



NMGMS
P. O. Box 1445
Tupelo, MS 38802
 Website: www.nmgms.org

2011 NMGMS Officers

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

Vice-President, Ted Thompson
 103 Ford Circle
 Tupelo, MS 38801
 (662) 841-5928
ted.thompson@mtdproducts.com

Secretary,
 Belinda Loyd
 7834 Cherry Valley
 Southaven, MS 38671
 (662) 280-1317
Blloyd_utlady@yahoo.com

Treasurer, John Byzet
 1209 Queensgate Drive
 Tupelo, MS 38804
 (662) 844-9841
wa4iax@arrl.net

Appointees

Newsletter Editor,
 Robert Langford, RPG
 121 Willow Creek Road
 Sallitillo, MS 38866
 (662) 869-2278
rlangford@cobbenv.com

Webspinner, John Byzet
 1209 Queensgate Drive
 Tupelo, MS 38804
 (662) 844-9841
wa4iax@arrl.net

Field Trip Chair, Nancy Roberts
 25 Amber Lane
 Counce, TN 38326
 (731) 689-5336
therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Historian, Susan Curry
 P.O. Box 61
 Mathiston, MS 39752
 (662) 312-1988
sgcurry@netdoor.com

Membership Chair, Floy Hawkins
 P.O. Box 7312
 Tupelo, MS 38802
 (662) 844-7441
studiohawkins@gmail.com

Hospitality Chair, Robin Langford
 121 Willow Creek Road
 Sallitillo, MS 38866
 (662) 869-2278

Public Relations Chair, Reginald Rose
 636 Highland Circle
 Tupelo, MS 38804
 (602) 840-0113
Rfrose636@comcast.net

Stamps Chair,
 Kathy Westbrook
 2753 Hwy 82 West
 Starkville, MS 39759
 (662) 324-1601
k-westbrook2010@hotmail.com

Next Meeting

Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
 Location: Union County Heritage Museum (UCHM)
 Program: UCHM/ TBA
 Presented by: the UCHM

See Page 5 for Directions.

Notes: From the President's Desk for April 2011

What a great birthday, NMGMS! I was so very pleased to see how many of our members brought items to display at our March meeting and I was also very impressed by all of the fantastic collections and stunning, handcrafted creations that were set out for us to admire. There was quite an assortment; everything from stained glass work that incorporated rock and fossil specimens to jewelry and even some needlework, like knitting and crochet. There were rock collections from different states and fossils varying in size from a large turtle shell, all the way down to the microfossils of the Coon Creek formation. Several of our junior members had their collections on display and Matthew Lambert had his science project which took a first place at school, set up for us to see.

Our club managed to put on such a phenomenal display, representing the many aspects of our organization, not to mention the many and varied talents of its members, that we had three (3) of the guests present sign up and join! We had a really good meeting too. NMGMS has such a great group of members who are willing to step up and participate, not only in activities for our own organization, but also for those that include other community groups. We even voted to work with a scout group and put on a Merit Badge Day next year!

The brown bag “mystery” auction was a lot of fun, as always, and there were many beautiful, handcrafted lapidary items revealed when the bags were opened. There even was a very fine ink drawing signed by one of our talented, artistic members, Kathy Westbrook.

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society has grown and branched out over the past ten years. We are gaining members from all across northern Mississippi, whose expertise and talents represent a broad spectrum, thus enabling us to reach out to many more parts of the surrounding communities and to participate in a wide range of activities. Our members are a very valuable asset to this club. I'd say that we ended our first ten years with a “bang” and started out the next ten years with a “leap” in the right direction! I am honored to be a member of this fine organization and I carry my membership card with pride.

Respectfully, Nancy Roberts
President NMGMS



NMGMS Meeting Minutes for Saturday, March 19, 2011

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by:

Ethan Bullock; Ryan Bullock; Mathew Lambert and Austin Spencer

Introduction of guests:

| | |
|--|---|
| Austin Spencer (<i>Guest of Roger Lambert</i>) | Tracy Mitchell (<i>heard about us through a newspaper ad</i>) |
| David Warren (<i>Saltillo Scouts</i>) | Sarah Mitchell |
| Bryson Warren | Pat Cooper |
| Kaelin Warren | Bettye Woolard |
| Aidan Warren | |

Motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Nugget - **APPROVED and seconded**

If there were any changes, be sure the secretary got them and have them printed in the next issue of the Nugget. *No revision received.*

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of March 19, 2011 1654.36.

The Southeast Federation insurance renewal, \$164.80 has been paid. The IRS electronic tax form 990-N for 2010 has been filed.

Chairpersons' Reports:**Field Trips**

Our next field trip will be to the old lime quarry in Trebloc, MS on April 9, 2011. We will meet at 9:30am at the quarry on Hwy 47, about 6 miles south of the intersection of Highways 47 and 8. We will be collecting Upper Cretaceous fossils. (*See Nugget, email or hand out for directions and more details.*)

Publicity: (Reginald Rose)

Membership: Last chance for 2011 renewal. If you have not renewed by the March meeting, you will be dropped from the mailing list. We have 79 members so far for 2011; 58 adults, 21 juniors. Floy will have the 2011 roster ready by the May meeting.

Hospitality: We still need volunteers to sign up for refreshments. There is a sign up sheet for hosts/hostesses at the sign in desk. We hope that everyone will sign up for at least one meeting during the year. We need two volunteers per meeting. April 16th refreshments will be provided by the Heritage Museum in New Albany.

May 21st - Beth Parker/Nancy Roberts June 18th - Roger Lambert/David Loyd

Website: John Byzet has our new website up and running! Check us out at www.nmgms.org

The site has all current information including the March Nugget. Approximate cost is 7.00 per month. The site has already netted outside interest.

Stamps: If there are any to turn in, give them to Mary Reed or Kathy Westbrook.

Historian: (Susan Curry) Please start saving any 2011 photos, newspaper articles or other club memorabilia for next year's scrapbook. Floy Hawkins and Annette Kelly have been working very hard to put together a club scrapbook for 2010, so that we can enter it into the American Federation's "All American Club" competition. *The 2010 club scrapbook is on display. Floy Hawkins explained to the group that more items should be saved for archiving. Items needed are club flyers; show flyers; photo's from field trips; community involvement information; school and scout activities. Any involvement that is gem, mineral, fossil and collecting related should be noted and saved. Scrapbooks have requirements for each section such as club participation in legislative issues and community involvement.*

Newsletter: (Robert Langford) There is a website and newsletter called S.C.R.I.B.E. and it provides help and support for gem and mineral club newsletter editors. With the \$6 per year subscription, the editor will receive the newsletter and a DVD full of information, tips, clipart and all kinds of things that can be used in the publication of the Nugget.

*A motion was made to pay the subscription fee for Robert Langford. **APPROVED and second***

The club funds have purchased a portable flash drive for Robert. It will provide storage for the Nugget's digital files and any additional club files.

Youth Members: (Kendal Bullock) Ask Kendal to talk about the possibility of NMGMS doing a Merit Badge Day for the Scouts next year. At the last meeting, we were asked to check over the badge listings on www.meritbadge.org

Kendal Bullock explained the Merit Badge Day and answered questions from club members regarding badge qualifications. He presented two proposals for club consideration: 1) Offer ½ day event as a group or 2) offer an all day event and share the expense 50/50 with a local area scout club.

Mr. Bullock suggested the club participate in an all day badge event and share the expense. The scout club participating would provide the location and any tools that would be needed.

A projected per person fee of \$15 with approximate \$5 per person profit after expenses. There is an approximate 6 month prep period for the event and funds raised would be used to support the club events and/or expenses for the next year.

Kendal explained the general processes involved in offering a ½ day vs all day badge event. Usually 2 merit badges per scout are offered. It would offer 2 – 4hour sessions (a morning and an afternoon session). Eight hour courses can only earn 1 badge.

Motion to participate for TBD date in April 2012- APPROVED and seconded

Motion to do with a group for all day – APPROVED and seconded

Old Business:

1. W.C. McDaniels sent me information concerning setting up a booth at the MAGS Rock and Gem show which is on April 23 and 24th (Easter weekend).

MAGS will provide a 6 or 8 ft covered table with chairs in the exhibit area. It will need to be occupied Saturday 23rd from 9-6 and Sunday from 10-5. We would need to bring info and handouts about our club and also any kind of displays. Club members helping at the booth will receive free admission to the show. We will need members to volunteer to man the booth and we will also need displays, posters etc.

If you are interested in doing something for this, there is a sign up sheet on the back table.

Several members volunteered to help at the MAGS Rock and Gem Show on April 23rd and 24th. Cheryle Langford; Bernice Burkeen; Nancy Roberts and David & Belinda Loyd

2. We are still scheduled to do a basic introductory beading class in Starkville on Saturday May 14th 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. I have already purchased the materials for the kits. We will also need lots of “samples” of our work to show the class. *Floy, Nikki and Nancy plan to car pool. The class requires a minimum of 5 participants in order to be held. Members interested in taking this class will only be charged a kit fee of approximately \$10.00. Kits will be available at the beginning of class. Helpers will meet prior to the event to assemble the kits. Nancy will let the helpers know of the meeting location as soon as plans are finalized. The workshop announcement will be advertised in the West Point paper.*

3. Rae Mathis was excited when I mentioned that we were interested in having our rock swap coincide with the Oren Dunn Museum's fall festival. She wondered if we were interested in setting up on the museum grounds. If we do that, we have to have some kind of educational display or activity for the kids. We could possibly do a fossil dig or the “fishing” game. We would need members to provide specimens (fossils and rocks).

At the last meeting, we discussed advertising the event in the local papers and we voted to have hot dogs and chips provided by the club.

If the club agrees to have the rock swap on the museum grounds it will save the \$50.00 rental fee for the pavilion. Suggested activities for children could be a fossil dig; fishing game or fossil rubbing.

*The possibility of using easy-ups would allow the club to have the rock swap as a picnic event; be separate from the museum but close enough to be associated with the fall festival and still save the pavilion rental fee. At the previous meeting it was approved that club funds would be used to provide hot dogs and chips. A motion was made that club members would provide drinks and deserts. **APPROVED and second** Advertising for the Rock Swap will be sent to Chris Keiffer and Ginna Parsons for the Daily Journal. A suggestion was made to run a notice in the Courier. Notices will include an invitation to other gem and mineral clubs to attend.*

Is there any other old business?

None

New Business:

1. The April 16, 2011 NMGMS meeting will be held at the Union County Heritage Museum in New Albany, MS. Ms. Jill Smith, the museum director, is planning a short program and a tour for us and the museum will handle the refreshments. We will hold a short meeting there. **(See email notice and the April Nugget for directions)** *It's suggested to follow the museum signs once you get to New Albany.*

2. Member, Souzen Deavers, is president of the West Point/ Clay County Arts Council this year and she has requested that we consider doing a window display for their building in downtown West Point. We could "advertise" the club and show some of the things that we do in our workshops. Maybe have it be a "make it with rocks" theme? Any ideas? I have a bunch of gem trees that I could loan them. **(See copies of Souzen's emails for descriptions of the building and window display areas setup).**

Nancy asked the club if there was any interest in displaying some artifacts; lapidary items; and other related gem society items in their building in West Point. The display would be set up for one month. Valuable items could be removed each evening and returned to the display area the next morning. There is no cost associated with having the display there. This will promote the Gem & Mineral Society and maybe draw some other interested people from the area. Nancy will let Souzen know the club is interested in using the window display area.

Is there any other business????

Floy Hawkins asked Mathew Lambert to present his science fair exhibit to the club. Mathew placed 1st in the Corinth School District's Science Fair. His project was on fossils of Coon Creek. His exhibits included a mosasaur vertebra and a rare tiny crab. Floy has submitted Mathew's name for a Junior Rock Hound Scholarship offered by the Southeast Federation.

Floy shared with the group an incident that occurred during a show in Florida. It has prompted some concerns regarding liability insurance coverage. Nancy looked into acquiring insurance under the SFMS umbrella. The insurance would protect the club and members against damage that may be caused to another party (person or property). Club members acting on their own (not club organized events, field trips etc), are NOT covered under this policy.

*She plans to meet with Rae Mathis regarding concerns of liability during the Rock Swap. A motion was made to request the SFMS show liability insurance if needed. **APPROVED and second***

Reminders:

A beading and lapidary workshop is set up for Saturday, April 30th, in Tupelo from 11:30am – 5:00pm at the Women's Center at 215 N. Gloster Street.

Brown Bag Auction - TODAY

Club Birthday Wishes and Cake - TODAY

Please return the name tags to the basket before you leave. Is there anyone who needs a name tag printed up for them? Motion to Adjourn was made, **Approved and seconded**

The next NMGMS Meeting Announcement, April 16, 2011

The April 16, 2011, NMGMS meeting will be held at the Union County Heritage Museum in New Albany, MS from 1 to 3p.m. Ms. Jill Smith, the museum director, is planning a short program and a tour for us and the museum will handle the refreshments. We will hold a short meeting there. Watch for the museum signs when you get to New Albany.

Directions to the Union County Heritage Museum in New Albany

114 Cleveland Street, New Albany, Mississippi 38652 (Phone No 662-538-0014)

From Tupelo or Memphis : Take Hwy 78 to New Albany and get off at exit No. 64 onto Hwy15N/30E. Heading north, go 1.5 miles to first traffic light after the high school (Eagle Gas/ Be Quick on the corner) turn left at the light onto Highland Street and look for the brown museum sign and a green NEMS community college sign. Take the first right onto Garfield Street, and then at the stop sign, turn left onto Cleveland Street. Continue on Cleveland and at the second stop sign, turn left onto Washington Street to park at the museum.

From Iuka or Corinth : Take US Hwy 45 South towards Tupelo. Then take the Hwy30/Wheeler exit and turn right onto Hwy 30 West. Go approximately 25 miles to New Albany to the traffic light at Hwy30/15. Go straight at the light and take the first right onto Garfield Street, and then at the stop sign, turn left onto Cleveland Street. Continue on Cleveland Street, and at the second stop sign, turn left onto Washington Street and park at the museum.

SFMS Liability Insurance

Liability and insurance can be complicated and confusing issues in their own right; add unscrupulous individuals and greed to the scenario and these issues can be downright scary. Ever since a discussion about the lawsuit against a Florida club came up at the SFMS executive meeting on March 12, 2011, rock and mineral clubs, as well as, federation chairpersons have been reevaluating insurance needs, coverage and liability.

I have been in contact with Gene Roberts, the Southeast Federation's insurance chairman, and he has been very helpful and informative. It is my understanding, that the membership insurance that we carry thru the federation covers us at our meetings and field trips. According to Mr. Roberts, guests to our meetings are covered but not on the field trips. It is also my understanding, that if we hold an NMGMS sponsored event for members only, like an outdoor picnic or a trip to a museum, we would be covered. If we, as a club, participate in an event sponsored by another group, then we need to be sure that we would be covered under their insurance, for example, the Christmas parade or a city festival. If we, NMGMS, sponsor an event where we have invited the public to attend, like a rock swap or show, then we would need to purchase the extra "show" insurance that the federation offers. This insurance is only good for the day or days of the event itself. The cost of this insurance is \$175. Application needs to be made for each event and the cost would be adjusted depending on the number of events to be held per year. We can apply for this insurance any time before the event. As I continue to work on understanding this issue and find out more information about our insurance coverage, **I will keep our membership updated.**

**Nancy Roberts,
Pres, NMGMS**

NMGMS Beading Work Shop, Saturday, April 30th

Our next NMGMS beading workshop will be on Saturday, April 30th, in Tupelo from 11:30am – 5:00pm at the Women’s Center at 215 North Gloster Street. We can eat there, so bring your lunch. I will be bringing the supplies for the May 14th beading class that we will be teaching in Starkville, so anyone willing to help with putting the kits together may do so. Bring any unfinished projects from the previous workshops that you would like help with or just want to get finished. If you have them, please bring any of your own beads and tools that you will want to use. (size 6/0, 8/0 and 11/0 beads are the most often used) If you don't have any beads, don't worry, we will have some available along with a few supplies from previous workshops. Time permitting, I would like to introduce all of you bead-ers to the square stitch and the spiral stitch. These stitches are lots of fun; quick, easy and very versatile. This will be our last workshop until next fall, so come on and join the fun! Feel free to bring a friend too!

Nancy Roberts

RSVP therockhoundlady@yahoo.com H: 731-689-5336

The NMGMS is scheduled to teach a Beading Class in Starkville, MS, May 14, 2011!

NMGMS members will be teaching a basic introductory beading class in Starkville on Saturday May 14th and will need a few volunteers to help out. 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! Members taking the class will pay only the cost of the kit. If you plan to take this class, let me know, so I know how many kits to make up. We need at least 5 to make the class a “go”. The club has 12 tool kits to use for the students. Members helping may bring their own tools (be sure to put your name on your tools with a permanent marker!). Below is the ad that will run in the local papers.

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

Stepping Back in Time!

Hi fellow club members! It is such a joy to visit Tucson without the hustle and bustle of the Tucson shows. I had forgotten how beautiful Tucson is without white tents littering the town.

I have come to spend some wonderful quality time with my father. I am also enjoying leisurely visits with other family members scattered throughout the state.

And why not take in some of the attractions including The Glass Onion, the ‘hottest hippie café in town’ and San Xavier, a national landmark and the finest example of Spanish Colonial architecture in the United States?

On one of my excursions, I stopped by Jay’s (bead store) on Speedway. While chatting with the owners, I discovered they opened the year that my father sold his business here. That shopping spree landed me at Discount Agate House (**DAH**), my father’s old business. Wow! Talk about stepping back in time.

Then it was Discount Agate House, the second largest gem, mineral and lapidary business in the states.

As I walked through the tailings of rough in the open rock yard, memories came flooding back. It was once one acre of sprawling buildings with workshops and one additional acre of head high piles of rough. Over four million lbs. of rough rock were available for anyone and everyone to dig through. Remnants of the 500,000 lbs. of Mexican rainbow obsidian and American petrified wood lay on the ground along with Mexican geodes. A small sign read \$6 a pound. A far cry from the seven and half cents a pound they fetched in the 70's.

As I passed these small piles of geodes, my mind drifted to the day I got to go with my father to pick up a load. He had a warehouse in Juarez and we would drive the semi down and get the rocks stored there. This was usually a trip for my brother, but this day I was the chosen one. He even let me sit on his lap and "drive" (hold the steering wheel) on a desert road. But that was our one secret – a secret my mother was never to know!

As I rounded a corner, BAM! The old band saw was just sitting there, tempting me to pick up a six pounder and start slabbing. Uh, but this wasn't my playground anymore.

That saw was actually my brother's pride and gem. A scrawny little toe headed boy with a learning disability would eagerly run up to a customer with a rock in their hand and say, "I'll cut your stone for a nickel mister." Then would eagerly take the rock and run to the large band saw and go to work. Proudly he would look over his shoulder at the customer and grin. When he finished, he would say. "You can go inside and they'll finish it for you." Who could resist such a cute freckled faced kid?

One could try their own hand at cutting the rock they picked. Geodes fuelled the curiosity of most of the customers. Was it solid or hollow? Rarely one might find a dud known as 'mudballs'.

Many customers took their slab home to cab it themselves. But that wasn't necessary. They could go to the studio, or "workshop" as we called it, to have local artists cab your new slab and finish it into a piece of jewelry. This was done by one of the many on-hand silversmiths. Gold was an option as well.

The artists, many of which were cousins and American Indians, were rewarded for their work with raw materials, a studio, and a portion of their designs going back to them. Outside artists and native Indians from the US and Mexico were offered a similar trade. They would take the rough and return weeks later with finished pieces and the cycle would continue. Most of these artists spoke no English.

That studio was where my sister and I cut our teeth in cabbing and silver smithing. Remembering a costly mistake I made on a silver and turquoise bracelet, I was quickly reminded that this was my sister's area of expertise, not mine.

I could still see the workbenches and hear the chatter. I drew in a big breath and my eyes started to refocus. The studio of my childhood, the rows of work benches, artists, tourists and customers had been replaced with modern shelving and strands of manufactured beads. A kind lady with white hair offered a genuine greeting and just for a minute I thought it was my mother.

As I stepped into another room, metal shelves, newer versions of the ones I remembered, now showcased spectacular minerals, fossils, and other delightful treasures. Not that a version of the same wasn't there before – but that was all off limits for a small child.

The next area was lined with packaged tools, a few sheets of silver, banding and wire. Not as many as I had remembered. Back then there was a never ending supply. My dad would say, "Save those tid-bits. Don't throw any of it away". Melting the scraps into nuggets for "nugget" jewelry was a job for us beginners.

No more were the tumblers constantly churning and mumbling. Not small or large, hobby or commercial, I didn't even see one for sale.

Then I spotted it. The little basket of rubies from India, the small tray of native turquoise now mixed in with Kyanite and other new age stones. All of them neatly tucked away behind glass showcases. Were those the same ones I used to hide under when my brother got too annoying?

Gone was the water tourmaline and lapis. Four to five days of mule and horseback riding though Pakistan would lead my father into Afghanistan, where he would negotiate large purchases of Lapis Lazuli.

A lone flat box, we called them “beer flats”, still remained under one of the shelves. A dozen or so malachite ashtrays were loosely laid upon each other. These ashtrays, from the Congo, were a 2-6 pound chunk of malachite with a shallow scoop carved out of the top, leaving 3/4ths of the rough malachite untouched. A voice in my head was saying, “Forget the ashtray, let’s cut the malachite.” That was truly the intended purpose. Malachite rough could not be exported from Africa during those years. My father cleverly disguised the rough as ashtrays – making it a finished product. Finished products made from malachite *were* exportable.

As I left, I purchased a small piece of snowflake obsidian, probably a remnant of the 200,000 lbs. of obsidians my father brought in from Utah. My memories start to fade as I walk out the door. The store seemed SO big as a child. Was it, or had it just lost its enthusiastic lapidary artists and crafters?

Several tourists came and went during my walk down memory lane. But no one of the profession graced my presence. This is where we, fellow club members, cabers, faceters, collectors and jewelry makers need to share our knowledge and skills. Then maybe, just maybe, one day there will be a need for an oversized and overstocked Discount Agate House in every state.

NMGMS Member, Christy Criss

Happy Tenth Birthday NMGMS!

NMGMS members enjoy getting their cake and eating it too!



Photo 1, HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Photo 2, Fun setting up the brown bag auction!!!!



Photo 3, Mathew Lambert’s Prizing Winning Display



Photo 4, Robert Showing Nancy his Micro-Fossil Collection from the Blue Springs Site



Photo 5, David Loyd's Collection



Photo 6, Bernice's Fossilized Cretaceous Sea Turtle



Photo 7, Carol Lybanon's stained glass work



Photo 8, Nancy's Pennsylvania Plant Fossils

NMGMS members enjoyed having the opportunity to view the collections and lapidary crafts of fellow members at their 10th annual "birthday" meeting on March 19, 2011.

Brad Smith's "BENCHTIPS"

Emery Boards

The sanding boards for doing your nails are one of my favorite finishing tools. I use the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand just the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface. Plus they're inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company or at your local dug store.

Dental Floss

When testing the fit of stone in a bezel, it's all too easy to get it stuck. Often the only way to free it is to drill a hole in the bottom and push it out with a needle. To avoid this, lay a piece of dental floss over the top before you press the stone in. Then just pull on the string to remove the stone.

Presented by, Brad Smith

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/
 or
facebook.com/BenchTips

Remaining Program Line Up for 2011:

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

April 10, 2011

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

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

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

Presented by

NMGMS

Request from a fellow Rockhound

Hello fellow NMGMS members,

I wanted to see if anyone out there has any used lapidary equipment that they may be interested in freeing up some space for a new home. Looking for a slab saw, trim saw, grinder/polishers, combo unit, and tumbler. I am new to lapidary work and trying to get in without spending a fortune.

If you do...please feel free to e-mail (jeff.tweed@hotmail.com) or call Jeff Tweed at 901-552-4183.

Thanks for your consideration.

Follow-Up to the NMGMS Field Trip to Vulcan Materials Quarry, Parsons, TN, Saturday, March 12th

“I feel like a kid in a candy store!” That just about sums up the way one feels when you see all of the plentiful varieties of fossils at the Vulcan quarry in Parsons, TN. Saturday, March 12th was a perfect day to be out at the quarry too. It started out a little on the cool side, but warmed up quickly with plenty of sunshine. Besides NMGMS members in attendance, we were joined by members of MGMS out of Jackson, MS and the Ozark group, OESM, from Mt. Home, AR. There were 33 eager fossil hounds in all!

This time, after gathering in the office to sign in, the quarry personnel requested that we take pictures of each of our groups for their records and possibly to be printed up in their Vulcan newsletter. As we drove back to the collecting area, we were all dreaming of crinoids and giant trilobites.

It looked like we might have been the first group in to collect so far this year; no other footprints to be seen! There were a vast number of crinoid stems, corals, brachiopods, bryozoans and trilobites that had weathered out over the winter. The junior members of our expedition were able to fill a bucket full of crinoid stems in a matter of minutes! I challenged them to find the longest crinoid stem that they possibly could by saving all of the pieces that went together and then gluing them back when they got home. I wonder who actually got the longest one. ???

There were a few less common fossils found that morning too; a rolled trilobite and a few crinoid calyxes were collected. I found an unusual cystoid calyx and Joy Rushing found a nice “corkscrew” Platyceras. It was such a gorgeous day and the collecting was so prolific, that the time went by rapidly. None of us were ready to pack it up and

quit at noon. Many of us joked about wishing that we could camp out in the quarry for the weekend! We definitely want to try and get another trip in before the end of this year.

Nancy Roberts.



Photo 1, Nancy's "Candy Store".



Photo 2, David Loyd's version of his 'Candy Store'.



Photo 3, The Field Trip Rock Hound Gang

Information to go on the Parsons fossil identification labels:

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>

Field Trip Schedule: Trebloc Lime Quarry, Saturday April 9th

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 Home Phone 731-689-5336

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

NMGMS Junior Member Comments on Parson Filed Trip, March 12th

Ethan Bullock Writes:

When the NMGMS and a few other clubs went to Parsons, Tennessee they went to three sites. The 1st site was the Vulcan Rock Quarry and the 2nd and 3rd sites were road cuts. All of the items that I say you can find somebody found them. At the Vulcan Rock Quarry, you could find Brachiopods, Corals, Crinoids, Bryozoans, Epibionts, and Trilobites. At the first road cut you could find pieces of Trilobites, Pink Dolomite, and Calcite or Quartz. At the last road cut you could find Pink Dolomite, Corals, and Brachiopods. It was a great trip.

Meredith Jones Writes:

The Parsons quarry was awesome. I found two giant "brain" corals and a few smaller. I hope we go back soon.

Remy Jones Writes:

When we went to Parsons, we went to the quarry, and I found some crinoids, a trilobite, and some horn coral. It was cool looking. Of all the fossil hunts we've been to, Parsons was the best.

The girls wanted to go back this coming weekend, next weekend and apparently every weekend to the quarry. Well it is a "Candy Store".

Addition/Correction for March NMGMS Newsletter

Program February 19th: Working With Stained Glass

This article was written and submitted by Mrs. Floy Hawkins, our Membership Chairperson.

I would like to apologize to Floy for not giving her the credit that she richly deserves.

Robert A. Langford, The Nugget Editor

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

Sat. April 16, Time 1 to 3p.m.
Union County Heritage Museum (UCHM)
Host/ UCHM
Program: It's a Surprise.

Sat. May 21, Time 1 to 3p.m.
Hostesses/Hosts: Nancy Roberts/Beth Parker
Lee County Public Library
Program: Micromounting Mineral Specimens
Presented by Brenda and Harvey Johnson

**Directions
Directions to Union County Historical
Museum**

At 114 Cleveland Street, New Albany, MS 38652
(see directions on Page 5)

Rockhound Shows:

Memphis Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show
For one weekend a year, we invite you to experience

THE EARTH WIDE OPEN

Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis
Sat. April 23, 9-6 Sun. April 24, 10-5
Adults \$5, 12 & under \$2, scouts in uniform free
Portion of admission benefits the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Memphis

- 30 Dealers from Across the U.S.
- High Quality Minerals and Fossils, Lapidary Arts, Gems, Hand-crafted Jewelry, Beads, Petrified Wood, Geodes, Crystals, Rock Art, Carvings!
- Earth Science & Archaeology Educational Exhibits & Live How-to Demonstrations.
- Professional Speaker series featuring geological, archeological, and paleontological topics.
- A Grand Prize and Several Door Prizes.
- Featuring the RockZoo Family Entertainment Area with Gees Dig, 'Rocks-Around the Clock', Panning for Gems, Paint a Pet-Rock by our partners at the Memphis Botanic Garden, Scouts' Geology Merit Badge info and More!

www.TheEarthWideOpen.com • 901-274-7706

