



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

October, 2011 ~ Volume 10, Issue 5

Notes from the President's Desk...October

With the first day of fall under our belts, the kids back in school and the geese flying south, it is time to start planning out our club's agenda for next year. We already have several speakers lined up, Dr. Terry Panhorst from the University of Mississippi's Geology Dept. in January and George Phillips, the paleontologist with the Museum of Natural Science in Jackson for May. The new junior division of NMGMS, the Rockheads, will have one meeting dedicated to either their presentations or a program of their choice and our annual club birthday party where all members get to "show off" will again be in March.

We are hoping that the club can continue to tap into the rich resource of our very own members' talents in the lapidary field and provide us with more "hands on" programs that we all so much enjoy. If there is a specific topic or project that you would like to see as a meeting program, please let me or any of the club officers or chairpersons know. NMGMS is always looking for new speakers and topics to cover, as we all want to learn as much as we can!

Fall is also the time of year in which we as a club, nominate and vote on the new slate of officers for the coming year. We are also looking for members interested in serving as committee chairpersons or who are willing to help out on any of the committees. Remember, you will get a whole lot more out of an organization by putting a bit of yourself into it. To "borrow" a line from the ad, "it's not a job; it's an adventure!"

There are still three months of great activities left to round out this year, so be sure and mark your calendars. There's the October 15th field trip for agates, petrified wood and chert fossils and our 2nd annual picnic and rock swap on October 29th, where members can get together with other rockhounds, to share some good food, fun activities and swap those extras from your collections. On November 5th, we'll be heading on a field trip for Pennsylvanian plant fossils and then learning how to make wire gemitrees at our regular club meeting on November 19th. For December, we have our annual Christmas Party luncheon on the 17th and, weather permitting; we hope to get another field trip back to Parsons, TN for Devonian fossils.

Wow, I can hardly wait!!! *Nancy Roberts*

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Next Meeting

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



Incoming Vice President Don Moore installing current SFMS President Jason Hamilton of the Jacksonville club. (photo.jpg)

OTRA

When famous Country/Western singer Willie Nelson performs, he sings a standard titled On The Road Again. We have shortened that song to OTRA as we email and text our family and friends when we are on the road again. We were OTRA to California in May for an extended visit with family and friends and back to MS in mid August. We were OTRA to Greenville, SC over Labor Day to attend the Southeast Federation Gem and Mineral Society's annual meeting for the election of officers. We sat out the untimely arrival of Irene at the Flower Mill RV Park near Greenville but in spite of Irene we had an enjoyable time. The Greenville Gem club hosted the meeting and the Hendersonville, NC Gem club hosted the show. We especially enjoyed attending this meeting because our one question of just what does it mean to be a part of the SFMS got answered. We received the following answers to our one question. The SFMS provides each club with their publication the Lodestar that contains current Federation activities that add value to each club's knowledge with committee information, articles on mineral and fossil ID, rock hounding regulations and

legislation, and Lapidary Craft talk. The Dixie Gem and Mineral Society is a separate field trip sharing program that a SFMS club can join. The Education Committee provides 2 week workshops at the William Holland Lapidary School and at Wild Acres. The SFMS has available an extensive library of programs. The Youth Resources committee will now provide each club with a subscription to Diamond Dan's Mini Minor Monthly along with the potential for Junior members to apply for a Junior Rock Hound Of the Year Scholarship. This scholarship is used in conjunction with a week of instruction at either William Holland or Wild Acres. Another scholarship that is available is one from the Mayo Foundation. After an application, this scholarship is awarded to college students majoring in the Geological Sciences. Last but not least is the Liability Insurance the SFMS carries that covers SFMS club shows and field trips.

There are 80 plus clubs in the SFMS and yet it remains a difficult task to find willing club members to hold the various officer positions and the various committee heads. The majority of these SFMS positions do not require a lot of effort and work. When one is chairperson of a committee that just means they are the depository of the many members of that particular committee. The SFMS is without 5 of its important committee positions. We were not allowed to enter the bulletin competition last year because there wasn't a SFMS Bulletin Committee Chairperson. Don't be afraid to investigate the various open positions and volunteer if you can. The current officers of the SFMS are just like us, Rock Hounds, Fossil Hounds and Lapidary artists. Being part of a great club is enjoyable but being part of the bigger picture is tons of fun.

Respectfully,
Floy and Bill Hawkins,
MS State Directors SFMS

October club picnic

Hello fellow NMGMS members! Remember that we are having a picnic/rock swap in lieu of our regular October meeting. There is NO meeting at the Tupelo library on Saturday, Oct. 15th, the picnic/rock swap is on Saturday, October 29th at Ballard Park in Tupelo Information follows. Thanks, Nancy

NMGMS ROCK SWAP

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is having its second annual Rock Swap Picnic **October 29, 2011**. The Rock Swap will be held at **Ballard Park, West Main STREET/Highway 6, Tupelo, MS**. We would like to invite all rock hounds from the surrounding areas to join our members for a day of great fun, trading and fellowship. There is no charge to attend or to set up and trade. The area is located in the smaller covered pavilion with picnic tables and several nearby. You can also set up easy-ups.

Indoor restrooms, bike path, outdoor skate park, lake, Oren Dunn Museum and children's playground are close by. Bring something to trade or just come by to join the picnic, look around and visit with fellow rock hounds. **The Swap is from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.** (Set up to begin at 9a.m.) The Park closes at 10p.m. We will be having a club auction (donated items are most welcome!), grab bags for sale and a "Fishing Game".

Proceeds to go toward NMGMS scholarships. NMGMS will have hot dogs, chips and drinks. Members are asked to bring a dessert and folding chairs.

Directions:

From Memphis take Highway 78 south and exit onto McCullough Blvd./Hwy.178 heading south. Go 1.4 miles to Coley Road. Turn right and continue 3.3 to West Main/Hwy. 6. Turn left and

continue .2 mile to Ballard Park. Take the first right (Rutherford Road) after you drive past the park and park anywhere on either side of the street. The park's sign is on the corner of Main and Rutherford and the pavilion is on the east side of the lake, just north of the museum and park office building. Watch for the NMGMS rock swap signs!

If coming from the east, take Highway 78 to the Natchez Trace Parkway. Enter the Parkway and go south toward Jackson, MS and exit at Hwy. 6/West Main St.

Go west toward Pontotoc, less than a mile, to Ballard Park. The pavilion is on the east side of the lake.

Attention NMGMS: November is the month in which members vote on the slate of club officers for the upcoming new year. Currently, we need to fill the Vice President slot; and my two year tenure as your club president is ending. Our secretary, Belinda Loyd will be serving her second year in office in 2012 and in order to keep the bank records and check signing easy, our current treasurer has agreed to continue serving. We will also need to fill the Publicity Chair position.

All members need to start thinking about whom they would like to see leading this organization for the next few years and be ready to place your nominations and votes at the November 19, 2011 meeting. Any member interested in serving as a committee chairperson or helping out on any of the committees, please let us know. This is everyone's organization and each and every member's input is important. This is "our" club; let's make it the best that we can and enjoyable and enriching for all! *Nancy Roberts*

Hello NMGMS members!

The Nov. field trip will be on Saturday, Nov. 5th and will be a joint trip with the Alabama Paleontological Society to several Alabama coal mine sites for Pennsylvanian plant fossils. See the announcement that follows:

Notice to all NMGMS members: This field trip will be to the Union Chapel Mine site in the morning (aka: Steven C. Minkin Paleozoic Footprint Site) and then on to a fresh site after lunch. The Pennsylvanian plant fossils at these coal mines are awesome! To view some of the fossils found at UCM, either "Google" Steven C. Minkin Paleozoic footprint Site, or go to:

<http://bama.ua.edu/~rbuta/monograph/>

We have been invited to participate in another APS field trip to the coal mine area of Alabama.

This will be on Saturday, November 5, 2011. This locale is a coal mine and contains Pennsylvanian plant fossils such as lycopods, sphenophytes, seed ferns and cordaites (ancestors of conifers). Trace fossils of a few types of tetrapods that include anthracosaurs, small amphibians and even

amnoites. Fish traces and a variety of invertebrate traces can be found. Also some marine materials are found at this site. Be sure to bring a hammer, chisel, crowbar, safety glasses, a screwdriver (handy for prying up rock layers), cardboard flats for transporting slabs, newspaper or paper towels for wrapping specimens, paper and pencil for labeling, an old brush for cleaning slabs, drinking water, hat, work gloves and sunscreen. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, as there are many rock piles to climb around in. Good luck!

**** We will meet at Uncle Joe's Food and Fuel Truck Stop/Citgo Station in Jasper, AL at 8:00a.m. Saturday Nov. 5, 2011.

**** This gas station is across the street from the old Uncle Mort's restaurant. Uncle Mort's burned down, but they have put up a steel building and it is now a Bingo hall. Uncle Joe's will be on the left, if you are heading E.

Directions: from Tupelo, take Hwy 78 (4 lane highway) heading East toward Birmingham, Ala. In Alabama, take exit

#65/Industrial Parkway Rd. off of the 4 lane, heading toward Jasper. Turn left onto Industrial PKWY. Go about 3.3 miles and turn right onto Hwy69/5E(this is the main "drag" through Jasper and you will be on the East side of town at this intersection, there's a gas station on the SE corner, but I don't remember what kind). Go approximately 5 miles to Uncle Joe's Truck Stop.

Nancy Roberts field trip chair
H-731-689-5336; C-731-727-5574
therockhoundlady@yahoo.com
Please let me know if you plan to go on this trip.

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

What to Bring: cardboard flats, rock hammer and chisel, safety glasses, hat, sunscreen, water, newspaper or aluminum foil.

WE DIDN'T STOP THERE!

Greenville, SC was a great place to visit and stop in order to attend a SFMS meeting but it wasn't our eventual destination. We were bound and determined to make it to Butler Island, VT this summer for a visit with Nancy and Jim Roberts. The majority of our trips are not eventual unless we make the effort for them to be important. This event was not in our original VT trip plans.

Mom Nature had to interfere and create havoc with storms named Irene and Lee. What turned out to be unkind to lots of Pennsylvanians wasn't that bad for us since we were towing our travel trailer to VT. Mom Nature just wanted us to sit still for 3 days and check out a small burg in PA by the name of Gibson. Nice place but too small for most of our likes. What we did like about Gibson was their Flying J Truck Stop with an attached Denny's restaurant. Being self-contained was perfect in these circumstances.

We did feel bad when the Denny's had to close at night in order to let their employees deal with the flooding in their homes. After the flooding subsided, we were finally able to continue north on the interstate and arrived in Binghamton, NY only to find our route had a detour around the next interstate we had to travel. We figured if the 18 wheelers could manage a detour, we could too. It was a little unsettling when we had to cross a flooded Susquehanna River via an antiquated, rusted, metal bridge. But what the heck, if the 18 wheelers could do it, so could we. Away we went and it wasn't long after that we passed through New York's capital of Albany. That meant we were closer to our destination of South Hero, Grand Isle, VT.

We stopped at a wonderful super market in Plattsburg, NY called Price Choppers. We loaded up with supplies before heading for the ferry boat that would take us to the island across the western side of Lake Champlain. Soon we arrived at Apple Island Resort RV Park. It was nice to finally have full hook-ups with a wonderful view of the eastern side of Lake Champlain. The lake wouldn't cooperate with calm waters so we had to wait an extra day before meeting Nancy, Jim and their friend Bob at the South Hero Island dock for a ride over in Bob's boat to Butler Island.

It wasn't an easy task with all of our "stuff" and our "pup" Hansel. We had food, clothes, books, beading "stuff", doggie bed, and various other items to make our stay on Butler Island comfortable. Bob was wondering where the kitchen sink was hiding. It was worth it because we didn't want for anything while enjoying our stay with Jim and Nancy. Hansel wasn't bothered when he found out he had to share the cabin with the Roberts cat Murphy.

Hansel's blind but could smell a cat. He gave a couple of yelps and that scared Murphy enough so that Murphy didn't bother to come down from the loft until we were all tucked in at night.

Bill bird watched and read while Nancy and I beaded. Jim was busy tending to things that needed to be done before Old Man Winter sets in on Butler Island. Boats, boat lifts, docks, etc. all have to be brought ashore before leaving for the winter. Nancy and I also got together with Bob's wife Ceil and did more beading. I was trying my best to teach them Kumihimo beading. I think I succeeded. Bob and Ceil Farnham have been friends of Nancy and Jims for quite a long time. We first met Bob and Ceil when they visited Nancy and Jim in TN and came down to fossil hunt at Blue Springs. We also were treated to fresh veggies from the Roberts garden. Oh it was wonderful to bite into a home grown tomato for a change. They grow everything from tomatoes to peppers with egg plants and potatoes in between. It was like a Farmer's Market right in their yard.

If there was a drawback to our visit it was depending on how Lake Champlain would be when it was time to return to the RV park for our return trip. However, upon returning to our travel trailer we found that we still had 3 days left of our stay. We thought the first day back would be a rain out but we decided to brave the weather and tour around the islands. We made it to Isle La Motte and a visit to the St. Anne's Shrine and over to the quarry that has one of the oldest reefs. It was tough sightseeing with the windows up but we did just that. The next day was beautiful when we headed to Cabot, VT for a visit to the Cabot Cheese Plant. If you like a good cheddar cheese, try Cabot's Extra Sharp white cheese. Yum!

We then made a stop in VT's capital, Montpelier -- s quaint and so historic. It's also where Jim Roberts was raised until the age of six. Our next stop was in Waterbury, VT and a tour of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Plant. It's pretty much a tourist Mecca but still a fun tour if you are familiar with their ice cream. Our favorites are Peanut Brittle and Karmel Sutra. Our next stop was to see a glass blowing artist and of course a purchase of a small globe for a Christmas present. We had toured and tasted and shopped til we about to drop when we decided it was time to head back to the trailer and start to get ready for our trip back to MS. Stowing away our purchases was about the biggest thing we had to do before hitting the hay for an early start the next morning. We decided to return a different route and we got to see more of quaint and historic VT before driving onto the NY toll highway that would take us across the state to Buffalo and then south through PA, KY, TN, AL & safely back to MS and home, sweet, home!.

**Respectfully,
Floy & Bill Hawkins**



Jim, Bill, Floy & Hannah



Nancy learning Kumihimo



The view from the cabin window

Junior's Section ~ The Rock Hounds



May 21 meeting The program was on micromounting minerals and fossils.

The Rockheads are now listed with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies!

<http://www.amfed.org/kids.htm>

Photos by Bernice Burkeen



Rockheads September Meeting

Elected officers:

Group Leader – Matthew Lambert: Asst. Group Leader – Robin Langford: Secretary – Remy: Field Trip Chair – Brittani Lambert. Matthew gave a short presentation to the “Rockheads

Spending a Day With Sue at the Space Center

By Matthew Lambert

While visiting the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL, I had a chance to tour the traveling exhibit “SUE.” No dinosaur in the world compares to Sue – the largest, most complete, and best preserved Tyrannosaurus rex (from the Greek and Latin for Tyrant Lizard King) ever discovered. The skeleton measures forty-two feet long nose to tail, and 13 feet tall at the hips.

The specimen was named after Sue Hendrickson who discovered the remains weathering out of a hillside on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in the badlands of South Dakota on August 12, 1990.

“Sue” lived during the Late Cretaceous Period, about 67-million-years-ago. The estimated living weight when it was alive is about 7 tons and just the skull weighs 600 lbs. The skull is 5 feet long with a brain cavity just large enough to hold a quart of milk.

Sue has 60 teeth, each one 7 ½ to 12 inches long. It was a carnivore (meat eater), but no one knows for sure if it was a male or female. After ownership disputes were settled, the fossil was acquired at auction in October 1997 by The Field Museum in Chicago, IL, for \$8.36 million.



The Nugget

October, 2011



**Henderson NC Gem
& Mineral Show**

✦ 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:

October 29: Second annual NMGMS picnic and rock swap

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 Meeting Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by:
Roger Lambert; Ethan Bullock; Ryan Bullock; Mathew Lambert

Introduce guests and new members...

Do I have a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Nugget?
APPROVED and second

**If there were any changes, be sure the secretary got them and have them printed in the next issue of the Nugget.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of Date: Sept. 17, 2011, \$1257.49

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: Our October field trip will be on Saturday Oct. 15th to the Perry Plant near Coldwater, MS of Memphis Stone and Gravel. We will be able to collect agates, petrified wood and chert fossils. This trip is in conjunction with MAGS and the Dixie Mineral Council. They are also having a rock swap and cookout in conjunction with this trip. (see handout for announcement and directions)

The Nov. field trip will be on Saturday Nov. 5th in conjunction with APS to one of their coal mine sites for Pennsylvanian plant fossils. Ashley Allen will be getting those details to us.

If we can squeeze in a Dec. trip, we will try to get into the quarry at Parsons, TN for Devonian fossils.

Publicity: (Reginald Rose) - The All American Award winners were listed in the AFMS Newsletter, page 10, September issue. NMGMS took the Gold Medal for the Southeast Federation Mineral Society.

Membership: (Floy Hawkins) - We have two new members who joined NMGMS over the summer: Ed Hakesley and Angela Mott.

Hospitality: Nov.: Floy Hawkins/ Robert Langford

Website: (John Byzet) Check us out at www.nmgms.org. John Byzet plans to add a new section for articles to the website soon. So check the site often to see what's happened recently.

Stamps: If there are any to turn in, give them to Mary Reed or Kathy Westbrook. Members are encouraged to save stamps, by cutting them off of the envelope and leaving a half inch margin of paper around the stamp if possible.

Historian: Turn in any 2011 club related photos, newspaper articles or other memorabilia for next year's scrapbook to Susan Curry. Any time you visit a rock show, museum or other related event, please save the flyer, tickets whatever, to show you attended the event. All of this goes into the scrapbook!

-

Dec.: Christmas pot luck luncheon

Newsletter: (Robert Langford) - Mr. Langford has asked to step down from his position as editor of the NUGGET. He agreed to continue for a limited time until the position can be filled.

Youth Members: (Kendal Bullock) - The activities of the Future Rock Hounds of America, "Rockheads" officially began. Mathew Lambert displayed his collection from trip to North Carolina and the Rockheads held their own meeting.

Old Business:

1. NMGMS will be teaching a beading class in conjunction with the West Point Arts Council on Saturday, October 22, 2011 from 10 until 3 at the McClure Building in West Point, which is on the corner of Commerce and E. Broad St. We will need members to volunteer to help as assistants again. Please email Nancy or Floy, if you can help with this class.
2. Light blue, short sleeved polo style shirts made up with the club's logo embroidered in dark royal blue can still be ordered. If you would like one, they are \$20 ea. (\$22 2x) and can be ordered from Beverly Fortenberry of Very Berry Embroidery. Email: veryberryembroidery@yahoo.com 662-372-2013
3. The October meeting is the NMGMS picnic/rock swap on October 29th from 10 until 4p.m. at the small pavilion in Ballard Park, which is on the east side of the lake and near the Oren Dunn museum. That is the same Saturday as the museum's fall festival. We

will have the "Buy it now or Bid" silent auction, grab bags for sale and the "Fishing Game" for the kids. We will also have hot dogs, chips and drinks provided by the club and members are asked to bring a dessert. Invite a friend!

***Roger Lambert has volunteered to go to Sam's club or Costco for the hotdogs, buns, chips and drinks. It was suggested a member bring a small gas grill for cooking the hotdogs and anyone who has an easy-up canopy, please bring it and we will need some folding tables and lawn chairs. Set up will be at 9a.m. (We are hoping to get some of the festival traffic come down and buy our grab bags or any of the auction items. Plus they can donate \$ for a hot dog or buy a chance at the fishing game)

*** Any member wishing to set up as a craft vendor at the festival on the museum grounds may do so. The set-up fee is \$35 or \$50 depending on booth size and vendors are required to collect sales tax to be turned in to the museum at the end of the day. (John Byzet provided a copy of the registration form was available for those interested.) We will need donations for the auction and grab bags and small specimens of polished rocks, minerals and fossils will be needed for the fishing game cups. Members were asked to make cloth grab bags; finished size is approx. 7 x 7 inches. Member's who have made grab bags and can't fill them themselves, may turn them into members who are willing to fill them!

Is there any other old business? None

New Business:

1. The NMGMS Merit Badge Day has been postponed until 2013 due to changes at the local Scout Council and a few other conflicts. We may be asked to help out with a Merit Badge Day for the Booneville Area Council in 2012. No further information at this time.

2. After a lot of very hard work and many hours put in by Floy Hawkins and Annette Kelly on the NMGMS scrapbook, NMGMS was awarded a Gold "All American" award by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies this past July. We competed against 6 other club entries and were judged on how we performed as a rock club, by what we do at meetings, field trips, for junior members, as part of the community and other outreach activities. Way to go NMGMS and THANK YOU Floy and Annette! The All American Award winners were listed in the AFMS Newsletter, page 10; September issue. NMGMS took the Gold Medal for the Southeast Federation Mineral Society.

3. It is time to start thinking about our club's 2012 officers. We need a few volunteers for the nomination committee. Names of possible candidates will be presented at the Nov. meeting for election. Officers serve a two year term. Motion to table at this time due to low attendance. APPROVED and seconded.

4. Those interested in getting a shortwave UV field lamp at the wholesale price of \$60, please get with Bernice. Comments' regarding the worthiness of the lamp was shared with the group. Several members were interested and it was noted to order as a group to get maximum discount for shipping.

5. We have the wire wrapping book to donate to the library in memory of George Everett and would like to donate a book on rock and mineral collecting or an ID type book or something on the junior level in Rena's memory. Motion to donate a book to the Tupelo Library in memory of Rena Everett. APPROVED and seconded.

6. The Nov. 19th meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be "Making a Ming Style Gem Tree", instructed by Nancy Roberts. This is a "hands-on" project.

7. We have the library reserved for our Christmas party on Dec. 17th from 11 to 3p.m.

Is there any other new business?

There were some questions regarding the possible field trip to the crystal mine in Arkansas. Several members showed interest.

Reminders:

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...