



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



Scottish Beach Rocks by Mike Schuchs

Notes from the President's Desk....September 9, 2015

Happy fall! Well, almost, as the first day of fall is still over a week away. With temps still in the 80's and 90's, it doesn't feel very "fallish" yet. Out here on the island, the apples and leaves are already falling and it's been rather hot and dry for the last few weeks. Can't complain tho, it's been a great summer!

Speaking of summer, even though NMGMS didn't hold regular meetings during the summer months, many of our club members still managed to pursue the hobby through collecting trips, traveling and lapidary projects. Check out the last few pages of this newsletter to see a few of the "goings on". I hope that all NMGMS members managed to keep up their interests and skills over the summer, whether it be adding a few more specimens to a collection or learning a new lapidary technique. Our meetings are a great place to share what you have been doing with other members, so please feel free to bring something for a display or "show and tell" to one of the club's meetings at the library. If it is of interest to you, then we'll find it interesting too!

So now that September is here and the kids are back in school, NMGMS will be getting back into its regular meeting schedule. The first upcoming meeting will be on September 19th at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. Be sure to be there, as Robert Langford will be showing us how to make a Celtic torque (jewelry neck piece) out of copper wire. Bring your pliers and have some fun!

Several other exciting events are also scheduled for this fall; a field trip to the Union County crab site on Sept. 26th, and one to the Parsons' quarry in Tennessee on Oct. 24th. Then NMGMS member, Dave Hanes, will be doing the program at the Oct. 17th meeting. Dave's presentation will be covering a dinosaur fossil discovery in Mississippi! We have club member, Mike Schuchs, slated for the Nov. 21st meeting program, which will be a slide presentation of his trip to Scotland. On Saturday, Nov. 7th, NMGMS will be taking in the fascinating sights and adventures of the French Camp Rainwater Observatory. Sounds like a great fall lineup, so be sure and mark all of these dates on your calendar and watch your emails and future newsletters for more details.



Hope to see ya'll there!

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar!

The next NMGMS meeting will be held at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo on Saturday September 19, 2015 from 1 to 3p.m.

Program: Robert Langford will be teaching how to make a copper Celtic torque. Bring your needle nose or chain nose pliers and have some fun while you learn to make this exotic piece.



Up Coming NMGMS Field Trips:

The September field trip for NMGMS will be to the Blue Springs crab site in Union County on Saturday Sept. 26th. Meet at the site at 9a.m.

Along with collecting fossil crabs, you will find turtle and mosasaur bone, shark teeth and vertebrae, mollusks and bi-valves of all kinds, spiny lobsters, small corals, bryozoans and some nautiloids. This site is an Upper Cretaceous Coon Creek deposit.

Watch your email for directions.

For more information contact Robert Langford, rlangford@cobbenv.com or Roger Lambert, roger.lambertjr@yahoo.com or me, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Thank you, Nancy Roberts NMGMS field trip chair

NMGMS has a joint field trip with MAGS scheduled for **October 24, 2015** to the Vulcan quarry in Parsons, TN. We already have reached our maximum number of attendees and have several members on the waiting list. If you want to be added to the waiting list, drop me an email (therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) and I'll add you. I will keep you posted, if we get any cancellations. If you are already signed up for this field trip and find that you can't make it, please let me know as soon as you can, so that I can notify someone on the waiting list to fill your slot. ***P.S. Quarry only allows members 18 yrs or older. Nancy Roberts

ATTENTION: all members attending the Oct. 24th field trip are required to have **safety glasses**, so be sure you have yours!! Harbor Freight has some that are less than \$2. Check Walmart too

More Upcoming NMGMS Events:

October 17, 2015: meeting at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m.
Program will be given by NMGMS member Dave Hanes, "Fossil Discovery"

November 7, 2015: NMGMS will have a field trip to the Rainwater Observatory at French Camp, MS 1 to 4p.m. This field trip is for all members, but is especially for the Rockheads, as part of their FRA badge, Earth in Space.

This trip will not only be educational, but will also be fun and exciting. It sounds like an excellent showing, with a video presentation including Hubble telescope photos and other pictures of space, a viewing of the exhibits which include rock, mineral and meteorite displays, a live planetarium presentation of stars and constellations and then finally, if the day is clear, a viewing thru the solar telescope. This observatory is one of the largest in the southeast. Looking forward to it!

Check out their website: <http://rainwaterobservatory.org/rainwater/>

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

Federation News



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) Annual Meeting is November 6, 7, & 8 of 2015, with the Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society in Melbourne, FL. The meeting will be on Saturday, November 7, starting at 8:30 a.m. There is more information on the website: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/brd-meeting-details.html>.

[Diamond Dan Publications](http://diamonddanpublications.net)

Great for Kids!

diamonddanpublications.net

Summer Special! We continue to reduce our inventory. The piles of books are getting smaller! All of our mineral activity books are 75 cents/copy (a 25% discount from the usual \$1.00 price). The titles available are Minerals from California, Minerals of the USA, Mineral Oddities, The World of Minerals, GOLD! We are sorry, but FOSSILS is now sold out. In addition, our very successful and popular book, Diamond Dan's Mineralogical Dictionary, is now \$1.00/copy (a full 50% discount from the original \$2.00/copy price.) Shipping costs (USPS Media Mail) will be added. Please email or call to place your order.



AFMS Endowment Fund

I am writing to you today as the Southeastern representative for the AFMS Endowment fund. I am requesting that you discuss the AFMS Endowment fund with your Board and membership, and assist me in providing the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets and/or donate suitable prizes for the raffle.

“Did you know that all monies collected via the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing project are invested? Not one penny of the money collected is spent. Did you know that the interest from the Endowment Fund principal is what’s used each year to fund a variety of AFMS programs? Did you know that because of the Endowment Fund, the AFMS has been able to continue funding these programs without having to raise dues? Does your club borrow programs from your Regional Federation library to use at meetings? Many of these programs are copies of the old slide programs given to the federations by AFMS. The cost of digitizing these older programs is funded by the Endowment Fund interest. Does your club have an active juniors program? Is the program utilizing the AFMS badges? The cost of making and distributing these badges is covered by the Endowment fund interest and as a result, clubs are asked to pay nothing. These are just two of the programs that your purchase of a ticket (or tickets) for the 2014 AFMS Endowment Fund drawing can help to continue. Kids are our future in the hobby, so the juniors program with the badges as rewards for achieving certain goals is important. Clubs, especially those in smaller areas, often use programs provided to their federation by AFMS. You and your club members benefit! So, bottom line, when you are asked to purchase a ticket for the Endowment Fund, or asked to make a donation, say “yes”. You’ll benefit, your club and junior members will benefit, and perhaps you’ll win one of the fabulous prizes as a thank you.” (Excerpt from AFMS February 2014 Newsletter)

If you, or members of your organization, would like to purchase raffle tickets, or make a donation to the raffle prizes, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Raffle prizes should be lapidary related, and be valued at least \$50 or more. You can mail checks made payable to: AFMS Endowment Fund to me at:

Jerri Heer, President TBMSC 7301 N Howard Av Tampa, FL 33604-5224

I will return the raffle stubs by return mail. Please include the name, address and phone number of the purchaser, so I can enter them correctly in the drawing. If you have prizes to donate, contact me to arrange pickup or mailing. Last year, three SFMS members won prizes in the Raffle. I hope this year will be your lucky day! Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if there are any questions I can answer.

Sincerely, Jerri A. Heer 419-344-9999 Jheerx6@aol.com

The 2015 Endowment Fund drawing will be held on October 24, 2015, at the awards banquet in Austin, Texas.

To see the 2015 raffle prizes go to: http://www.amfed.org/2015_AFMS_Endowment_Fund_Drawing.pdf

Show Dates:

HGMS Huntsville, AL show **October 9, 10, & 11, 2015**
47th Annual Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society –
Huntsville, AL Fri: 10AM to 6 PM; Sat:10 AM to 6 PM; Sun: Noon to 5 PM
Jaycees Community Building - 2180 Airport Rd.. Huntsville, AL
Located west of Memorial Pkwy & east of Leeman Ferry Rd.
North of Airport Rd. Turn North at Jaycee Dr @ the traffic light.

17 Dealers with Minerals, Gems, Jewelry, & Fossils Display Cases, Demonstrations, & Hourly
Doorprizes, Mining Flume, Fluorescent Room, & Gem Dig for Children
\$3.00 donation at the door, children under 5 - Free.

Show Chairman: Tony Smith - tsmith@rc-incorporated.com Website: <http://www.huntsvillegms.org>

October 23 – 25, 2015, Austin, TX **AFMS Convention and Show**, hosted by the South Central Federation.

More information: <http://www.amfed.org/show2015.htm>.

Austin Gem and Mineral Society's Annual Gem and Mineral Show GEM CAPERS 2015

This year's theme is PEGMATITES

Check out this link to the Austin, TX show: [http:// www.austingemandmineral.org/gemcapers/index.html](http://www.austingemandmineral.org/gemcapers/index.html)

Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

8 am to 6 pm, Friday, October 2, 2015

8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, October 3, 2015

8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, October 4, 2015

"You are invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold two three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during the current year. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks: Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don't forget to bring some extra money to buy the special "Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig" T-shirt! **THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL. NO NEED TO SIGN-UP, JUST SHOW UP FOR ALL "ROCK SWAP AND DIGS"!** Mark your calendar and tell all your friends about these great events!

(Cont'd on pg 6)

Graves Mountain cont'd:

Graves Mountain is accessible and open for mineral collecting by colleges, universities, and gem and mineral societies. Groups as small as two INDIVIDUAL mineral collectors can now reserve the mountain! In order to gain access, (except for the two yearly "Rock Swaps and Digs") you will need to contact the caretaker, Clarence Norman, Jr (Junior) at 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.401.3173 (his cell). Give him a call and he can reserve the mountain exclusively for your group. All of the mineral societies that come here to collect offer the caretaker a donation for his trouble and effort in keeping the mountain open and assessable to them. Please consider what it is worth to your mineral society to be able to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!

Graves Mountain code of conduct!

- Park your vehicle in the designated area (at the end of the paved access road but not much beyond the woods to the right of this road).
- NO child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed on the mountain because of all the dangers involved. ALL CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Digs" IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER STRICT ADULT SUPERVISION!
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- The caretaker, Junior Norman, has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!
- NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!
- NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BE-YOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)

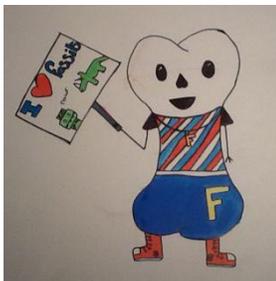
EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)



Grab Bags!

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; 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!!!!!!!!!!!!!! . I sew a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch turn for the yarn first (with the yarn already in place). Fold in half, then sew the bottom & up the one side, stopping before the yarn tube. Good luck and thanks! Nancy Roberts



Rockheads: September 2015



Rockhead Officers:

President

Victoria Langford

Vice President

Konrad Armstrong

Secretary

Britanni Lambert

www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts

latergator2003@yahoo.com



FRA "Earth in Space" Badge

Attention Rockheads! At the October 17th NMGMS meeting, you will be completing the solar system project and getting it ready for presentation.

NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Award

If you have been working toward earning the "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award, but have not yet completed all of the necessary requirements, don't worry, there's still time before the December meeting. There are several Rockheads who have already completed the three requirements for the NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Award, which are:

1. Be a member in good standing
2. Write an article or review for The Nugget
3. Give a short presentation or set up a "show and tell" display at one of the meetings.

If you still need to get an article or review published in the newsletter, please send it to therockhoundlady@yahoo.com. It doesn't need to be long or complicated!

If you need to do a display, bring one along to any of the next few meetings.

A Busy Summer! What some NMGMS members were up to...

Summer is a great time to visit new places or learn something new!



Brenda Manning started doing micro macramé! (Photo by Brenda)



Christy Paul and family traveled the West! (Photo by Christy)



Nikki Kenney mastered Kumihimo! (Photo by Nikki)



Mike Schuchs tried his hand at carving! (Photo by Mike)



Mike and Alison Schuchs ventured to Scotland! (photo by Alison)



Alison Schuchs' painting won a "Best of Show"! (Photo by Alison)



Nancy Roberts did some metal work! (Photo by Nancy)



Robert Langford did fossil ID at the creek! (Photo by Nancy)

I'm sure that many others of our NMGMS members did exciting and interesting things too, over the summer, so if you have any photos that you could share with us for the next issue, please send them to therockhoundlady@yahoo.com. Thanks!! Nancy

2015 Officers

President/Field Trip Chair:

Nancy Roberts

25 Amber Lane

Counce, TN 38326

(731)689-5336

therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Brenda Manning

77 County Road 864

Dennis, MS 38838

662-454-3128

b.man.55@hotmail.com

Vice-President:

Roger Lambert

1817 CR 7002

Corinth, MS 38834

(662)286-3750

roger.lambertjr@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Nikki Kenney

PO Box 808

Tupelo, MS 38802

662-844-6142

ofkbk@comcast.net