



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

November, 2011 ~ Volume 10, Issue 6

Notes from the President's Desk...November

Notes from the President's Desk.....

The colorful fall foliage is now "in full bloom" and October has zipped on by. NMGMS has had a very busy fall schedule so far, with the West Point beading class and the club's picnic/rock swap being two of the most important events. These activities are important, because they provide revenues for NMGMS and also generate public awareness of our organization and what we encompass.

The lapidary classes that NMGMS members have been holding over the years have always been well attended, extremely successful and lots of fun for students and club members alike. These classes provide an important outreach venue for our club, in that we are able to share our members' talents, skills and interests with others, to show attendees what the lapidary arts are and to give them a chance to learn these skills first hand, and to raise funds with which NMGMS has been able to offer scholarships to club members who have helped out with these classes or worked hard for NMGMS in other ways, to attend classes themselves at either William Holland or Wild Acres Lapidary Schools. Members who attend these schools then in turn become the teachers for other classes or club workshops.

The NMGMS picnic and rock swap was another successful event, even though we didn't generate as much from the auction as last year, we still were well attended and enjoyed the food and camaraderie. We were all hoping for a little more public participation, but even the attendance at the fall festival was down this year. Several museum attendees did wander down to meet with us and a couple of local rock hounds stopped by to participate. The fishing game, which drew in quite a few of the youngsters at the park, was a big hit, both with the junior members who manned the game and with those who participated. This year, we had an earth science teacher and his wife from Georgia come over for the day to do some swapping and to gather up materials for his classes. They are now members; welcome! Due to the generosity of club members, there was ample material for the auction, grab bags and fishing game. Thank you all; it was most appreciated!

So, like all non profit organizations, we are always looking for ways to raise funds so we can continue to do all of these things for our club and the community. Also, we were notified by the bank that we may be charged a monthly fee, if NMGMS doesn't maintain a certain balance in the checking account. We are presently working on having this waived for a non profit organization. So, where does the club go from here? How can we improve the events that we already do? Are we, as an organization, ready to tackle other means of raising revenues? Do we consider holding our own rock and gem show? If so, are we all willing to work hard to make it a success for NMGMS and the community? These are questions that I am sure every rock and mineral club has had to ask themselves over the years. Since NMGMS has grown in membership over the last 10 years, it appears that it may be time for us to ask these same questions!

Respectfully, Nancy Roberts

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Next Meeting

Nov. 19, 1 p.m.
Lee County Library
Tupelo, MS

NMGMS 2011 PICNIC/ROCK SWAP

NMGMS' Picnic and Rock Swap was under the sun,
In conjunction with the Fall Fest at the Museum
Oren Dunn,
Our signs were everywhere with balloons tied high,
For all to see just where we were picnicking under a clear blue sky,
For all to come and join us in our rock swapping lark,
On the beautiful grounds in and around Ballard Park,
Our canopies were raised and chairs placed all around,
Rock Heads, Matthew and Brittani had the Fishing Game set to go upon the ground,
Jim R. was beginning to set the flame in his table top grill,
And Roger L. placing the "dogs" atop with nary a spill,
Oh my gosh, we are starting to gather a curious crowd,
Everyone looking on the auction table and not at all loud,
Our bids were to be silent but the quiet chatter did remain,
Guest and members gathered just the same,
Some members couldn't join us on this fun day,
We hope ill health didn't keep them away,
The dollars added up when bidding on rocks, fossils, and the Kitsch,
How glad we all were the auction & picnic went off without a hitch,
The witches and goblins stayed away for the day,
No Trick or Treating got in our way!
Composed by Floy Hawkins

NMGMS newest member has "Beginner's Luck"!



My first field trip: I was a little shocked by the size of the rock pile, not sure what I had thought the place would be like, maybe something not quite so large.

I collected a few rocks and asked a member "How am I doing?" She replied politely, "Those are some pretty rocks, but not what we are looking for." She showed me an agate that she had collected, so I turned my bucket upside down and started over. I found a few small agates and was kind of getting the hang of it by the end of the day. Then about 20 minutes before we were to leave, I looked over one more spot and found one more agate. I asked Allen's wife what she thought of it and she said you need to go and show my husband.

When I showed Allen, he asked if I knew what I had and I replied "I have no idea." He said you have a Fairburn agate and they are pretty rare and the one I had was fairly large for Mississippi. I called my wife on the way home and she could not believe it. "Beginner's Luck" was all she said and I have to agree. I really enjoyed meeting the members and look forward to more outings.

Jackie Murry

November Meeting

The next meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be on Saturday, November 19, 2011 from 1 to 3p.m. at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo. The program which follows the business meeting will be "How to make a Ming Style Gemtree", instructed by NMGMS member Nancy Roberts. Learn the art of wire twisting and working with gemstones while making these colorful wire

trees. Come and join us for an afternoon of fun! Refreshments will be served. If you happen to have an interesting rock that sits flat on one side and approximately 2x3 or 3x4 inches that would make a nice base for your gem tree, please bring it along.

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November, 2011

Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. 31st Annual
2011 "Earth Treasures" 2011

Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale
Ag Expo Park, Franklin, TN ← **NEW LOCATION! FREE PARKING**

4215 Long Lane • Franklin, TN 37064
20 Miles South of Nashville; I-65, Exit 61 (See Map on Back)

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011- 9:00 AM-6:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011- 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

Admission: Adults, \$4.00 (2-Day Pass, \$6.00); Students, 18 and under, \$1.00
Children under 12 with adult, FREE • Scouts in uniform, FREE ← **NEW EVENT!**

★ **OVER 30 DEALERS & 2-Day Faceters' Frolic** ★
Exhibits • Demos • Silent Auction • Door Prizes

- Mineral & Fossil Specimens • Lapidary & Faceting Rough • Beads
- Cabochons • Gem Stones • Tools & Supplies

Visit www.MTGMS.org for Grand Prize info &
www.facetersfrolic.org for Frolic info

MTGMS is a not-for-profit corporation under IRS 501 (c) (3) guidelines and proceeds go for scholarships, local schools at Danderton & Tallahoma, TN and other educational projects.

NMGMS BRINGS BEADING WORKSHOP TO WEST POINT

By: SOUZEN DEEVERS STEELHAMMER, PRESIDENT
WEST POINT/CLAY COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

The West Point/Clay County Arts Council teamed up with the North Mississippi Gem

and Mineral Society to bring a beading workshop to town. Several West Point Arts Council members attended a beading

workshop the Society taught in neighboring Starkville last spring and wanted to offer their town the same opportunity.

So on a crisp October Saturday, 15 women assembled at the First Methodist Church to learn to make a one-strand necklace, bracelet and a pair of earrings, instructed by NMGMS president Nancy Roberts. Society members who travelled to West Point to help with instruction included: Floy Hawkins, Clarice Turner, Bernice Burkeen, Nikki Kenney, Kathy Westbrook, Linda Lodato and Beth Parker.

Workshop participants praised the quality of the bead kits, which featured a variety of stones and copper in fall colors, and the instruction, which encouraged each woman

to design her own look with her bead selections.

The beading workshop was the first in a series of crafts workshops planned by the Arts Council, according to NMGMS member and Arts Council president Souzen Deavers Steelhammer. Winter workshops will include pine straw basketry, quilting and photography.

Enthusiasm ran high for the beading event, and discussions are in the works to host a second workshop, incorporating wire work. Cost for the beading event was \$30 a person, which will help the society provide a full week's scholarship to William Holland in 2012



YOUTH IN ACTION

NMGMS Youth Make An Impact at Camp Yocona

NMGMS youth members, Ethan Bullock and Matthew Lambert, shared their knowledge of rocks, minerals, and fossils with the scouts of the Yocona Area Council during three sessions of Cub Resident Camp this past summer. The two assisted in teaching the WEBELOS Geologist Activity Pin to fourth and fifth grade Participants and held an open exhibit to inform about fossils of the local area as well as rocks and minerals used in everyday life.



Scouts listen closely as Matthew and Ethan tell about rocks, minerals, and fossils.

+ The MGCMS November 11-13, 2011, Gem and Mineral Show will be held at the Pascagoula Fairgrounds. For more info. visit <http://www.mgcgms.org>

Remaining Program Line Up for 2011:

November 12: "How to Make Ming Style Gem Trees", workshop presented by NMGMS member Nancy Roberts. Host/Hostess: Floy Hawkins and Robert Langford

December 16: Annual Christmas Party

+ + +

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

Presented by NMGMS



NMGMS
Members Climb
to New Heights!

October Field trip to Memphis Stone and Gravel

The October 15, 2011 field trip to the Memphis Stone and Gravel Company's Senatobia, MS facility was an incredibly fun and exciting trip for all in attendance. Being a Dixie Mineral Council sponsored field trip, NMGMS members got to meet and mingle with fellow rockhounds from other SFMS associated rock and mineral clubs. We met folks from Atlanta, Montgomery, Nashville, Jackson and beyond. What a great bunch of people to spend the day with; the weather was perfect and the site was phenomenal. This was the first trip to the gravel site that I had been able to make and "oh, my gosh", the piles of gravel were enormous! Climbing to the top was nearly impossible, as you would slide backwards in the loose gravel more than you were able to move upwards. But the collecting around the bottom perimeter was just as good as at the top, so everyone, no matter what their physical condition, was able to find fantastic pieces. This type of collecting is like no other that I have done before; the gravel pieces were large, already washed and just waiting to be picked up. You could fill a bucket in no time! Jaspers, agates, petrified wood and fossil imprints were numerous. There was great tumbling rough to be collected too, for those who like to polish rocks. MAGS provided an excellent cookout lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone and we had the opportunity to swap some rocks and fossils with the other clubs. I managed to exchange some Silurian sponges, *Astraeospongia*, for some Diamond Hill Skeleton Quartz crystals! We all hated to stop collecting, but by 3 in the afternoon, after a sunny "day at the beach", we were ready to load up and head for home. All in all, it was a great field trip, well attended, productive and fun for all. Our car was much slower going home, with all of that weight in the trunk!!!! THANK YOU MAGS and Alan Parks, for sponsoring a great field trip!
Nancy Roberts

Attention Fellow NMGMS Members!

2012 is fast approaching and it is time to start thinking about renewing your NMGMS membership. Starting with our Nov. 19th meeting, our club treasurer will be available to collect your dues, or you can make checks payable to NMGMS and mail them along with an application form to: NMGMS, P.O. Box 1445 , Tupelo , MS 38802 .

An application form is attached below for your convenience.

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email: _____

Interests: minerals___ fossils___ field trips___ beading___ cabbing___

faceting___ wire wrapping___ dichroic glass___ PMC___ soldering___

silver jewelry___ chain making___ other_____

Talents, field of expertise, or hobbies: _____

If applying for a family membership: Name

Spouse: _____

Children: _____

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

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

Sign: _____ Date: _____

Treasurer: Date pd _____ cash ___ check# _____ amt. _____

Parsons, Tn Vulcan Quarry Field Trip for Saturday Dec. 3, 2011

Remember, under-age children need a waiver signed by the parents to enter the quarry (form below). **We will be meeting in the quarry office at 7a.m. to sign in.**

NMGMS Field Trip : To the Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, TN on **Saturday, Dec. 3rd**

As always, the quarry personnel have requested that I call again several days before the trip to verify that they will be open on that Saturday and can let us in to collect.

So watch your emails, or give me a call prior to Dec. 3, 2011.

This facility is huge and we have a very large area in which to collect. Be prepared to do some climbing, as some of the tailings piles can be a bit steep. There are plenty of easier collecting spots along the quarry roads where we will be. The Devonian fossils are very abundant here. You can't help but step on them! Large crinoid stems and some calyxes, many brachiopods, bryozoa, several types of coral and quite a few trilobites can be found. No one goes home empty handed!

Plan to meet at the quarry office (small stone building with the radio antennae on top and inside of the stone entrance) at 7a.m. Saturday morning to sign in and then be escorted back to the collecting area.

The quarry closes at noon, so after a lunch stop at the Hardees in Parsons, we will go down to the Hwy 69 road cuts near the TN River where I have collected trilobites and other Silurian/Devonian fossils. If you would like to spend Friday night at the Deerfield Inn in Parsons, the # is 731-847-4700. Rooms are \$52.99 plus tax per night. There are several campgrounds in the area also.

The Vulcan Quarry requires that all underaged children MUST have a waiver that is signed by a parent before they will be allowed into the quarry to collect, so be sure to fill out the one provided and bring it with you, if you have children attending this field trip. We all have to sign the quarry waiver when we get there. Call or email me if you plan to go and give me your cell# , so if for some reason you are not there by seven, I can let the office personnel know who is yet to come. Thanks, Nancy Roberts 731-689-5336 H or therockhoundlady@yahoo.com Quarry phone # 731-847-3211 I will also have copies of the waiver available at the Nov. 19th meeting.

Directions: From Tupelo

Take Hwy 45N heading to Jackson TN. About 13 miles N of Selmer TN at Henderson , you will come to a 4 way stop where Hwy 100 crosses Hwy 45 (this is now a traffic light). Turn right (head east) onto Hwy 100. Take Hwy 100 to Hwy 69 in Decaturville (approx. 30 miles). Turn North (left) onto Hwy 69, heading to Parsons, TN. The quarry is on the right side of Hwy 69 north of Parsons, approx 3 miles N of the Hwy 69 /412 intersection in the town, or about 2 miles N of the Deerfield Inn. (you will see a lot of dump trucks entering the quarry). Report at the office to sign in.

Directions from Pickwick TN: Take Hwy 128 over the Pickwick Dam, heading toward Savannah . Before you get to Savannah , turn right onto 226 , take this Hwy to a "T" stop at Hwy 64. Turn

right onto 64, heading east. Shortly after you pass the Savannah Vulcan quarry, turn left onto Hwy 128N. Take this to a "T" stop at Hwy 114. Turn left onto 114. This takes you over the TN River bridge. Stay on this Hwy114/69. About a mile or two after the bridge, Hwy114 goes off to the left DON" T TURN stay straight (this is now Hwy 69N) Take this all the way to Parsons and the quarry. Parsons is approximately 20 miles north of the Tn River Bridge.

Optional Directions from Tupelo : Take Hwy 45N to Corinth . Turn onto Hwy 72E and go to Hwy 25 in luka. Take Hwy 25N all the way to Hwy 57 in Counce and at the stop sign there, turn right, go over the dam and then follow the directions from Pickwick to Parsons.

Directions from Memphis: Take Interstate 40 east toward Nashville. Take exit#126 onto Hwy 69 S towards Parsons. The quarry will be on your left just as you are entering the outskirts of Parsons. (Approx. 8 miles S of I40)

North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society
Release, Waiver and Indemnity Agreement

The Undersigned hereby acknowledges his/her understanding that mineral, rock and fossil collecting is an inherently dangerous activity which can result in serious bodily injury or death, and/or property damage and hereby confirms his/her voluntary assumption of the risk of such injury, death or damage. The Undersigned, in return for the privilege of attending field trips related to the collection of and/or study of minerals, rocks and fossils, or any other event or activity conducted or hosted by the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (NMGMS), hereinafter collectively and individually referred to as "NMGMS Events", hereby releases the NMGMS, NMGMS' members, NMGMS' chairpersons and officers, NMGMS Event leaders or organizers and hosts, landowners and mine or quarry operators from any and all liability claims resulting from injury to or death of the undersigned or his/her minor children or damage to his/her property resulting from any cause whatsoever related to participation in NMGMS Events. The Undersigned agrees to comply with any and all rules and restrictions which may be communicated to the undersigned by the NMGMS Event leader and/or landowner and mine or quarry operator and acknowledges that failure to comply will result in immediate expulsion from the premises. The Undersigned acknowledges that this release covers all NMGMS Events and will remain in effect at all times unless or until it is revoked by written notice to the current President of the NMGMS and receipt of such revocation is acknowledged.

The Undersigned further attests to his/her intent to be legally bound by affixing his/her signature to this release.

Adult Name (s) (print) _____

Signature (s) _____

Date _____

List all minor/dependent children and ages of Undersigned

1. _____ Age _____

2. _____ Age _____

3. _____ Age _____

4. _____ Age _____