderful pictures of space and a planetarium star show that in itself, was well worth the trip. I would like to thank everyone who made the trip down to French Camp in the rain; we had 20 people attending, so that was a good show of support for NMGMS and the observatory.

NMGMS is currently working on the 2016 schedule of events and we are gearing up for another geology day at the Oren Dunn Museum next April. We will be displaying fossils, rocks and minerals from around the state of Mississippi and plan to set up these displays by county. So I encourage everyone to start looking thru your collections now, and think about what you can loan the club for the display. Also, the date has been set for NMGMS to do another lapidary workshop for the West Point Arts Council. On Saturday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, club members will be teaching a metal working project at the Louise Campbell Center for the Arts in West Point. These events not only help out other organizations in our community, but they also help us get the word out about NMGMS and what our club is all about. Also, by participating in these events, we as members are keeping up with honing our own skills and expertise, as well as making new friends along the way.

Lastly, with 2015 rapidly coming to a close, it is time for us to get our 2016 officers and committee chairpersons lined up. We will be taking nominations for club officers at the Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The club needs you! We are looking for members who are interested and willing to serve as an officer or on a committee. If you are already a committee chairperson, please consider continuing; we appreciate your hard work! We have a lot of members who are very capable and to continue to grow as an active organization, we need new and fresh ideas. Remember, you'll get a lot more out of your organization, if you put some of yourself into it. All of you have been doing a great job. This is a phenomenal rock and mineral club and we hope to be able to continue to provide our membership with a great organization. In order to do this, we need everyone's help and participation. If any member would like to serve, please jump on board. Nancy Roberts

## Mark Your Calendar!

The November meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be from 1 to 3p.m. at the Lee County Library in Tupelo on **Saturday November 21, 2015**. The program, which follows the business meeting, will be a slide show of the Scottish Isles, presented by NMGMS member Mike Schuchs.

Refreshments: courtesy of Belinda Loyd and Deborah Boone.

\*\*Time permitting after the slide show; we'll make some beaded icicle ornaments, so bring your chain nose pliers. There will be plenty of beads to play with!

## Up Coming NMGMS Field Trips:

**November 14, 2015: NMGMS and MAGS will be joining up for a field trip to Richardson Landing. Collecting will be on the gravel bars. Material will be agate, jasper, chert in multiple colors and banding, fossil chert and petrified wood. Rare finds include Lake Superior Agates, Ice Age fossils such as horse and bison, and mastodon has also been found in this area. Material is excellent for tumbling and lapidary work.**

## More Upcoming NMGMS Events:

Easy Metalsmithing Workshop!

Want to make some really neat copper earrings and a pendant using copper sheet and wire? This workshop has an easy project, but covers lots of metalsmithing skills. Learn to cut, file and texture sheet metal, as well as how to patina the metal with either Liver of Sulphur or heat. Then work with fine gauge wire and beads to add embellishments. You will also learn how to ball the ends of copper wire with a torch for the earwires. Making jump rings, finishing leather cording and forging a copper clasp are other skills we will cover. Creative possibilities are endless, so get ready for a fun day of working with metal and let your imagination soar! See the attached photo for a look at some finished pieces.

**When:** Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015

**Where:** Louise Campbell Center for the Arts, 235 Commerce St., West Point, MS

**Time:** 10 to 4 **Class fee:** \$40

Bring a brown bag lunch! Class is limited to **12**, so please let us know if you plan to attend.

Contact Nancy Roberts, (therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) or Kathy Dyess, (kathydyess@bellsouth.net) with questions or to let us know that you want to join us. Feel free to call Kathy at 662-494-5678 if you're here in town and want to be in touch that way.

Again, we are asking that if you plan to come, please mail a check for \$40 to:

WP/CC Arts Council P.O. Box 150 West Point, MS 39773

so that we receive it before Friday, Dec. 4th.



Photo by Nancy Roberts

## Show Dates:

26th Annual Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. November 13-15 2015

Pascagoula Fairground Civic Center Pascagoula, MS

The 21st Annual Mobile Rock & Gem Society Show will be November 27-29 at the Abba Shrine Temple on Hit Road.

**The 45th Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show December 4-6, 2015**

**Garrett Coliseum 1555 Federal Drive Montgomery, Alabama**

Show Dates & Times: 12/04/15 - Friday 9:00 a.m. To 6:00 p.m. 12/05/15 - Saturday 10:00 a.m. To 6:00 p.m.  
12/06/15 - Sunday 11:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m.

## **Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society**

**35th Annual Earth Treasures Show Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, & Fossil Show & Sale**

**December 12-13, 2015 Sat 9:00 AM - 6:00PM Sun 10:00 AM - 5:00PM  
Williamson County Ag Expo Park 4215 Long Lane Franklin, Tennessee 37064**

Check out their websites for more information. <http://www.mgcmgs.org/> <http://www.mobilerockandgem.com/>  
<http://montgomerygemandmineralsociety.com/mgms/index.php/homepage> <http://www.mtgms.org/show.htm>

**For Federation news, please check out these websites:**  
<http://www.amfed.org/> <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>



**Bead Soup** by Nikki Kenney

photo of Cheryl's earrings by Nancy Roberts

To make it easy to pick up tiny pieces of wire from your work surface, wrap a piece of masking tape around your hand sticky side out and pat them away. I knocked a lid with jump rings off onto the window sill behind a small cabinet. A piece of masking tape picked them all up - easy peasy!

## A Fossil Collector's Paradise by Nancy Roberts

Despite the dark and early meeting time, there were 23 eager NMGMS and MAGS members gathered at the Vulcan quarry office for our field trip to Parsons Tennessee on October 24, 2015. The excitement ran high, since this was the first time for many of us to be back in the quarry after they had previously closed it to all collecting a few years ago. After signing the waiver and listening to a short safety talk, we were escorted by quarry personnel up to the collecting site. The Vulcan Materials plant manager for Parsons, Doug Britt, was extremely gracious and helpful; he even offered to be sure to have fresh material placed at the site when we come again! He and several others from the quarry mingled with our group for awhile, as they talked about some of the fossils that they had seen there, as well as, the rattlesnakes that like to hang out in the rocks. Luckily, we never did encounter any snakes. Phew! Several workers from the quarry were in attendance the whole time that we were at the collecting site. They are really a very nice bunch of fellows and we were glad to have them around.

We were not disappointed in the amount of fossil material available for collecting. It was a great day for finding trilobite pygidiums, as they were pretty plentiful. Also, there were many crinoid "floats" (*Camarocrinus*, bulbous root of *Scyphocrinites stellatus*) spotted. Many of them showed the chambers that make up this bulb like (lobolith) fossil and a few nice specimens were collected. Most of them however, were on slabs that were way too large and heavy to haul back to our vehicles. Sigh; wish we had a rock saw! It started to sprinkle just a little bit, but nothing to dampen (ha, ha) our collecting. Sadly, we started packing up at 11:30, since the quarry closed at noon. Seems like the hours just flew by and we all wished that we could stay there all day.

Our group rendezvoused at the local McD's for lunch and then the Lybanons escorted us north to what we called the selenite site, near I40. That locale looked kind of like a lunar landscape, with undulating ridges and canyons of bare sandy soil where nothing grows. We did indeed find selenite crystals scattered here and there on top of the ground. Many of them were still in their "flower" like layout on the surface of this deposit. A few pieces of turtle bone and a shark tooth were also found there. Since it started to sprinkle again and more rain was forecasted, we packed up around 2 o'clock and headed back to Hwy 69 and home. All in all, it was a great field trip; the heavy rains held off for us and no one went home empty handed. Everyone is very eager to make another trip back to the quarry. The Birdsong Shale at Parsons is an exciting formation; literally a fossil collector's paradise! Nancy Roberts

To help identify your finds:

<http://www.memphisgeology.org/images/Devonian%20Fossils%20of%20West%20Tennessee.pdf>

Parsons Quarry photos by Nancy Roberts

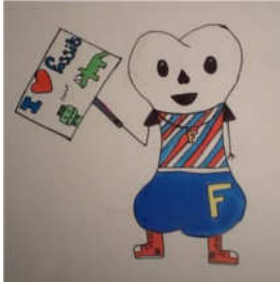


Selenite Site photo by Nancy Roberts

### **NMGMS Members Take Note!**

2016 is fast approaching and it is time to start thinking about renewing your NMGMS membership. Our club treasurer will be available to collect your dues at our meetings, or you can make checks payable to NMGMS (\$12 single, \$20 family) and mail them along with an application form to: NMGMS, P.O. Box 1445, Tupelo, MS 38802.

An application form is located on our club website: [www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org)



# Rockheads

# November 2015



## Rockhead Officers:

### President

Victoria Langford

### Vice President

Konrad Armstrong

### Secretary

Britanni Lambert

[www.amfed.org/fra/fra\\_badge.htm](http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm)

**Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts**

latergator2003@yahoo.com

**Note:** At the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Rockheads will be doing a crater experiment. Bring a few round objects and make some craters!

At the October 17th NMGMS meeting, the Rockheads successfully completed their scale model of the solar system and did a short presentation about it to the members present. They did a really great job and you can watch a short video of their presentation on You Tube:

[https://youtu.be/G\\_sPp6evE7U](https://youtu.be/G_sPp6evE7U) Check it out!

## You should have been there!

## Rainwater Observatory



## Minutes for NMGMS Board of Directors Meeting

October 17, 2015

### Time and Place

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was held on Saturday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 12:30 to 1:15 at the Lee County Library in Tupelo. The meeting was called to order by the president of the club, Nancy Roberts.

**Members Present:** Nancy Roberts, Nikki Kenney, and, John Byzet.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer presented a balance of \$3,561.07.

**Old Business:** Club is considering purchasing a Power Point projector and those with good reviews run about \$300, so it was decided to wait on purchasing one for awhile.

**New Business:** Nancy reported that the Rockheads had earned \$206 from selling cookies and hotdogs. Motion was made for the club to cover the difference of \$44, since the observatory fee for the upcoming field trip to the Rainwater Observatory is \$250. **Motion was approved**

Nikki reported that the Tshirts we ordered were paid for and ready for pickup.

John has the new brochures and Belinda Loyd is procuring a discount on the printing cost for us, so that bill has yet to be paid.

It was decided to ask the vendors that we had last year at our Geology Day to come and set up at our April 9, 2016 event.

The board also voted to keep the Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> date booked at the library for the January meeting, instead of trying for another location for Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>.

Nancy informed the board that the West Point Arts Council had asked NMGMS to do another workshop for them and Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> was tentatively set as the date for it.

John stated that he was still trying to get in touch with Mr. Mitchell Scruggs concerning permission to collect at the Birmingham Ridge site and he also mentioned a possibility of a new site on his friend's property.

The board opted to not charge any admission fee to the April Geology Day, since the museum was going up on their fees. It was decided to sell the activities tickets for 2 for \$1 this time, instead of 3 for \$1 like last year.

Nikki reported that Bob Kenney had checked with Rae Mathis at the Oren Dunn Museum and we can have the use of all of their display cases for the April 9, 2016 event. Rae likes the new name of "Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show", so we will go with that for the fliers.

Business tabled until the next meeting: Possibility of teaching a Boy Scout geology merit badge next year.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 1:00p.m.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Roberts

## NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: October 17, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag lead by Rebecca Vallarian and new member Debra Boone was introduced.

**Motion to approve the Sept. meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting, as the Oct. Nugget had not yet been published.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Closing Balance: \$3561.07

### **Chairpersons' Reports:**

**Field Trips:** The field trip to the Vulcan quarry in Parsons TN on Saturday Oct. 24, 2015 was announced.

Those who are going need to meet at the quarry office at 7a.m. This trip was limited to 25 people, but there is still one opening.

Our next field trip will be to the Rainwater Observatory in French Camp, MS on Saturday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4p.m. We will meet at the observatory. Come early to tour the French Camp historic site and eat lunch at the Council House Café. Fee: \$10 a person with a min. of 25 people. The fee will be covered by the club. A head count of attendees was taken. Members expressed interest in going back to Mt. Ida for quartz crystals next March over spring break.

**Publicity:** (John Byzet) John has the new club brochures and members need to start spreading the word about our next Geology Day on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the ODCM.

**Membership:** (Ann Byzet). The 2015 roster is available. We have 113 members, 87 adults and 26 juniors. If anyone needs a "new member" packet, see Ann.

### **Hospitality:**

Refreshments: Volunteers for Nov. 21st: Belinda Loyd and Deborah Boone Robert Langford volunteered to do the ham for the Christmas party pot- luck luncheon on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Website:** (John Byzet) Check us out at [www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org)

**Newsletter:** (Dana Jones) Dana's iPad was still not cooperating and she apologized for the October Nugget not being out.

**Youth Members:** (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads are reminded to complete any of the FRA badges that they have been working on, so that Jim can order the badges and have them ready to be handed out at the Dec. party. Don't forget to turn in your articles for the Nugget, if you are working toward the Junior Rockhound of the Year award. There's still time to do a display also, if you need to.

**Historian:** (Cheryle Langford) If you have anything from the summer that's for the 2015 yearbook, please give it to Cheryle. This would include any fliers or brochures from the events, museums or other points of interest that you attend. If you see any newspaper or magazine article featuring one of our club members, save those too, even if it is not anything club related.

**Geology/Kids Day:** (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) **The date for our next Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the Oren Dunn Museum will be April 9, 2016. We plan to set up our displays at the museum in March and let them run until mid-May of 2016.**

**Safety:** (David Loyd) If anyone has any safety tips or other related information to share, please don't hesitate to send it in for the newsletter.

**Old Business:** Members were asked to start setting aside specimens for the grab bags, fishing game and spin and win, and to keep sewing up those grab bags; we sell quite a few of them. A sample bag was passed around. It was decided that the displays at the museum would be set up by county, thus showing the fossils found in our local area. Other displays would be, one showing the stages that wood goes through as it becomes fossilized, a jewelry case with pieces made by club members and the rocks like food display. Would anyone like to personally set up a display of their collection? Start looking at your collections now for good display specimens. We will be setting up the fluorescent room, the fishing game, the sandbox dig and the spin and win. It was decided to try a "hands on" table and Dana Armstrong asked about selling cookies at the event. The new long sleeved, dark gold Tshirts that say "We Rock" on the back and NMGMS on the front have been printed and Mary Reed has them. They are \$10 each.

Investigated Power Point projectors and found that a decent, reliable one would run about \$300. In the meantime, Jim Roberts will let NMGMS borrow his, when needed.



## NMGMS October 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes cont'd:

**New Business:** Nancy appointed Nikki Kenney, John Byzet and Robert Langford to the nominating committee. We will be taking nominations at the Nov. meeting for the club's 2016 officers. We have been asking officers to serve a two year term. So be thinking about who you would like to have leading your organization next year. At the May meeting, Mike Schuchs inquired about exchanging rocks with other clubs.

The AFMS has an exchange program set up for junior members. It's their Rock Pals program and they have participating clubs listed on the website. If we get our Rockheads started with this program, we may find some adults in those clubs too, who would be willing to send some rocks from their area. NMGMS may be teaching a class for the West Point Arts Council on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Dyes is checking their schedule, to see if that date works for them. Our Nov. meeting will be at the library on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> from 1 to 3p.m. and Mike Schuchs will do a slide show covering their trip to Scotland. There was no new business.

**\*\*\*Reminder:** The Miss. Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society's rock and gem show in Pascagoula, MS is Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The Mobile, AL club has a rock and gem show Thanksgiving weekend and the Montgomery club has theirs Dec. 5-7<sup>th</sup>. The Middle TN club's show is the second weekend in Dec. in Franklin TN, near Nashville. Check out their websites for more information. Meeting adjourned.

## **NMGMS 2015 Officers:**

President/Field Trip Chair:

Nancy Roberts  
25 Amber Lane  
Counce, TN 38326  
(731)689-5336  
[therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)

Secretary:

Brenda Manning  
77 County Road 864  
Dennis, MS 38838  
662-454-3128  
[b.man.55@hotmail.com](mailto:b.man.55@hotmail.com)

Vice-President:

Roger Lambert  
1817 CR 7002  
Corinth, MS 38834  
(662)286-3750  
[roger.lambertjr@yahoo.com](mailto:roger.lambertjr@yahoo.com)

Treasurer:

Nikki Kenney  
PO Box 808  
Tupelo, MS 38802  
662-844-6142  
[ofkbk@comcast.net](mailto:ofkbk@comcast.net)

## **Calendar of Events:**

NMGMS December Meeting and Christmas Luncheon: Saturday Dec. 12, 2015 at the Lee County Library in Tupelo from 11 to 3p.m. Luncheon will be served at noon.

NMGMS January meeting: Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016 at the Lee County library in Tupelo from 2 to 4p.m. Program by Dr. Terry Panhorst, "Earthquakes: Natural and Manmade"

**Please note the dates and time changes from our regular third Saturday of the month for these events.**

We meet earlier in Dec. to make way for the holidays. The library is closed on January 16, 2016 for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

