



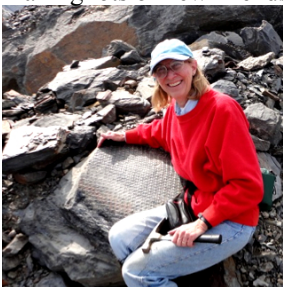
November 12, 2012 Volume 12 Issue 6
**NOTES FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S DESK**

I am composing this missive while looking over at least 200 pounds of shale slabs that contain myriads of Pennsylvanian plant fossils! NMGMS had a fabulous and very well attended field trip this past weekend over to an Alabama surface coal mine. It was nearly as good as a trip to Parsons, TN, as far as the amount of fossil material available. If you didn't find any fossil ferns, horsetails or giant club mosses to collect there, then you must have been still in your car or blindfolded! On behalf of all of those who attended, I wish to say "Thank You" to Ashley Allen and the Alabama Paleontological Society for making this trip possible. We are very fortunate to be able to coordinate field trips like this one with several of our neighboring clubs.

I would also like to thank all of the NMGMS members who came out to the picnic and braved the cold, windy day. We all enjoyed the food and company despite the inclement weather. Had several people attend who spotted our announcement on the club's website. Thank you John!! Thanks too, go to Jim Roberts and Matthew and Brittani Lambert for setting up and manning the always enjoyed "fishing" game. Our club auction went very well and a few folks even managed to get some goodies to be used as Christmas gifts!

We have just about completed our 2013 schedule of events and one event that is on the "front burner", so to speak, is the display and geology day that NMGMS will be setting up at the Oren Dunn Museum in Tupelo early next year. Roger Lambert has been working in conjunction with Rae Mathis of the museum on this project and it is shaping up to be an interesting, educational and fun event for not only the museum, but also for our organization and the community. We are planning to cover the different geologic deposits of the state and the rock and mineral resources. We hope to also show some of the lapidary work that club members have done with some of the native materials. George Phillips, with the Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, has graciously offered a variety of that museum's Mississippi rocks, minerals and fossils for our use in this project. We will also be looking for our membership to help us out with as many of the lapidary items as possible.

On Saturday Nov. 10th several of our club members will be working with a group of Boy Scouts on the Geology Merit Badge and another group of us will be working down in West Point at a beading workshop for the local Arts Council. These events not only help out other community organizations, but they also help us with getting the word out about NMGMS and what we are all about. Not to mention that by doing these activities we all are learning, keeping up our skills and expertise and making lots of new friends along the way.



So, I encourage all members to take advantage of these other events, not just the club meetings or field trips. You'll have fun and learn in the process!

NANCY ROBERTS

Nancy by what had to be the most photographed specimen ever. See p 3.
Photo by Jim Roberts

Above the Natural Bridge of Alabama (and Indian Stone Head) near Hamilton. The arch is 148 feet long, 60 feet high. Obviously there are two bridges. The largest is the longest east of the Rockies. It was formed by an underwater river more than 200 million years ago. History buff? Creek Indians originally lived in the area. Both sides during the Civil War used the area, and soldiers graves are nearby. Interested in botany? There are 27 varieties of fern, and hemlocks that date to the Ice Age.

And of course sandstone, iron ore and to the right giant rugosae coral with a 14 year old girl hand. Photo by Dana Jones.

 Indian Head Rock and Beautiful photo by John Byzet.  Entire land bridge. Photo Dana Jones.



NOVEMBER 17
TUPELO LIBRARY
FROM 1-3PM
FOSSIL CLEANING
AND PREP
REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED.
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS WILL
PRESENT THEIR
WORK FROM
WILLIAM HOLLAND.

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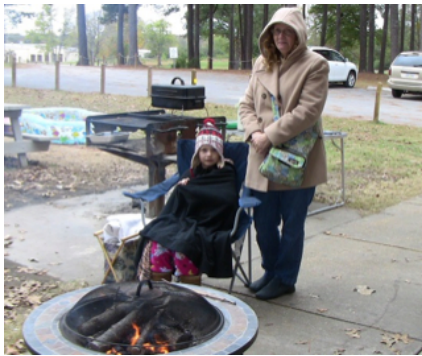
NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Due to the apparent 'anything to get out of a meeting' nature of our club, yet again no minutes because we had yet another party instead of a meeting. This one was our Annual Picnic and Rock Swap October 27.



Meeting Program

Being party animals the program was a picnic and rock swapping.



John Byzet supplied a fire pit for what turned out to be a cold but still enjoyable day of specimen identifying, grab bags, food, showing off collections, eating but most of all enjoying each other's company. All photos by Jim Roberts.

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Mark Your Calendar

November 17

Tupelo Library from 1-3pm
Fossil Cleaning and Prep
Scholarship Recipients
Presentation

For a list of
rock and
gem shows:
[http://
www.amfed.
org/
shows.htm](http://www.amfed.org/shows.htm)

Rock and
Gem
magazine:
[www.rockngem.com/
showdates](http://www.rockngem.com/showdates)

December 15

Tupelo Library 11am-3pm
Christmas Luncheon
Short Meeting
Lunch at Noon
Ham, Potluck and Gifts

November 16-18, 2012

Marietta, GA

Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society
27th Annual Rock, Mineral & Jewelry Show
Cobb County Civic Center
Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Free Admission
Contact Mary Ingram: (404)915-3588
mandmingram@gmail.com.

November 17-18, 2012

West Palm Beach, FL

Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches
46th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Bead and Fossil Show
South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East
Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5
Free Parking Admission is charged
<http://www.gemandmineral.cc>.

November 23-25, 2012

Mobile, AL

Mobile Rock & Gem Society
Gem, Jewelry, Mineral and Fossil Show
Abba Temple Shrine
Fri 2-7, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5
Contact Jim Patterson (251)510-85228
jimandde@mobile.com

November 30-December 2, 2012

Montgomery, AL

Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society
42nd Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show
Garrett Coliseum
Fri 9-6 Sat 10-6; Sun 11-5
Free Admission and Parking
Contact: Jane Barkley, (334) 277-2722
or
Iris McGehee, (334) 262-7275.

December 8-9, 2012

Franklin, TN

Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society
Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale
Williamson County Ag Expo Park
Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5
Admission is charged
www.MTGMS.org
Contact John Stanley (615) 885-5704
show@mtgms.org.

January 11-13, 2013

Largo, FL

Pinellas Geological Society
37th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show
Largo Cultural Center
Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5
Admission free
Contact Hugh Sheffield (727) 894-2440 or cell (727) 707-3236



Old Bones

To share knowledge of fossil, gem, and mineral collecting and preparation.

The Carboniferous Era

359-250 million years ago

It had a uniform, hotter and more humid climate than the modern day Amazon. The oxygen level was 32.5%, modern day levels are 21%. The Early period-Mississippian was hot averaging 68f. Later the average temperature was 54, comparable to modern times. Also the Carbon Dioxide level was 350, today it's 380. Despite the similarities, modern life would not fare well if transported to this era. The oxygen level would create oxygen toxicity. The oxygen level enabled insect, arthropod, and amphibian gigantism. Tropical rain forests/swamps covered large areas of land surfaces, the buried remains of which created the coal deposits these fossils were found.

Recommended reading:
Lost World's in Alabama's Rocks by Jim Lacefield

See also:
[http://www.geocraft.com/WVFossils/
TableOfCont.html](http://www.geocraft.com/WVFossils/TableOfCont.html)

<http://www.scotese.com/Default.htm>



Carboniferous Pennsylvanian fossils. Clockwise from Nobli the Rockhound showing off specimens. lycopod branches, fern stems and leaves, fern leaves, fern stems, calamites, a stem cast. Photos Dana Jones.



Field Trip

North Alabama November 4, 2012

Working in a Coal Mine, What Members Had to Say Going down down... (sadly its an open pit mine)

NMGMS and APS enjoyed a joint field trip to a north Alabama coal mine for Carboniferous Forest fossils.

Dana Jones: I discovered you can never have enough fossil fern, and it's good to have a strong friend with you. Thanks Matthew.

Matthew Lambert: I think that it was really fun and that everyone had a fun time. I hope we have another one like this.

Tabitha Lambert: I saw some interesting fossils.

Jim Roberts: the coal mine tailing piles were full of plant fossils. I found slabs of all sizes with fern leaf patterns. The only hard part was carrying your "treasures" down the steep slopes back to your car.



Ashley Allen President of APS giving mine safety instructions to participants. Photo Jim Roberts

Britanni Lambert: I had a fun time but it will wear you out. I liked this trip so much. I fell five times, like friends says "you fall down and that counts is you get up"

Roger-there was no lack of interesting material to search through. It was full of fossils and interesting minerals.

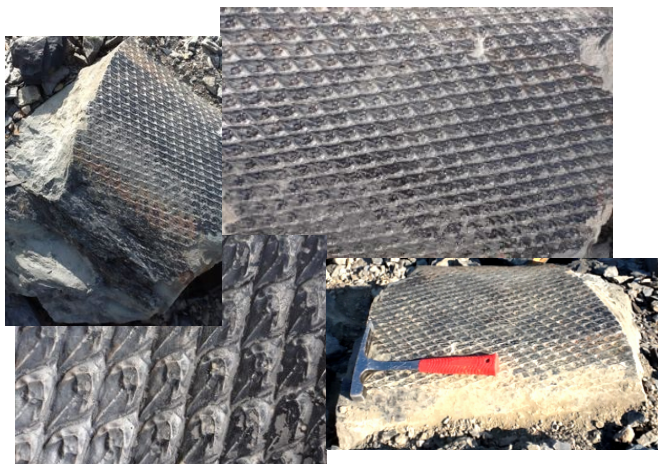
Trey White: I had a good time. I saw lots of cool fossils. Also I found a tree branch/root fossil.

Meredith Collins: I had fun looking around at the coal mine. I saw a lot of fern fossils and tree parts.

David 'Chop-Chop' Loyd: had a great time looking for fossil ferns and plants. To me it was like a candy store. Thanks a lot APS.

Belinda Loyd: it was very interesting wandering around among the huge piles of stones. The ferns and fossil finds we're numerous and varied. It was my first time in a coal mine and it was awesome.

Nancy Roberts: I would not have missed this trip for the world. The tailings piles were full of fern, calamities and club mosses. There were giant stem *casts* too. A lot of these gorgeous fossil specimens were on slabs way to heavy to pick up but I did manage to load my trunk up. Some of the fossils were even pyritized. APS members were so gracious and made the trip very enjoyable. Ashley Allen and Bruce Relihan helped us identify what we were collecting. We had a really great time with all of the NMGMS members who attended. One of our best trips yet!



Site: a bitumino coal strip mine.
Formation: Pottsville Group
Age: Lower Pennsylvanian Period, Westphalian – A

The Mine
Photo Jim Roberts

From top left: Brittani scouting along, Jim supervising Bruce's searching efforts, Tabitha, Roger, Nancy, and Brittani enjoying a snack break, Nancy and Brittani are talking to the editor, and she edited herself out. David, Roger and Belinda search in view of bulldozer. Photos by Jim Roberts
Montage to the left-the most photographed specimen at the site. Trey White, Dana Jones, Jim Roberts and Meredith Collins took these photos of the single most photographed Lepidodendron trunk section in existence. See p 6



Bead Soup

A place to share knowledge about the lapidary arts.

The William Holland Special Camp William Holland [sic]

By John Byzet



Left-Faceting machine. Top-The Lodge and the lampwork building. Photos John Byzet. Above-the NMGMS Three. Released on the unsuspecting Lapidary School. Photo Ann Byzet.



As we drove up the last winding mountain road to get to the school, I announced "Camp William Holland, here we are!" Dana quickly reminded me not to judge it before we even walk in the door. She was right again. The long main building was two stories. The top floor (even with the parking area) has more than 20 rooms along both sides. This arrangement made for easy unpacking of the car. There was a veranda all the way around the building with some rocking chairs. We took the elevator to the bottom floor which held the dining room/lounge. Most of that floor was taken up by the classrooms. The office and shop were off one side.

Everyone we met was really nice. The fellow rockhounds and the staff alike were easy to meet. We were greeted with a wine and cheese party that set the tone for a classy week. The meals were great. About halfway through the week I realized that we hadn't been offered any junk food at all. I hadn't even had a coke.

Withdrawal symptoms aside, I enjoyed freshly made biscuits, eggs, bacon, gravy, grits, and so forth for breakfast. Each morning there was a fruit bar loaded with good stuff like strawberries, cantaloupe, and honeydew melon. At each lunch and dinner they had a salad bar in addition to the main food bar. The meals were varied and tasty. For instance, Thursday night we had prime rib, baked potato, green beans, and carrots. This came with fresh rolls and croissants and raspberry cheesecake. They also had sugar-free pies nightly. The one night we had pizza it was certainly not junk food. They had six or seven different ones freshly made and they brought it out as long as someone was getting some. As you can see, I didn't lose any weight that week. Even though it was a day or two before I found out about the rock dump, it turned out to be a real find. They had an area outside with piles of rocks dumped by members, clubs, and others that donated them. It cost \$1 a pound for rock and \$2 a pound for coral. Since I like small size specimens, I ended up spending less than a dollar each trip I made out there. For 50 cents I got two specimens of calico lace and used their saw to cut off the matrix. I even found one rock that no one I asked could identify.

Maybe I asked the wrong people so it's over on the table with my gems. My room was one of the ones not remodeled yet, but I found nothing wrong with it. My room was clean. No TV or radio to distract you. It was set up for two people, but fortunately for him, my scheduled roommate had to cancel out and I got the whole room to myself. In spite of testimony to the contrary, I don't believe I snore loud enough to saw rocks. Now on to the reason we were there - the classes. I took faceting - cutting gemstones into gems. The classroom was perfectly set up for the class. I believe they usually have 3 to 4 in the class. Since there were only two of us taking the class, we had plenty of room and individual attention. The instructor, Bill Roberts, had been faceting for 41 years with 20 of them for a string of jewelry stores in Atlanta. He stayed right on the job and shared his knowledge on every aspect of his craft. He also knew cabochon and slabbing, etc. There were 4 or 5 types of faceting machines available and I got to use the best (and most expensive). We had class from 9 to 5 and then 2-3 hours most nights. The evenings were something Bill tossed in if we wanted to come.

The first gem took 2 days. I was learning the machine, the stone and the different cuts as well as the language of faceting. Bill pronounced it a good cut, but with his supervision it would have been hard to mess it up too much. The next one was an amethyst and took a day. Not because it was amethyst but because I was still learning different cuts, angles, and why the relationship of the angles on both the top and bottom were so important. The different cuts all were according to established patterns for a reason. Bill was teaching more than just the mechanics of cutting. I even learned which doping wax was best for faceting and why. No topic was too small for him to cover.

The third stone took less than six hours. I might could have done it more quickly but I liked Bill to check each set of facets before I polished them and reset the angles on the machine for the next cuts. On this stone he showed me several tricks of the trade that professional cutters used that took hours off my cutting time. I was still slow and checked everything twice, but I invested too much time and effort to mess up a stone now.

At the end, I got my diploma and Bill gave me a dozen faceting grade stones along with an invitation to come back for Faceting II next year. Perhaps he believes I should get a machine and practice. I think all the gems look great and I guess I'm right since my wife can't decide which one she wants made into a ring or pendant for her.

Altogether it was a really great experience. I learned a lot - unfortunately. I say that because when we stopped at the Huntsville Gem and Mineral show on the way back. I inspected the jewelry and found a lot of it with cheap cuts from Asia. Before this I wouldn't have known the difference. Now if I can just find a Facetron faceting machine on sale very inexpensively, I will have a new hobby.

They have a lot of varied classes and all the students I talked to learned a lot and loved it. \$330 for the room and board and class was a great buy. A week in most hotels costs twice as much and you learn nothing about lapidary there.



Left John's lovely work
Right John and Bill
Photos Remy Collins

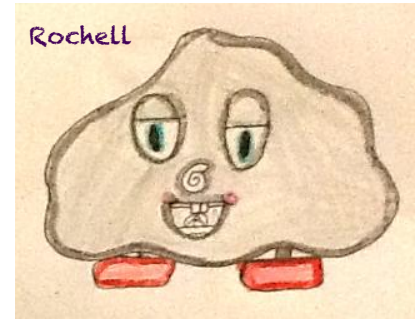


Rockheads Member Interview

By Brittani Lambert

I interviewed Peter and Amanda Allen at Ballard Park. They saw our website and came to our picnic. They liked our rock swap and picnic.

www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm



How did you get interested in rocks?
Amanda likes sparkly rocks.

Do you like rocks or fossils best?
Rocks.
Why?
Rocks are sparkly and durable.

What's your favorite part of NMGMS?
The annual picnic and rock swap.

What's your favorite mineral?
Amethyst.
Thanks to Peter and Amanda for this interview.



Left Brittani interviewing Peter and Amanda. Middle Matthew hard at work cooking hotdogs. Bottom Victoria, Matthew, Robin and Brittani taking a fishing break.



My Trip to William Holland Georgia

By Remy Collins



Me, my Mummy and a man from our rock group, John Byzet, went on a trip to Willem Holland in Georgia. Mr. John attended faceting while Mummy and I took lampworks.

The first night we heard wolves playing up in the mountains. I thought they were coyotes, but Mummy told me they were wolves. So, I was excited about that because I thought I would see wolves, but no, I didn't see any wolves, only pictures. Our room was slammin'. It was carnelian, which is a mineral that is red. We had two beds. I got the little bed and Mummy got the luxury bed. (I say that because Mummy had the TV. BTW, we brought a flat mini-screen and a Wii.)

I loved our little room. It was cute and it made me feel like I was in college. And don't get me started on the food. It was A.M.A.Z.I.N.G.! It made me Happeh, Hahhheh, Happeh and fat! :) Chef Al was nice and funny. Everyone was. Our instructor, Mrs. Cindy, was very nice. We met four other people who were taking lampwork also. Laurie, Jim, Janet and Marilyn were their names. Janet was funny, sweet and adorable. She loved cats, like I do. Jim was cool, he likes apple fritters. Laurie was nice and determined. Marilyn cracked me up, because she ordered a glass molder and she thought it was a scarab, but when she got it and molded her glass with it, she said it had boobs. I laughed so hard! I learned how to make stringers, twistees, cans, baking soda beads, galaxy beads, cats, ghosts, bats, fish and all kinds of stuff. I made mushrooms mostly, but I made Mummy a Cheerio bead. Mummy made some really cool fish. We had an auction, but we only got two things.

When we left, we went to the Natural Bridge, which was really cool. Me and Mum are definitely going back next year!



Above: Janet, Dana, Laurie, Cindy, Marilyn, Jim, and Remy. Photo John Byzet.
Left: Marilyn's bobbin bead. Photo Dana Jones
Below: Some of Remy's work. Photo Dana Jones



Contributions? Please contact

nuggeteditor@gmail.com

Therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

(aka Announcements)

Bill Hawkins

Please keep Bill and Floy Hawkins in your thoughts and prayers.

The next meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be held on Saturday Nov. 17, 2012 from 1 to 3p.m. at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo. The program which follows the business meeting, will be "Fossil Cleaning and Preparation". George Phillips, paleontologist with the Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS will be joining us. This will be a "hands on" program and there will be some fossils for you to work with. If you have a fossil of your own that you would like to work on, or to have identified, please bring it to the meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information visit <http://www.nmgms.org/>

The next NMGMS field trip will be on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012 to the Union County/Blue Springs crab site. We will meet at the site at 9:00a.m. This site is an Upper Cretaceous Coon Creek deposit.

email(therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) or call if you plan t731-689-5336H

NMGMS thanks the owner of the crabsite property for giving us permission to collect here. So please show respect to the premises and follow all field trip etiquette. Please stay clear of all buildings and equipment, fill in any large holes that you dig, pick up your trash, don't wander off, as there are private residences in the area and use caution when on top of the excavation. Thank you.

NMGMS

P.O. Box 1445
Tupelo, MS 38802

Workshop

Another Successful Workshop

by Souzen Steelhammer

For the third time in two years the West Point/Clay County Arts Council hosted a jewelry making workshop for area residents in conjunction with the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

Inveterate teacher Nancy Roberts journeyed to one of West Point's local churches on a Saturday morning with teaching assistants Nikki Kenney and Kathy Westbrook, gem society members, to show a group of about a dozen women how to make a leather wrap bracelet.

The Arts Council advertises the event locally, arranges for the teaching facility, and provides coffee, drinks and nibbles. NMGMS members assemble the kits and provide all needed tools, as well as hand-outs for participants to use.

Eight of this workshop's participants have been involved in previous sessions, but there is always room for new participants.

Nancy and her team are patient, as participants learn new techniques. On Saturday they became quite proficient at untangling knots from long lengths of thread and "unbeading" mistakes.

Good humor, however, prevailed, and everyone walked out sporting handsome new bracelets, with many toting additional packets for making these fashion statements as Christmas gifts.

Workshops are usually \$35, which provides the Arts Council funding for advertising and provides a generous amount to the NMGMS scholarship fund.



"The workshops have become so popular that they fill up quickly", said Arts Council workshop coordinator and fellow NMGMS member Souzen Deavers Steelhammer.
Photos Nancy Roberts



NMGMS REPORT OF SAID CLASS

We had a very good turnout for the wrapped leather bracelet class that was held on Nov. 10th. Some of the ladies in attendance had been at every single class that we have held so far in West Point. We had a really great group to work with; we're really becoming a "beading" family! Everyone was excited about the kits and bead selection and the project that was taught was a lot of fun to work up. After some initial instruction, everyone started off at their own pace and soon got into the rhythm of the "over and under" figure eight pattern of weaving thru the beads. We had a few rather interesting moments tho, while they were working with the 7 and 1/2 feet of beading thread. I'm glad that I had my "mag eyes" along, as there were a few knots to tackle, but we got them all out. Hey, I'm the "Knot Queen"! Everyone had fun and enjoyed the day, even Nikki Kenney and Kathy Westbrook, who volunteered their time and came out to assist me with this class. All of our students were very pleased with their results and were happy to be wearing such a cute and chic leather bracelet home.

NANCY ROBERTS

Read the Footnotes

CH-CH-CH-CHanges

A few changes are being made for a variety of reasons. First, the newsletter will be coming out the third Friday of every month. EVERY month. So get ready for summer when all you might get is whatever blatherings I can come up with-if you've ever spoken with me, you know this concept should frighten you.

This means the deadline for sending me things is the second Friday of every month with the exception of whatever happened that weekend. Such as field trip, meeting, workshop etc. Of course, it's going to be pretty much arbitrary on the etc side so, let me know as soon as you have an etc type situation.

We need submissions of all sorts, I'm a nurse, and I just looked up the Carboniferous and wrote a little about it-what I found interesting is that how all these geologists think we, humans would have been just fine then, because the carbon dioxide levels and temperature were basically the same when in truth, the oxygen would kill us, slowly. I could write all day about what the increased levels of oxygen would do to humans, starting with blindness. Remy says don't. She had to hear it, and she assures me.

No one thinks there is a Land of the Lost Door, or cares about Oxygen Toxicity to Modern Humans in the Carboniferous. She also assures me no one cares about how to make an outdoor oven out of Cob, or that you could actually build a fossil holding shed out of it too.

If for no other reason then to keep Remy from rolling her eyes at me (my other daughter refuses to even listen. Her boyfriend though will soon be on my bandwagon) please, send in even the flimsiest of notions.

You just never know what might come of it.

Dana Jones

Contact
nuggeteditor@gmail.com

This month is a Statue. But of whom? He was the god of fire and volcanos, married to an extremely beautiful but unfaithful goddess (in myth) around 1800 years ago. His Greek counterpart was also god of the forge. In current culture a popular science fiction a revered character is from a planet named for this god. Now he's a giant cast iron statue on a tower.
Photo Dana Jones. nuggeteditor@gmail.com



Rock of Gibraltar, answer to last month's Guess. Rock was a FAST champion miler, and now a sire. Courtesy of Coolmore.

