



NMGMS  
P. O. Box 1445  
Tupelo, MS 38802  
Website: [www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org)

#### 2011 NMGMS Officers

**President,** Nancy Roberts  
25 Amber Lane  
Counce, TN 38326  
(731) 689-5336  
therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

**Vice-President,** Ted Thompson  
103 Ford Circle  
Tupelo, MS 38801  
(662) 841-5928  
ted.thompson@mtdproducts.com

**Secretary,**  
Belinda Loyd  
7834 Cherry Valley  
Southaven, MS 38671  
(662) 280-1317  
Bloyd\_utlady@yahoo.com

**Treasurer,** John Byzet  
1209 Queensgate Drive  
Tupelo, MS 38804  
(662) 844-9841  
wa4iax@arrl.net

#### Appointees

**Newsletter Editor,**  
Robert Langford, RPG  
121 Willow Creek Road  
Saltito, MS 38866  
(662) 869-2278  
rlangford@cobbenv.com

**Webspinner,** John Byzet  
1209 Queensgate Drive  
Tupelo, MS 38804  
(662) 844-9841  
wa4iax@arrl.net

**Field Trip Chair,** Nancy Roberts  
25 Amber Lane  
Counce, TN 38326  
(731) 689-5336  
therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

**Historian,** Susan Curry  
P.O. Box 61  
Mathiston, MS 39752  
(662) 312-1988  
sgcurry@netdoor.com

**Membership Chair,** Floy Hawkins  
P.O. Box 7312  
Tupelo, MS 38802  
(662) 844-7441  
studiohawkins@gmail.com

**Hospitality Chair,** Robin Langford  
121 Willow Creek Road  
Saltito, MS 38866  
(662) 869-2278

**Public Relations Chair,** Reginald Rose  
636 Highland Circle  
Tupelo, MS 38804  
(602) 840-0113  
Rfrosee636@comcast.net

**Stamps Chair,**  
Kathy Westbrook  
2753 Hwy 82 West  
Starkville, MS 39759  
(662) 324-1601  
k-westbrook2010@hotmail.com

#### Next Meeting

Saturday, May 21, 2011 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Location: Lee County Library  
Program: Micro-Mounting  
Presented by: NMGMS Members  
See Last Page for Directions

### Notes: From the President's Desk for June 2011

Summertime is here! This will be the last message from me until September. It's hard to believe that we all will be heading out to various parts of the country for our summer vacations and family travels. I hope that everyone manages to have a great time out in the field, either collecting more rock and fossil specimens, or just gathering new information from the many excellent museums and rock shops that abound. One friendly reminder, keep a journal or just jot down a few lines each time you venture out on a summer activity and before you know it, you'll have enough material to use in an article for The Nugget. We all would really like to hear about what our members are up to over the summer; their travels and adventures, etc. I am sure we can all gain some new knowledge from your experiences. I keep a journal all of the time and here's an entry I'll share with you...

May 26, 2011: What a night!! We got a tornado warning around 10 o'clock, so we started gathering up our stuff to take to the basement. I backed up my "documents" right quick! The lights were flickering on and off and then everything went black. Had to grab flashlights and took the weather radio and bin containing important "stuff" to the basement. Radio said the tornado was 8 miles to the west and was headed our way. Was sounding pretty windy out there! Then the radio said it was at Pickwick Dam! Yipes, I grabbed my bike helmet and scooted under the table in the basement. Jim figured it had passed by already, so he just stayed in the chair. Finally around 11p.m., they took the tornado warning off. Had to light the kerosene lanterns

and get ready for bed by lamp light. The power didn't come back on until 9 o'clock this morning!!!

I hope your entries will be exciting, but in a very different way! Have a great summer and find lots of goodies to share with us this fall. Remember your "field trip etiquette"; have fun, but be safe. Take pictures, too!

Respectfully, Nancy Roberts  
President NMGMS



Photo 1, Nancy Roberts

**NMGMS Meeting Minutes for Saturday, May 21, 2011****Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

*The pledge was lead by Matthew Lambert, Ethan and Ryan Bullock and Andrew Diaz.*

Introduce guests and new members: *Guests were Justin Hobart from Oxford, Dana's guest, Grace Dunlap, and the Diaz family, Robert, Shelia and Andrew from Smithville. Justin and the Diaz family are now members!*

Do I have a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Nugget?  
*Motion seconded and approved.*

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: \_\_\_\_\_ approximately \$1,500

**Chairpersons' Reports:**

**Field Trips:** Our next field trip will be tomorrow, **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. We will be going to the Blue Springs crab site in Union County and then, if there is time, on to Birmingham Ridge, which is just a few miles away. Meet at the crabsite at 10a.m.

*Nancy was asked if the Blue Springs site was "public" and she then informed everyone that this fossil site is on private property, but the club has the owner's permission to collect there. Members are only covered by the club's insurance when collecting on official club field trips. She did mention that other groups collect there as well, such as other clubs and universities. Nancy said that a lot of talk had been occurring on the Internet about these fossils sites which was giving the impression that anyone could collect there.*

I have received an email from Alan Parks and he will set up another October trip for us to one of the Memphis Stone and Gravel facilities, but needs to wait until much later in the summer before he can let us know the date, time and location. I have asked Ashley Allen if he can set up another coal mine trip for us along with APS in November and I would like to get one more trip into Parsons before years end. Are there any other suggestions?

*Nancy mentioned what we could be collecting at the gravel facility, petrified wood, river agates and chert fossils and it was requested that we ask if members could be allowed to collect in the "fresh" gravel piles instead of the sorted gravels. Robert Langford will lead several June field trips to the 20 Mile Creek site and the club will do Birmingham Ridge in September.*

**Publicity:** (Reginald Rose)

**Membership:** We have 123 members (93 adults, 30 juniors) so far for 2011.

*Today's new members brings the total up to 126 members. 95 adults, 31 juniors.*

*\*\*\* I have recounted and I guess I must have counted the total family members on the first page, so some of the juniors may have gotten counted twice, once as adults and once as juniors. By my last count, we have 121 members, 88 adults and 33 juniors. I know, tomorrow my count may end up different, especially if I do it after 11p.m.!! NCR*

*Note: Any member paying a family membership with children over the age of 18, those children are not counted as junior members, but as adults.*

**Hospitality:** We need volunteers for the November meeting refreshments. There is a sign up sheet for hosts/hostesses at the sign in desk. We hope that everyone will sign up for at least one meeting during the year. We need two volunteers per meeting.

May: Nancy Roberts/Beth Parker

June: Roger Lambert/Belinda Loyd

Sept: Kendall Bullock/Bernice Burkeen

Nov: Floy Hawkins and Robert Langford

**Website:** Check us out at [www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org) *Check out the photos!*

**Stamps:** If there are any to turn in, give them to Mary Reed or Kathy Westbrook

**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 what ever, to show you attended the event. All of this goes into the scrapbook!*

*Nancy mentioned that this includes all of the summer activities that members participate in.*

**Newsletter:** (Robert Langford)

*Robert Langford asked to make an announcement. He invited everyone to attend a U.S. Forest Service program over at Blanchard Springs Caverns near Mountain View, AR on Monday, May 30, 2011. This program covers the mapping of the lower level of the cave in the 1970's and the diving team that did the work. Robert was on that diving team!!*

**Youth Members:** (Kendal Bullock)

The junior members interested in forming the FRA can meet with Kendal and decide on a name for their group, so that the application can be submitted to the American Federation and your patches ordered.

*Kendal Bullock and Bill Hawkins lead the junior members in a short meeting to choose a name for their group so that they could submit an application to the AFMS for their patches and become an official FRA group of junior club members.*

**Old Business:**

1. Our NMGMS exhibit table at the Memphis rock and mineral show was very well received and we were invited to come back again next year. We got several new families to sign up as club members and met a lot of people who were interested in our organization. A big "thank you" to all of those members who came in and helped out.

*Nancy again thanked everyone for helping out and making this event a great success.*

2. The beading class that we did in conjunction with the Starkville Area Arts Council was a big hit. We had 12 students and 8 club members participating. The class went well, the students were wonderful and the beaded creations were stunning!! Souzen Steelhammer has asked us to do a repeat performance for the West Point Arts Council on October 22. We netted \$240 too!

*Nancy mentioned that the Starkville Arts Council would like us to do an advanced beading class sometime in the late fall or next year. She said that these classes would help to build up the club's William Holland scholarship fund.*

3. At the April meeting, members voted to hold the October picnic/rock swap at the small pavilion in Ballard Park, which is on the east side of the lake and near the Oren Dunn museum. It will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 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. We can accept donations for the food, if any nonmember wishes to participate in the picnic. We can charge a nominal fee for the games too, as long as all monies go to the club. We will send out invitation notices to all of the other Mississippi clubs and to several clubs out of state. We will also send the picnic notice to the Daily Journal like we do our regular meeting announcements. Hopefully we will get some of the fall festival attendees to come over and participate. Any members wishing to set up as a craft vendor at the festival on the museum grounds may do so and I will send them the form to fill out. The set up fee is \$35 and vendors are required to collect sales tax and turn that in to the museum at the end of the day.

*John Byzet said that the pavilion had been reserved and Nancy asked members to start going through their collections for things to donate for the auction, grab bags and games.*

4. John Byzet has contacted Beverly Fortenberry about embroidering our club name and maybe the club patch logo on golf style shirts. *What would we like on the shirts? Club name and your name??* Beverly Fortenberry, of Very

*Berry Embroidery, showed club members several possibilities of embroidery designs that we might consider for placing on short sleeved polo shirts. The cost per shirt would be \$20, \$22 for size 2X. After some discussion about the design and possibly adding the member's name, it was suggested that we stick with the club's patch logo and have it done up on a light blue shirt with dark royal blue stitching. Beverly took orders. (this item of business was actually taken up first so that Ms. Fortenberry didn't have to sit through our whole meeting.)*

**Is there any other old business? None was noted.**

**New Business:**

1. As you all know, we lost George Everett, a very dear friend and member last weekend. He was an accomplished wire wrapper and gem tree maker. I would like to propose that we purchase a really nice tutorial type book on wire wrapping and donate it to the library in memory of George. Please sign the sympathy card which is at the sign in desk.

*Nancy asked everyone to sign the sympathy card and she asked for a motion to buy a book for the library on wire wrapping and donate it in George's memory. Seconded and approved. Nancy then asked if Floy, who also is a wire wrapper, would pick out the book.*

2. We would like club members to make some cloth bags to be used for the grab bags at our picnic. (See Floy's example for size and sewing directions). We will also need donated items for the auction and grab bags. Small specimens of polished rocks, minerals and fossils will be needed for the fishing game cups.

*Floy showed everyone an example of the bag to make and gave some quick directions. Using colorful fabrics, cut an 8x15 inch piece of fabric. Turn a ¾ inch casing along one of the long sides with wrong sides together over a precut piece of yarn; stitch the casing down. Fold the fabric right sides together along the short sides and sew up the bottom and side seams, ending just below the casing. Turn right side out! Make up lots!!!*

3. Jill Smith, director of the Heritage Museum in New Albany, invited us to participate in the June Fossil Road show there at the museum. Would any NMGMS members be interested in setting up a table with some fossils on display and handing our flyers? How about members planning to attend the fossil road show take some of the club flyers along with them and pass them out.

*Kendal Bullock and Roger Lambert are planning to attend this road show and will pass out flyers.*

4. The SFMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Competition is still open. The deadline for submittals is October 31st. Any junior member wishing to try for this award can download the application form from the SFMS website. Anything you do for the club counts, as well as visiting museums, rock shows and other related activities.

**Is there any other business????**

*Kendal announced that the 9 junior members present had voted to call their FRA group the "Rockheads" and that they will officially start up the badge program in October. They will plan, schedule and conduct an FRA field trip for sometime after the first of the year to either the Frankstown site or to the Blue Springs crab site.*

*Floy asked if we needed to nominate a new vice president and Nancy said that Bernice Burkeen had already volunteered to preside over the June meeting and that Roger Lambert would handle September, so she suggested that the club wait until all officer positions were nominated in November.*

*Floy also handed out the 2011 membership rosters.*

**Reminders:** The June meeting will be at the library on the 18th from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be a DVD on "The Dinosaur Trackways along the Connecticut River".

\*\*There will not be a meeting or newsletter in July or August.

The Sept. meeting will be at the library on the 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3p.m. and the program will be "Making a Chainmail Keychain" by Robert Langford. Bring two (2) needle nose pliers per person.

After the May 21st meeting, any NMGMS members who would like to join in, meet at the Danvers Restaurant, 1101 W Main Street, Tupelo between 5 and 5:30p.m. We will have a "Dutch Treat" very impromptu, friendly, let's chew the fat, type board meeting!

*Nancy reminded everyone to be sure and purchase some raffle tickets for the items on the back tables, as the proceeds from said raffle were to go to help cover the rest of the William Holland class tuition for Roger and Matthew Lambert.*

*The guest speaker, NMGMS member Brenda Johnson from Mountain Home, AR and also president and newsletter editor of the Ozark Earth Science, Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society was introduced and gave her program on "Micromounting Mineral and Fossil Specimens".*

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 was made and seconded.**

---

### **Trebloc, MS Quarry Field Trip**

On April 9, 2011, the NMGMS had their annual field trip to the old lime quarry near Trebloc, MS to collect fossils and minerals.

*Squalicorax, Enchodus, and Mosasaur teeth as well as calcite and marcasite specimens were collected. There were even a few Mosasaur and boney fish vertebrae collected on this trip. One member even found a partial Mosasaur jaw bone!*



Showing off some of their finds of the day are Ryan Bullock, Brittani Lambert, and Ethan Bullock  
Photo by: Jim Roberts



Mosasaur tooth  
Photo by Roger Lambert

### **Junior Member Comments:**

It turned out to be a very hot and dry day in the quarry, but all seemed to have a great time. We look forward to the next field trip. – Matthew Lambert

I was very excited to find my very first sawfish barb. – Brittani Lambert

**The Amazing World of the Very Small: MICROMOUNTS**

Saturday was so much fun for all who came to discover and listen to Harvey and Brenda Johnson's program about micromount gem, mineral and fossil collecting. It was exciting for our adult members, but absolutely astonishing for our junior members, the Rock Heads, to peer through the binocular microscopes for the first time to see the wonders of the micro world. Brenda pointed out that the microscopic minerals have some of the most perfectly formed crystal structures. Harvey and Brenda Johnson are members of NMGMS, but they live in a part of the Ozarks in a town known as Mountain Home, Arkansas, a beautiful place to live but lacking in their hobby of collecting gems, minerals and fossils. They travel far and wide to collect their specimens and early on discovered the hazards of bringing tons of their precious cargo back to Mountain Home. That's when they decided to start their micromount collection. We are so fortunate to have such interesting members that are willing to share their expertise. However, I think I overheard Harvey say that he has been known to bring home some of the larger rocks.

Some of our members met at Danver's after the meeting to have more time to "chew the fat". That was when I discovered that the Johnsons do rock talks for their schools too. They understand that the future of any rock, gem, mineral, fossil or earth science club is to bring the "World of Rocks" to youngsters. We are fortunate to have grown to a membership that has 31 juniors. Having been members of other clubs, it was our experience that meeting on week nights was not good for gaining a junior membership. Youngsters can't attend meetings on school nights, so our Saturday afternoon time seems to be ideal for gaining young people. Of course, doing the "rock talk" at schools, scouts, etc. has also helped get the word out about how much fun we have learning about Mother Earth and all her wonders. It takes perseverance and work on the part of our members to hold a "free admission" Kids' Day and to take the time to construct a float for the local Christmas Parade. We have gotten members from all of our efforts and feel it has been very worth while.

We are a "feel good" organization and we feel good when we can do workshops for various organizations and raise funds for our scholarships. It is so much fun to share our knowledge and we have such a good time learning about different ways to collect our "gems". We appreciated Harvey and Brenda bringing this new way of collecting to the home of NMGMS. Thank you Harvey and Brenda!

Floy and Bill Hawkins

**Micromounting Tips, Info, & Suppliers:**

[www.gamineral.org/micromount\\_corner.html](http://www.gamineral.org/micromount_corner.html)

Display cases, boxes and storage: [www.althor.com](http://www.althor.com) [www.minresco.com/boxes/boxes1.htm](http://www.minresco.com/boxes/boxes1.htm)  
[www.potomacdisplay.com](http://www.potomacdisplay.com) (has magnifier boxes too!) and [www.shannonsminerals.com](http://www.shannonsminerals.com)

---

**Remaining Program Line Up for 2011:**

June: DVD, "Dinosaur Trackways" from the Dinosaur Museum in Rocky Hill, CT

No meetings for July or August

September: "Making a Chainmail Keychain", workshop presented by NMGMS member Robert Langford

October: Second annual NMGMS picnic and rock swap

November: "How to Make Ming Style Gem Trees", workshop presented by NMGMS member Nancy Roberts

December: Annual Christmas Party

---

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

**Presented by NMGMS**

---

**NMGNS 20-Mile Creek Field Trip Notice for June 4<sup>th</sup>:**

The June field trip will be to the Monument Site on Twenty Mile Creek in Prentiss County, MS on **Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at the site by the Hwy 45 Bridge at 9:00 a.m. Parking is on the NE side of Hwy 45, just off of a side road on the flats by the monument and also under the bridge. We will be sifting through the creek's sand and gravel for shark teeth and other small Cretaceous fossils. This is the famous Frankstown Site. Be prepared to get wet! You will be down in the creek, so you need to be able to go down the bank and get in the water. Wear shoes that can get wet and a walking stick is a good idea. There is a somewhat steep, sandy path of sorts leading down the bank. You can work your way up or down the creek on either side of the bridge. Bring a screening device, like a colander, sieve or homemade screen made out of hardware cloth and a wooden frame, or fiberglass screening put into a large plastic embroidery hoop. Also, you will need a small garden trowel or scoop. Small jars with tight fitting lids, zip loc bags or pill bottles make excellent storage containers for the fossils. There are no facilities here. Be sure to bring plenty of drinking water, a hat, sunscreen, your lunch and watch for poison ivy and snakes on the bank. You will find many different kinds of teeth here, shark, ray, bony fish, mosasaur, and crocodile; also some vertebrae, turtle bone, scutes, petrified wood and lots more. Many of the teeth are good sized, but much is very small, so be sure to check out anything that is black and shiny! This will be lots of fun for all ages.

If you plan to go on this field trip, please notify Robert Langford 662-869-2278H or 662-871-0184C [rlangford@cobbenv.com](mailto:rlangford@cobbenv.com) [thechainmailman@yahoo.com](mailto:thechainmailman@yahoo.com)

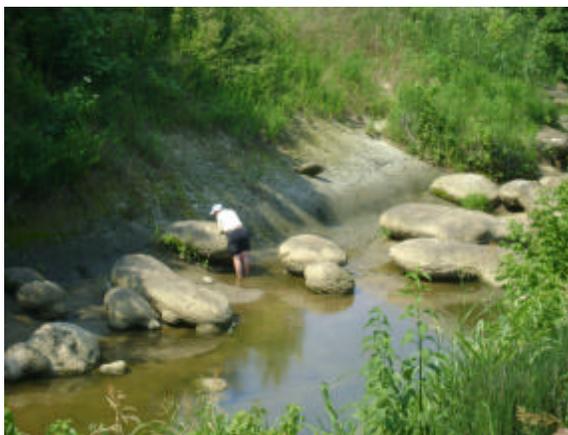


Photo 5, View showing the stream and boulders at the Site.

---

**BENCHTIPS****TOOTHPICKS**

The round, stronger toothpicks have a multitude of uses on the jewelry bench. I use them for mixing epoxy resin, for applying paste solder, with Zam for polishing in tight spots, and with a bit of beeswax for picking up and positioning small stones. They're particularly good for testing the fit of a small faceted stone in a prong or tube set finding.

**PUMICE WHEELS**

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be real careful of using

pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howelite, etc. If you're unsure that a wheel is pumice, test it with a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Moh's scale. If it doesn't scratch glass, it shouldn't scratch quartz.

**MAGNETIC PIN FINISHER**

There is a good article about making your own magnetic tumbler at <http://www.rchristopher.com/tech/tumbler.html>. The person reporting this on the YahooGroups Jewelry Casting list says he's made two units from these plans and they work very well. In addition to the primary job of burnishing and polishing finished pieces, he also uses the units for cleaning investment from castings. The stainless steel pins are available from either Gesswein or Rio Grande. Pumice wheels are good for

Submitted by, Brad Smith

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at [groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/) or [facebook.com/BenchTips](http://facebook.com/BenchTips)

---

**NMGMS Members Mark your Calendars for a Special Summer Program**

The NMGMS field trip to Monument Site on Twenty Mile Creek in Prentiss County, MS on **Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>** was the kickoff of a NMGMS summer program at the site. The NMGMS will be represented at the site by a Registered Professional Geologist, Robert Langford, who will be onsite on a voluntary basis to help the people who collect fossil teeth and other fossils there to identify their fossils and to promote the NMGMS by handing out NMGMS information fliers.



This site is extremely H<sub>2</sub>O.  
So, be prepared to get wet.



Don't catch "Shark Tooth Fever".



See us at the NMGMS Pavilion to get your fossils identified.

Robert’s summer schedule (additional volunteers are welcome) will be as follows:

**June 2011**

June 4<sup>th</sup> Kickoff date

**July 2011**

July 9<sup>th</sup>

July 23<sup>rd</sup>

**August 2011**

August 6<sup>th</sup>

August 20<sup>th</sup>

**North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society  
2011 Meeting Schedule**

**Sat. June 18, Time 1 to 3p.m.**

Hostesses/Hosts: Roger Lambert and Belinda Loyd  
Lee County Public Library  
Program: "Dinosaur Trackways"  
Presented by DVD

**Sat. September 17, Time 1 to 3p.m.**

Hostesses/Hosts: Kendall Bullock and Bernice Berkeen  
Lee County Public Library  
Program: "Making a Chainmail Keychain",  
Presented by Robert Langford

**Directions**

**Directions to Lee County Library**

Take East Main Street to Madison St. (near United Methodist Church); turn North; go two blocks to the corner of Madison & Jefferson St. Library is there **Or** from Gloster Street turn east on to Jefferson St. until you get to Madison St.



**Editor’s Note:** Since I have more articles than I can put in this issue. There will be a supplemental to this edition, which will be published in early July. Please watch for it.

Respectfully, Robert A. Langford