



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

January 12, 2015 Issue 8 Volume 14

Happy New Year NMGMS! Gosh, can it really be fifteen years since we entered a new century and started writing "20" in front of the years? Time flies when you're having fun and I guess that's true. It looks like our organization will be having another great, fun filled and educational year like all of the others we've been having. We start out the new year with a January that's brimming with fun activities. Our first field trip of the year on January 10th is to Alabama for Mississippian fossils, and then our meeting on the 17th features guest speaker Dr. Terry Panhorst, whose program of, "How to make Gold: The Standard Hill Gold Mine, Mojave, California", sounds so very intriguing! Can't wait to hear that one!! Then to wrap up an exciting month, we are extremely fortunate to be hosting another Kim St. Jean, mixed metals class, on the 24th. We are so excited about having the opportunity to offer another top notch class presented by a world renowned jewelry artist and teacher.

Besides our field trips and meetings, NMGMS is putting together some really fun and interesting lapidary workshops for this coming year. At the February meeting, members will have the opportunity to make a wire and beaded heart pendant or sun catcher and we have a copper riveted bangle bracelet project in the works too, for this year. Speaking of lapidary projects, don't forget to check out the variety of classes that are being offered by the William Holland Lapidary School in GA. The 2015 class schedule is out and on the website, so be sure and sign up early, if you plan to take a class; they can fill up fast. I see some top notch instructors and some really nice classes listed. <http://www.lapidaryschool.org/classschedule.php>

Be sure to mark March 6th, 7th and 8th on your calendars, for our "spring break" field trip to the Potosi, MO area, where members will be collecting drusy quartz. If you didn't make the trip in 2013, be sure to catch this one. The drusy and agate specimens that we'll be gathering up, range anywhere from half inch pieces, to 2 feet across or more. These drusy covered rocks are literally strewn all over the ground. Fun! This drusy quartz is pretty enough for jewelry pieces and the chalcedony, in the underlying banding, fluoresces a really nice lime green. Great stuff!! Note: if you see any of those plastic sleds for sale this winter, grab one; they're great for hauling out those huge pieces!

I am already getting excited about this coming year, and I hope that you are too. Our club has a lot to offer and each of its members is a very important part of NMGMS. So please consider renewing your membership in our very fine organization, and get ready for a fun filled, adventurous 2015!

P.S. Pass the word around to a friend, relative or neighbor about joining NMGMS and share the fun, learning and adventures with them!

NANCY ROBERTS



Right: Nancy in Another Workshop. photo Jim Roberts
Above see article p.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2015



Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Jake, Marion and Alice Carr; Konrad Armstrong; Mathew & Brittany Lambert. A motion was made to approve the October minutes as printed in the November Nugget. APPROVED and seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of \$2789.15

CHAIRPERSONS' REPORTS:

Field Trips: Our next field trip will be Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015 to Alabama for Mississippian fossils. Rain/snow date will be Jan. 31st. Members were reminded to see the email or handout for details.

Publicity: (John Byzet) Justin Hobart had made up a club flyer awhile back. We are hoping to get more made up, so that each member can take some and post them around the area where they live. We need to connect with all of the outlying areas in north Miss. Be sure to pass the word around for people to check our website and Facebook page.

Membership: (Ann Byzet) It's time to consider renewing your NMGMS member ship for 2015. Dues are \$12 per person and \$20 per family. Out total membership count for 2014 was 114 members.

Hospitality:

Refreshments: Need two volunteers for Jan: Clarice Turner/Nancy Roberts

Feb: Alison Schuchs/Cheryle Langford.

Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcomed.

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

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) Dana received second place for small bulletins in the SFMS Bulletin Competition for 2014!! The other awards for this competition to Justin Hobart, Clarice Turner, Jake Carr, Nancy Roberts, and John Byzet will be passed out in Jan. I hope that all members will consider submitting a review or article and a big "THANK YOU" to all who have been contributing. **Note:** The deadline for newsletter submissions is the **second Friday** of each month. Remember to please send anything that is for the newsletter to Dana's email at: nuggeteditor@gmail.com

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) One junior, Konrad, earned the NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the year award. The Certificates of Merit and the Junior Rockhound of the Year Award were handed out and Jim Roberts handed out the FRA badges that were earned.

Stamps: (Dana Armstrong) The SFMS has decided to drop the stamp program. Do we wish to do this on our own? Only foreign or commemorative stamps are collectable now. It was suggested that foreign or commemorative stamps could be sold on eBay.

Historian: (Shirley Randel) Please gather up any 2014 club related photos, newspaper articles, show flyers or other memorabilia, so it can be turned in to for the club yearbook. Members were asked if anyone would take over as our club historian. There were no volunteers at this meeting, topic tabled until next meeting.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Loyd, Bob Reinhaus, John Byzet and Robert Langford) Early next year, we will be meeting with the Oren Dunn Museum to set a date for our next Geology Day. The club is trying for April however the museum is very busy during that month.

Safety: (David Loyd) We need to have more safety articles in our newsletter. Members were asked if anyone would take on putting together a short safety article for the Nugget each month. There were no volunteers at this meeting, topic tabled until next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kim St. Jean will be coming to Tupelo again on Jan. 24th to teach a mixed metals class for us at the Women's Center on Gloster. The class fee is \$125 and all necessary tools and materials are provided. Class is limited to 15, so please submit your check soon in order to reserve your seat. A few handouts were provided.

The nominations for the 2015 NMGMS officers were: Nancy Roberts, President, Roger Lambert, Vice President, Nikki Kenney, Treasurer, and Brenda Manning, Secretary. A motion to elect these nominees to office was given by Michael Schuchs and seconded by John Byzet. Motion Carried.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Since the Lee County Public Library is closed on Jan. 17th. The January NMGMS meeting will be held at the **Women First Center, 215 N Gloster, Suite D**, in Tupelo. It is not very far from the library and is on the west side of Gloster, between the traffic light on Main and light at Jefferson. Watch for the NMGMS signs near the curb. The program "How to make Gold: The Standard Hill Gold Mine, Mojave, California" will be presented by Dr. Terry Panhorst with the University of Mississippi's Dept. Geology.

The library is also closed on Saturday, Feb. 21st. That meeting will also be held at the **Women First Center**.

Be sure to check out Rebecca's "Rocks that look like Food" display cases here at the library.

Other new business:

Mathew & Carol Lybanon announced an upcoming 2015 Texas field trip for ammonites the week of March 20th. Anyone interested should contact them at Mathew Lybanon <lybanon@earthlink.net>; Carol Lybanon <sgcarol@earthlink.net>;

Here is a link to last year's trip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3azCK2CzzYo&feature=youtu.be>

*****Reminder:**

2015 NMGMS membership dues are due!!

Motion to Adjourn.....

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

(aka Announcements)

Time to renew your NMGMS membership.

Our club treasurer will be available to collect your dues at the next meeting, or you can make checks payable to NMGMS (\$12 single, \$20 family) and mail them along with an application form to:

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

Attention NMGMS

Lee County Public library is closed on Jan. 17th, the January NMGMS meeting will be held on Jan. 17, 2015 from 1 to 3p.m. at the Women First Center, 215 N Gloster Suite D, in Tupelo.

It is near the library and is on the west side of Gloster, between the traffic light on Main and the light at Jefferson. Watch for the NMGMS sign near the curb. The program, "How To Make Gold: The Standard Hill Gold Mine, Mojave, California", will be presented by Dr. Terry Panhorst with the Univ. of Mississippi's Dept of Geology. Refreshments will be served. Come and join us for a very enriching program!!

Mark Your Calendar

Fellow NMGMS member Cathy Miller has the following items for sale. If you're interested, her email is zentreecircle@comcast.net.

- 1 new jewelry case with 10+ trays & velveteen inserts - \$75 (\$170 value)
- 11 velveteen tray inserts with brass jeweler's pins - \$35 (\$70+ value)
- 12+ new & used bead storage trays w/snap on lids - \$10
- 1 new jewelry display bust - \$10
- 1 dremel drill press stand w/sander attachments - used once \$30
- 1 used earring display stand \$10

Everything is at my climate controlled storage unit at cross town & I am happy to meet people there so they can see in person.



Bead Soup

A place to share knowledge about the lapidary arts.



Let's Have Another Workshop

NANCY ROBERTS

Lots of NMGMS members enjoy the workshops that the club puts on during the year and we also have a dedicated "following", who enjoy taking the classes that NMGMS periodically teaches for the West Point Arts Council. But, have you ever wondered how the club manages to do these classes and workshops and have such interesting projects for each one? Well, here's a "behind the scenes", so to speak, look at what goes into our ability to present these workshops.

First of all, it takes hard work, dedication, commitment to the lapidary arts and a love of sharing ones knowledge with others from the members who participate in these events. But it also takes, you guessed it, practice!! The NMGMS members who have taken classes at William Holland or attended other classes and workshops, do some brainstorming and come up with ideas or designs from either, a project they did, or something they saw in a magazine or on the Internet. Then that member shares the idea with others in the club who do lapidary or jewelry work and a few sample pieces are made up. At some point, those club members who actually teach and assist at the workshops, get together and literally "teach" themselves the project, so that they know all of the steps necessary to complete the tentative workshop project successfully. If the project is fun, goes smoothly, and is something that everyone would enjoy doing, then supplies are purchased and kits are compiled with the necessary materials required. And then, of course, the workshop gets presented to the whole club and voila, another neat lapidary project is learned by NMGMS! So you see, there's a lot that goes into preparing for these workshops that happens "behind the scenes", and I am very thankful that we have a dedicated group of very talented lapidary artist who are willing to give of themselves, their time and their expertise in making these workshops happen. We've been practicing too! So you can look forward to some very fun and chic workshop projects this year.



Downloading videos

Nikki Kenney

In the November issue, I told you about containers to store and organize your video tutorials. This is about a way to collect all of those videos you wish to keep.

A free software program called Realplayer will download and save any non copy-righted video or music you find on the Internet.

The link is: <http://www.real.com/resources/download-video/>

When you see a video that you want to save, start playing it, hover your mouse over the top of the video, and you will see a box that says "Download this video." Upon clicking on it, the video will start downloading. You can choose to upload the videos to the Realplayer Cloud or to your Realplayer Library, where they can be organized into "Playlists," or you can bookmark videos to watch later rather than downloading them to your hard drive. Just click on the blue arrow in the "Download this video" box.

2 GB of free storage come with the program, though there are ways to gain more space. A word of caution, when a video has been downloaded, there is a check box on your download window, that says, "Upload all videos to the Cloud." Uncheck that box! You will find yourself exceeding your storage space on the Cloud in a trice.

Enough from me, go to the site and check it out for yourself. There are many features of this easy to use tool that can be found there. I don't know of an easier way to download videos.





Old Bones

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



“WHAT A FIELD TRIP ! “

OR COLLECTING MISSISSIPPIAN FOSSILS IN ALABAMA

Rebecca Vallarian



Gathering at the little store in 14 degree weather, zippered and tied into multiple layers of clothing, we were off for an adventure on the ice-covered rocks of Alabama.

We had a bit of fun going to the first site; all of us pretended to be Talladega stock car drivers or “Thunder Road” shiners. The Alabama Paleontology Society joined us for a morning of great finds and good fellowship. Dana Armstrong found the best specimen of the day, a *Zeacrinites wortheni*, of incredible detail. Ashley Allen, of APS, hauled out three giant sections of one huge coral piece. Matthew Lambert soon followed with a huge slab of limestone, covered with coral. Many of us gathered smaller bits and pieces of coral, ironstone, conglomerates of all colors, and crinoid stems in individual rings, and often, full slabs of the little creatures, including the crinoids with the star center. (My favorite !) One APS member found a slab where 3 tiny starfish had paused for eternity. We all oohed and aahed over that piece, and Konrad Armstrong came home with one of them,

thanks to the generosity of APS member, Gabe Ward .

Noontime found us reversing our steps and carrying our treasures back to the cars. Our buckets runneth over, along with our backpacks, but none of us could resist watching the ground for just one more rock or fossil.

With the promise of horn coral and blastoids for easy pickings, we again “Talladega-ed” to the second site.....still iced over in some places, but with warmer weather (40 degrees in the sun) that allowed us to shed some clothing. Again Dana made the find of the day with a horn coral of quite a large size.

Nancy, Dana, and Larry picked up piece after piece; blastoids, crinoids, brachiopods, and horn coral. I was content to fill my pockets with crinoid stems and Archimedes screws. The blastoids eluded me, even though Nancy left two “in situ” to help me “see” them. I found neither one. Roger Lambert and Nancy contributed several to my bucket. Thank you. My adventure ended about four o'clock but the others continued to road cuts for more collecting.

What made this a great time? Our club's sharing its knowledge, its willingness to explain things on many levels of understanding, and its spirit of fun. Let's do it again!



Clean Up

NANCY ROBERTS

Do you have some rocks that have been lingering outside and are now covered with moss and lichens? Most of us rockhounds do!! If you want to get them cleaned up, so that they're nice and sparkly again, and look like they did when you first collected them, then here's a tip for you. Mix up a bucket of warm water, liquid dish detergent, and some liquid household ammonia. Submerge those rocks in this solution and let them soak for a few days. After soaking, rinse the rocks with warm water and clean them with a brush, like a scrub brush or old toothbrush. The gunk will come right off! I did this on some of those drusy specimens from MO that had lichen on them, and it worked!!

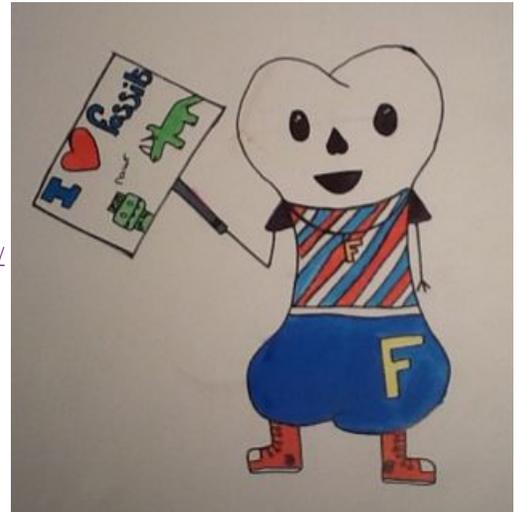


Rockheads

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



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm



Rockhead Officers

President

Victoria Langford

Vice President

Konrad Armstrong

Secretary

Britanni Lambert

Youth Advisors

Jim Roberts
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David Lloyd

Rockheads Meeting January 17

We'll continue working on our "Stone Age Tools and Art" FRA badge. At this meeting, we will cover section 3, which is making stone tools and art from clay. There will be plenty of clay for you to work with for making pots or vessels. After completing your pottery, you can press or scribe some decorations into the clay, then we'll bake it in the oven to harden and preserve your project. If we have time, you'll also be able to paint on your pottery - get creative! Should be fun, hope everyone can make it.

Jim Roberts

Meeting Program