



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

January 14, 2014 Issue 6
Volume 13

Happy New Year NMGMS! I suppose, the topic on everyone's mind right now, is this frigid Artic blast that has us all shivering and staying indoors. I am always bragging to my northern friends about how we southerners can usually keep doing all of our outdoor activities, even in the winter. Well, I may need to rethink that! Not only does weather like this hamper our field trips, but it also can effect out lapidary activities too. Many of us have our tools and equipment in outbuildings, garages or basements. Kind of hard to work when it is below freezing!

So, that brings me to what I wanted to mention this month in my notes. Not everyone knows that there is an "artistic" side to a rock and mineral club. Mention "lapidary" and you'll get a funny look. Well, look up lapidary in the dictionary and it means "stone cutting or working with stones", so how more appropriate can you get! Most of us collect something; be it rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones, or beads. So what do you do with all of that stuff? Not all of it is display quality, but may be pretty interesting or colorful even so. Hey, I have seen wire wrapped ammonites and brachiopods, as well as fossil corals made into cabochons. How about a wire wrapped fossil crab for a pendant? That would be a novel idea!!

There are many aspects to the lapidary arts, even working with metals. After all, copper, silver and gold are native elements and are on the minerals list! Rock tumbling, faceting, making cabochons, wire wrapping, beading/stringing, chainmail, mixed metals/cold connections, soldering, fusing, and the list goes on and on. All are lapidary arts. So, if you want to do something with all of those things you have been collecting, but don't know what or how, start taking advantage of the club's workshops that we offer periodically throughout the year. We have many very talented members who are more than willing to share their knowledge, skills and expertise with you. If you are working on something and need a little advice, bring your project to a meeting. I'm sure there will be someone there who can answer your questions, if not, we can certainly direct you to the right party. Remember, we all love "show and tell" and like to see what our members are doing!

Also, be sure and check out the fabulous classes offered at the William Holland Lapidary School in Young Harris, GA. Their 2014 schedule is now online and registration is open. Check it out at www.lapidaryschool.org The SFMS schedule of the federation weeks at William Holland and Wild Acres should be coming out soon in their January Lodestar, www.amfed.org/sfms. If you can't travel, there are numerous online resources too. Interweave has online classes for a nominal fee (some are free) that you can watch over and over again and are yours forever. They also have DVD's, ebooks and other sources of information on just about every lapidary skill you could want. They are the publisher of Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist and many other fine publications. There are also many sites with free "how to" videos that are excellent, like Beaducation.com, Riogrande.com, Wire-sculpture.com and of course, "YouTube". These are good supplements, but speaking from experience, nothing can beat the hands on, student teacher interaction of a class or workshop. So, now's a good time for that New Year's resolution to learn a new lapidary skill and do something with those rocks!!



Nancy. Getting Christmas Knosh.
Photo Jim Roberts

NANCY ROBERTS

Above- *Pannomosasaurus Inexpectus*.

Courtesy of Nobu Tamura/www.paleoexhibit.blogspot.com

This was a freshwater 6m, basal Mosasaur, found in Hungary. Most Mosauars were Marine.

Right: Blue Springs Mosasaur tooth found and photoed by Nancy Roberts. It would be Marine. Please visit Mr Nobu's site, and leave a comment!



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NMGMS

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2013



Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Jake Carr and Andrew Diaz. Mary Reed introduced her cousin, Denise Walker as a guest. A motion was made to approve the November minutes as printed in the December Nugget. APPROVED and seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of today: \$2525.64

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Field Trips: The next club field trip will be **Dec. 21st** to the Blue Springs crab site in Union County on Hwy 9. We will meet at the site at 9a.m. (see email or handout for details). Plans for a joint field trip with APS to Alabama for Mississippian fossils around the first part of February are being finalized. Possible date is February 8th. Members were encouraged to check out the Lodestar or the SFMS website for the DMC field trips since we can attend these. http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html

Publicity: (Bob Reinhaus) None at this time.

Membership: (Ann Byzet) Members present were reminded that it's time to renew their NMGMS member ship for 2014. Dues are \$12 per person and \$20 per family.

Hospitality:

January: Mike Schuchs and Dana Armstrong
Roberts

February: Belinda Loyd & Nancy

Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome!

Website: (John Byzet) Check us out at www.nmgms.org

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) The deadline for submissions is the **second Friday of each month**. Dana has asked that all submissions for the newsletter be typed into the body of an email, so that she can easily copy and paste it into the newsletter. Photos need to be compressed as a jpeg file.

Photo and articles for the newsletter are to be email to: nuggeteditor@gmail.com

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) The Certificates of Merit, FRA badges and the Junior Rockhound of the Year Awards were distributed by Jim Roberts.

Stamps: (Dana Armstrong & Brenda Manning) 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: (Shirley Randel) Members were reminded to gather any 2013 club related photos, newspaper articles, show flyers or other memorabilia and submit it to Shirley. Work is beginning on the yearbook. She will need some hard copy photos too.

Any visits to a rock show, museum or other related event you attend goes into the scrapbook! So save those flyers, tickets and photographs.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Loyd, Bob Reinhaus, John Byzet and Robert Langford) All of the grab bags have been filled, although more is needed. Volunteers that sew were asked to make additional 10 or so bags. The club is in need of small lapidary items and specimens for these grab bags, the spin and win game, and the fishing game.

Safety: (David Loyd) Attention new members!

***** **Please be sure to sign a liability release waiver, if you have not yet done so.**

Liability waivers are needed for all members and invited guests on club field trips.

A new membership application form that will include the liability waiver is being developed so all new members will automatically submit the form.

Old Business:

- Plans are being made to host another Geology Day on Nov. 1, 2014 at the Oren Dunn Museum again. Set up will be during the prior week. Ideas for the display cases were discussed. Suggestions were having one case depicting rock polishing with a tumbler, stages and equipment and rock polishing with a cab machine. Also suggested was a case showing all of the different types of metal jewelry the club members have been making and lastly a case showing rocks and minerals and their everyday uses. A display theme centered on quartz is being considered. Members were asked for ideas and possible new activities that could be added to the Geology Day festivities. The club is considering the addition of a few vendor tables similar to the New Albany road show since we will have all of the rooms; easy-ups can also be set up outside if the weather permits. If anyone has any comments or discussion contact Nancy Roberts and start looking thru your collections for items that would work in the displays.

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1. The nominations for the 2014 NMGMS officers were: Nancy Roberts, President, Roger Lambert, Vice President, Nikki Kenney, Treasurer, and Brenda Manning, Secretary. Motion was made to accept the ballot as written and elect these nominees as officers. APPROVED & seconded.

2. Nancy shared her plan to ask Ashley Allen to bring copies of the new edition of Jim Lacefield's book, "Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks" to our joint Feb. field trip. These are expected to be hardbound and \$25 a copy. If anyone is interested contact Nancy Roberts.
3. Nancy has been investigating the price of riker mount boxes. The cost is approximately \$5 to \$7 when ordering by the case. Anyone interested in ordering some contact Nancy Roberts.

No additional old business was discussed.

New Business:

1. The club is in the final steps of filing for corporation status; however there is one more hurdle before we can submit the paperwork to the state. As a nonprofit corporation, the club will be required to follow 501(c) 3 regulations, although the club won't officially be one until the 1023 form is filed with the IRS. To make applying for 501(c) 3 status easier, we have been advised to add "The Articles of Incorporation" to the NMGMS Constitution and By-Laws. A copy of the NMGMS Constitution and By-Laws was disseminated to the group. Motion was made to approve the addition of the Articles of Incorporation to the NMGMS Constitution and By-Laws. APPROVED & seconded with 17 yeas; 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

4. It was announced that Clarice and Nancy are in the process of scheduling a club workshop on etching copper metal for jewelry designs. Hopefully it will be finalized for January. Watch you emails! John or Nikki will take your \$100 check for the Kim St. Jean class, if you are reserving a seat.

No other new business was discussed.

*****Reminder:** The Jan. 18, 2014 meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be "Simple Mineral Identification Techniques", presented by Dr. Terry Panhorst of the Geology Dept. at the University of Mississippi.

Motion to Adjourn.....

HEAR YE, HEAR YE! Mark Your Calendar

(aka Announcements)

"Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks" Jim Lacefield

Ashley Allan is expected to bring copies to the Febuary Field trip. These are expected to be hardbound, \$25 a copy.

Riker Mounts

If interested in ordering Riker Mounts the cost is \$5-7 a box.

If interested in book or mounts contact Nancy Roberts.
(731)689-5336

THEROCKHOUNDLADY@YAHOO.COM

Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014

1 to 3p.m., Lee County Library, Tupelo.
"Simple Mineral Identification Techniques"
Dr. Terry Panhorst
Geology Dept. at the University of Mississippi.
Refreshments will be served.
Dr. Panhorst will gladly be available to identify any rocks or minerals that you bring along to the meeting.

Renewal Time

It's time to renew your NMGMS membership. All NMGMS members are valuable, so please renew! Please renew by the end of February. Pay at meetings, or make checks to NMGMS (\$12 single, \$20 family) and mail them to:

NMGMS, P.O.
Box 1445
Tupelo, MS
38802

See website www.nmgms.org

February 15

Tupelo Library 1-3pm
Nikki Kenney
The History of Indian Beading

March 15

Tupelo Library 1-3pm
NMGMS Annual Birthday Party Meeting

April 12

Time and Location TBA
**Note: One week earlier than usual meeting time due to Easter and library is closed that weekend.

May 17

Tupelo Library 1-3pm
Program TBA

Notice!

January 25th Mixed Metals class taught by jewelry artist Kim St. Jean, is now full. We are very excited to be hosting this event and looking forward to it with great anticipation.

Field Trips

Saturday Feb. 8, 2014.

Joint field trip with the Alabama Paleontological Society for Mississippian fossils. Details will be announced at the January 18th meeting and watch your emails for directions.



Old Bones

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



Where did everyone go??

NANCY ROBERTS

The NMGMS Dec. field trip to the crabsite was rescheduled for Dec. 21 and despite a weather forecast of terrible storms and torrential rains, the day turned out to be warm, fairly sunny and no rain at all until dark. I guess the weather forecast scared everyone away, because Jim and I were the only ones who showed up! For a minute there, I wondered if I had the wrong day or site!! But hey, I wasn't going to pass up a collecting opportunity, so I went ahead and gathered up my gear and headed out to the hillside. Gosh, what a dream, I had the whole site to myself!! It was quite muddy tho and we were having to be really careful on the slopes. Poor Jim slid down the bank when we were crossing the ditch, so he was already muddy by the time we got to the hillside. Never the less, there were a few nice treasures to find that day. I was excited to find a fairly nice mosasaur tooth and the spiny lobster, *Linuparus canadensis*, along with a few nice Dakoticancer crabs. Deciding to get home before the bad weather moved in, we left at 2:30 and still no one else from NMGMS had come out to join us. Guess it was just to close to Christmas!

Mississippi Marcasite Goes to Arizona!

NANCY ROBERTS

Last fall, I received a request from Lou Porter, who is a member of the Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society in Arizona, about needing a rock or mineral from Mississippi in order to complete his display of specimens from all 50 states. Of course, I sent him a sampling of Mississippi marcasite and he was thrilled to receive it. Due to the generous efforts of fellow rock club members from around the country, Lou was able to complete his display case and get it set up for his club's rock and gem show last November. His display took the blue ribbon at the show!! I am including a few of Lou's comments from an email that he sent me regarding this display.

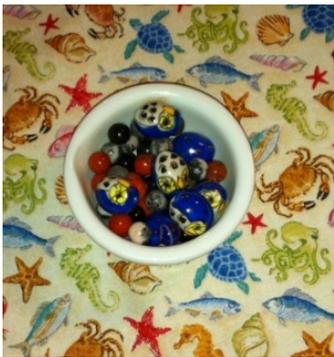
"Yesterday was the last day of the show. Our show cases won the blue ribbon. The cases were voted on by the people who attended the show." "These show cases do not represent the efforts of just one person, but rather the contributions of people literally from all over the United States."... "I had so much fun interacting with all of you. This project was the highlight of my rockhounding career."... "There is no way for me to express my deep gratitude to you for making this dream/project a reality. Needless to say, it would not have happened without you. THANK YOU SO MUCH."

I recently received an email from Lou, stating that his display has been accepted into the huge gem and mineral show in Tucson, AZ this coming Feb. Awesome! So "our" marcasite will be there!! I was so thrilled to be able to have helped out in this effort and now have another fellow rockhound friend. Maybe someday I will be able to make a trip to AZ and meet him. Who knows, maybe we'll even do some collecting out there together! So, if you are ever asked to exchange specimens with a fellow rockhound from another gem and mineral society, consider it, as you never know where it might lead you!



Top right: Lobster, not prepared by Red Lobster, *Linuparus Canadensis*. Left: Comparison of what is either a tiny lobster, or a huge Mosasaur tooth (tooth also on p. 1).





Bead Soup

A place to share knowledge about the lapidary arts.



Nikki, happy with a present. Photo by Nancy Roberts. She will be giving a program on Indian Beading at the Feb. meeting.

Nikki's Story

Nikki Kenny

When I first started making jewelry, I just wanted to make Indian jewelry, turquoise, silver, etc.. It started when I wanted a watch that didn't leave a tan line on my wrist from the sun. Then I found a pendant watch. That was great. And every time one died, I'd get another, until I saw my first silver and turquoise bead pendant watch. Well, I bought it, and decided to try to make them. I did, and I sold a few.

I was content beading my merry way, with my little Wal-Mart tool kit and silver-plate heishi and beads I bought at various jewelry supply shops in New Mexico and Arizona. Worked fine; I could bead in the van on trips, and when I dropped any, I could pick them up with my trusty magnet wand. Then I "graduated" to Sterling silver, and quit doing that in the van when I had to pick up all of those tiny liquid silver beads by hand the first time we hit a bump. I only really had time to work on my hobbies when I was traveling, which was most of the time in those years.

Then, my traveling days slowed down, and I met Bill and Floy Hawkins. Floy introduced me to wire wrapping, and a whole world opened up for me. I joined NMGMS and met Nancy, who introduced me to all of the email newsletters, on jewelry making, knitting, and crocheting, et al, and I signed up for all of them. Some day I'll make her pay! She and Floy discovered Kumihimo and I got "roped" into that.

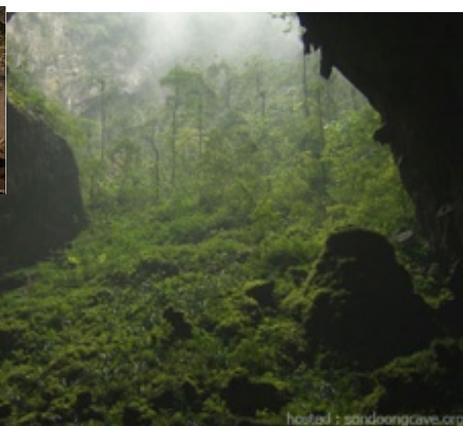
Now, I'm addicted, and I want to do it all. Wire wrapping, Kumihimo, bead and tapestry weaving on a loom, metal smithing, torch firing, etching. Is there any end to it? What else is out there that I haven't discovered yet? Is there room for any more tools, wire, beads in my work room, or my house? Probably not, but will I give any of it up? Not on your life! I will keep on as long as there is a You Tube video, a Craftsy class (did I forget to mention that?), e books, online stores to buy materials and supplies, and great friends that I met through NMGMS, with whom to share my love of creating and learning to make jewelry.

There is one more I must mention, Pinterest. This is definitely not for the timid or those who are just too busy. You must have a lot of free time, or tremendous discipline. I am new to this one. Cheryle showed Pinterest to me on her phone. I was so intrigued, that I asked her, Clarice and Nancy to help me get connected. I had a Pinterest account, but didn't know how to use it. I won't give a tutorial here, but just say that if you have projects, ideas or hints to share and want to see what others of like interests are doing, then Pinterest is for you. But, I warn you, it is highly addictive. You can't watch just one! Before you know it, you will have spent hours just looking through all it has to offer. You can "pin" (make favorites of things that interest you to your own boards that you create, so you can recall them at will). So, set your alarm clock, or have a friend call you at a specified time, and enjoy!

Guess What This Is?



Travelers, it's open for tours. It appears to require quite a bit of repelling to the entrance, followed by some cave diving. However-it has an extraordinary amount of beauty-cave pearls, large caves. Please visit the website at right for more information-the website is in English. That's a stalagmite IN the cave at far left. sondoongcave.org



All Photos courtesy of www.sondoongcave.org

Safety Matters

Safety Tip - Geocaching

David Lloyd

Geocaching can carry an element of risk. There are a number of factors that come into play such as activity level, location and physical conditioning. But we feel the most important part of keeping safe is to know your limits and be prepared if something happens. If you're doing drive by caching in parking lots it's not quite so risky. But if you're headed into the boonies you need to be prepared. You don't want to be out there, separated from your geopartner, no communication, no water plus it's starting to rain, get dark and you're not sure how to get back. Keep the following things in mind and apply as needed for safer and more effective caching.

Be wildlife aware. If you're in large predatory animal country, your outlook changes because you're not at the top of the food chain anymore. Talk to people about recent local wildlife activity. Make some noise as you walk. Use binoculars to check the area around you as you move. Keep an eye down wind.

Do what the cops tell you. Geocaching often looks suspicious, especially these days. Hanging around, looking, climbing, and crawling can all get you noticed. Be nice and tell them about geocaching. Be ready for just about anything when a lawman shows up.

Take extra batteries. The energizer bunny's is your best friend. It's downright irritating to have a GPS die on you out in the middle of nowhere. Same with flashlights, phones, etc. If you're depending on battery powered equipment to complete your quest, make sure you've got enough juice for the job - especially if you need to find your way back.

Carry a big stick, small flashlight, leather gloves, and Swiss Army knife. These items have a multitude of uses, from poking inside a dark cache to probing the trail in front of you to protection from animals (both four legged and two legged). The sticks are almost indispensable. They're effective, innocuous and legal.

Bring a first aid kit. Scratches and bug bites are part of the charm of geocaching. It can also be dirty, so take care of any open wound. The kit doesn't need to be massive. Outdoor stores all sell small kits that will fit in a pocket. It can't hurt to throw in an ACE wrap. If you're allergic to bee stings, take your epi-pen. Keep your tetanus shot up to date for that rusty nail. Remember - if something happens out there, you're on your own, at least for a while. Plan accordingly.

Take your cell phone or walkie-talkies or both. Becoming separated from a partner is mildly annoying and can be downright dangerous. Use walkie-talkies in the FRS/GMRS range with cell phone backup. Check the reception before you launch. Have a reconnect plan if all communication fails. Go to a pre-arranged meeting place after a certain time period. If all that fails, call 911.

Don't forget the hat and sunscreen. This one can really sneak up on you. If you're going to be out in the sun, make sure you protect yourself. Lather on the sunscreen and keep it fresh. Then top it off with a wide brimmed hat and cool UV sunglasses.

Be tick aware. Ticks are a real danger in the outdoors - much more so than bears and snakes. Ticks carry Lyme disease and other assorted disease and they are everywhere. Wear long pants and long sleeve shirts. Douse your shoes and pant legs with DEET. Check yourself and each other thoroughly and often and keep checking. Ticks seem to come out of nowhere and are almost indestructible. The good news is that they have to attach themselves to a human host for 24 hours to pass on the virus. If you find one latched on, pull it straight out with tweezers. Lyme disease is treatable but no fun. If you geocache, you're going to get ticks. Stay vigilant and stay healthy.

Bring lots of water. This one can sneak up on you; usually it's a "quick cache" trips that turns into a marathon. Next thing you know, you've been out there for hours with nothing to drink. Throw a bottle of water in your bag.

Know when to back off. Geocachers are a pretty tenacious bunch. Part of this activity is recognizing limits. Things can go south in a real hurry out there. Don't compromise your safety for a cache. It'll be there tomorrow. Go back and re-group. Next time, you'll probably walk right to it.

Meeting Program



Clockwise from right:
Donations, Andrew with his present of a pogo stick, Bob and Rebecca enjoying visiting with each other, FOOD!!!
Photos: at left and right: Belinda Loyd, Far and Bottom right: Nancy Roberts.



Christmas Party Time!!!

I have to say as an editor I've noticed-
We have a lot of parties.
In the words of Bill and Ted: Party on Dude.

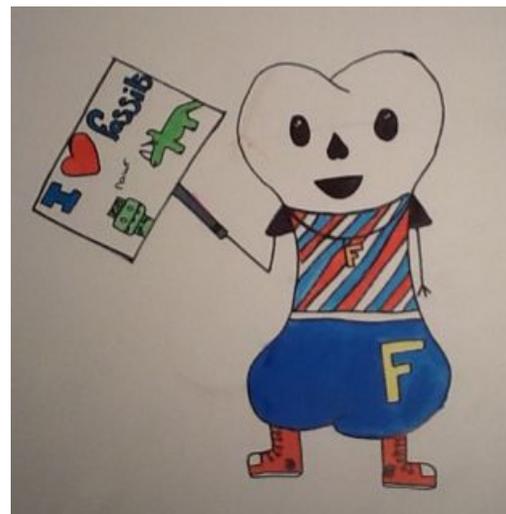


Rockheads

"The fossil hunter does not kill, he resurrects."
G. G. Simpson



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm



Award Time!!!!

At the NMGMS Dec. meeting, the Rockheads were awarded with club certificates of merit for their accomplishments in 2013. Three Rockheads also earned "Junior Rockhound of the Year" which is awarded by the club. These were Victoria Langford, Matthew Lambert, and Jake Carr. The following FRA badges were also earned by some of the junior members:

Konrad - Rocks and Minerals, Earth Resources, Fossils, Collecting, Earth Processes, and Earth in Space. Plus he received the Rockhound badge for earning 6 FRA badges

Victoria - Rocks and Minerals, Field Trips, Leadership, and Flourescent Minerals. She also received the Rockhound badge.

Brittani - Rocks and Minerals, and Earth Resources.

Matthew - Leadership.

Congratulations Rockheads for a great year!

Youth Advisor
Jim Roberts
latergator2003@yahoo.com

Rockhead Officers

President

Matthew Lambert

Vice President

Robin Langford

Secretary

Remy Collins

Field Trip Organizer

Brittany Lambert



Photos by Alison Schuchs. Right photo: From Left: Brittani, Captain Jim, Matthew, Andrew, Jake, Konrad, Victoria, Nancy. Left photo: Captain Jim presenting awards.

GRAB BAG INSTRUCTIONS

HELLO NMGMS

MEMBERS!



Any NMGMS members who like to sew, please take a look at this cloth bag. We could use some more made up for the grab bags that we sell at our events. Could also use some nice smaller specimens to put in these bags too!

Instructions:

cut an 8x15 inch piece. Notice how it's sewn. I remember doing a 3/4 inch turn for the yarn first. Then bottom & one side stopping before yarn tube.

Looks like you'll sew the casing for the draw string first and then do the side and bottom seams. Make seams half inch, so the finished bag is approx. 7x7 inches. Experiment, they don't all have to be exactly the same size or configuration, just colorful and enticing!!!!!!!!!!!!!!