



Photo by Cheryle Langford

Notes from the President's Desk....March 2017

Happy 16th Birthday NMGMS! How "sweet" it is, too! We have a great organization, and it feels like NMGMS has been in existence for a long time; I guess that's because we are so active. But, this is still a young rock club compared to many of the other rock and fossil clubs in our area. I still hear people say "I didn't know there was a rock club in Tupelo!" So, even though our NMGMS website and Facebook page have been doing a good job of letting people know that the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is indeed alive and well, we, as members, need to be more active in getting the word out and promoting our very fine society to the local community and surrounding areas across the state. We need to especially reach out to the local schools, scouts, and home school groups.

Speaking of getting the word out, there's barely a month to go before our April 8th Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the Oren Dunn Museum. So please sign up to help with the setup and to man the activities that we will be holding at this event. This show is one of our biggest community events; it's a great way to let people know something about what we do and are interested in. It also gives us the chance to meet other rock and fossil enthusiasts and it gives us the opportunity to work closely with the museum. It's a fun event for all involved.

I would like to encourage everyone to bring something to display at our yearly "Show and Tell" birthday meeting coming up on the 18th. I know we have lots of things that have been collected or made over the past year, and we all want to see what our members have accomplished. I send the meeting notices to the paper, too, so let's give a good showing for our guests!

There are a couple of things that I would like to bring to everyone's attention. First, both the SFMS and the AFMS have had notices in their recent newsletters about scams being perpetrated on rock and mineral clubs recently. This involves the treasurer of the organization receiving an email (supposedly) from the president, who claims that a large sum of money needs to be paid urgently and to reply for the details. Thankfully NMGMS has a very astute treasurer, because we indeed received one of those emails just a few days ago. Nikki didn't think I had another email account, so she was pretty sure it wasn't from me, but she immediately called me to verify. I was aware of these scams, due to the diligence of the federations, so I was prepared. Needless to say, we didn't reply! This is a hazard that we take when posting all of our information online. I talked to several MGMS members and also SFMS members; they both have received similar scams. So, be alert. If you receive an email that appears to be from me or another one of the club officers, but aren't sure, please don't hesitate to call to check up on it.

Secondly, since hardly anyone uses a plain old camera anymore, but is taking their pictures with a smart phone, let me remind you, that unless you turn off the GPS to the camera on your phone, the exact location of the photo is recorded within the photo data (This is called geotagging). When posting pictures online, this is information that you probably don't want the general public to have. If it's a public place, that may be one thing, but if you are, say on a field trip on private property where the club has obtained permission to collect, you would not want the location advertised. Some sites will ask if you want to post the location or other information when you upload a photo. Just be sure that what you post is indeed information that you want out there.

Be sure to take a look at our calendar of events coming up. We've got a busy spring schedule ahead. Lots of fun for everyone!
Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS March Meeting

The NMGMS **March 18, 2017** meeting will be held at the Lee County Library from 1 to 3p.m.

It's our 16th annual birthday party! This is the time when we "show off" what we have been working on over the past year. **All members are asked to bring in something to display.** It can be a part of your rock, mineral or fossil collection, your lapidary/ beading work or just something interesting that you may have picked up in your summer travels. This is your chance to "shine" and share with everyone your interests, talents and expertise!

Also, bring any specimens that you are loaning the ODCM for our display cases.

We will also hold our "Brown Bag" silent auction at this meeting. Members are asked to bring two items, each one packaged in its own brown paper bag. One item is to be a "nice" rock and gem related item (not absolute) and the other item can be silly, funny or cute, (kind of "white elephant") but no garbage, please! These bags will be set out on the table for silent bidding during the meeting. We have always had some really nice surprises, and this is lots of fun, especially with the younger members!

Volunteers for the refreshments are: Linda Blackmon and Mike Schuchs. Ann Byzet is bringing the cake. Come and celebrate; Happy Birthday NMGMS!

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

March 11-12th, 2017: Spring break field trip to Mt. Ida, AR for quartz crystals

March 29th-31st, 2017: Oren Dunn City Museum (ODCM) display setup. (See pg 3 for details)

March 25, 2017: Spinner Ring Workshop at the Link Centre, 10 to 4p.m. (See pg 3 for details)

April 1, 2017: Possible NMGMS field trip to Trebloc or Blue Springs (watch email for details)

April 8, 2017: Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show, 10-4p.m. at the ODCM in Tupelo (See pg 3 for details)

April 29, 2017: NMGMS April meeting from **2 to 4p.m.** at the Tupelo Library. Program: Making wire gem trees.

Other Upcoming Events:

April 22nd and 23rd, 2017: "The Earth Wide Open", MAGS rock and gem show at the Agricenter in Memphis, TN. NMGMS will set up as an exhibitor. (See pg 4 for details)

NMGMS Members Take Note! 2017 Membership Dues, Last Call!

2017 is rolling along, and if you have not yet renewed your NMGMS membership, please do; you don't want to be overdue! Our club has a lot to offer, so please consider renewing, in order to remain on the club roster and eligible for our field trips, workshops, etc. Each and every member is important to our organization and we would hate to lose even one of you! Our club treasurer will be available to collect your dues at our March 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. An application form is located on our club website: www.nmgms.org

Editor's Note: The first batch of the Feb. 2017 issue of The Nugget incorrectly stated that the Ophiolite specimen that Dr. Gifford brought for display was from Yemen. The correct country of origin is Oman.

Poster by Rae Mathis Guess



NMGMS Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show

April 8, 2017 at the ODCM in Tupelo

Activities at this event include: our spin and win, the rock and fossil dig, the fishing game, a bean bag toss, a beading activity, and the fluorescent room. We will need NMGMS members to man each of these activities, as well as, the club information table. Ticket takers will also be needed and we hope that all of the Rockheads can participate and help out. We will need two volunteers per station. (1 volunteer needs to be an adult) The NMGMS club table will be selling grab bags and tickets for the other activities. We will need a few members to be docents

by the rock, mineral, and fossil cases to answer questions. **Volunteers need to be at the museum at 9a.m. on Saturday April 8th!**

Club News: ODCM Display Setup

If you are bringing in a specimen to loan for the museum displays, be sure to label it by placing a piece of painters tape with your initials onto the bottom of the specimen. The March 18th meeting is the latest that we could take any loaned specimens. We will start setting up the displays at the Oren Dunn Museum on March 29th. If you are available to help with the setup, please let Nancy Roberts know. There will be lots to do! We would also like to showcase the lapidary and jewelry work that NMGMS members have been doing, so please consider loaning some of your creations for a display case at the museum. Display cases: Rocks that look like food, Rock types: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic, Minerals and their uses, Cabochon making and rock polishing, Stages of wood petrification, Petrified wood, Lapidary jewelry, Meteorites, Minerals, Agates, Geodes, and Paleozoic fossils. If you have any interesting, unusual or exciting finds, please consider loaning them for these displays.

More Upcoming NMGMS Events: Club Workshop



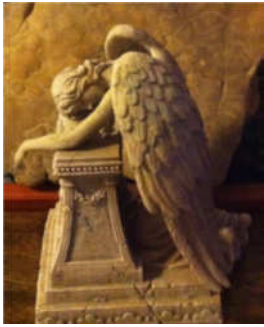
March 25, 2017 Spinner Ring Class

Want to learn to cut, shape, rivet, and solder a spinner ring? If you do, come to the Link Center in Tupelo on Saturday, March 25th; NMGMS will be having a ring making class, upstairs in the conference room from 10a.m. until 4p.m. You will learn how to cut your metal sheet, texture it, shape it and rivet it to form the copper base ring.

Then learn to do simple soldering in order to form the spinners out of copper, brass, and sterling wire. It's really a fun project, and you will learn some essential metalsmithing techniques. The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. The \$25 class fee includes all materials, tools and the use of the torches. Please bring a brown bag lunch. There is a refrigerator available. Email therockhoundlady@yahoo.com, if you plan to attend.

NMGMS Announcements:

Photo by Dana Jones



William and Joann Wardlaw

NMGMS members, William and Joann Wardlaw, passed away Monday, Feb. 20, 2017 in a tragic automobile accident in Sault Ste. Marie, MS. Bill and Joann joined the club in the fall of 2016 and showed a great enthusiasm for rock collecting. Bill would bring some of his collection to the meetings to show and tell, and he enjoyed sharing his stories and adventures with fellow club members. They attended the January field trip, and had no trouble getting out there among the rocks to collect. Bill and Joann joined in the fun and camaraderie of a shared interest. It is our loss that we did not have the opportunity to spend more time with them and to get to know them better. As a part of our NMGMS family, they will be greatly missed.

Meeting Program Review: Making a Resin Collage



At the Feb. 18, 2017 meeting, NMGMS members were able to "play" with ICE resin and make a collage pendant using a wide variety of small objects. The beads and shark teeth were very popular!



Photos by Nancy Roberts

Show Dates: April 22 – 23, 2017; Memphis, TN

Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show, "The Earth Wide Open" by, Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society
Memphis International Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN

Saturday, April 22 9-6:00 and Sunday, April 23 10-5,

Adults \$5.00, 2 day pass \$8.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00. Scouts in uniform, free.

Dealers, Exhibits, Demonstrations, Grand and Hourly door prizes. Kids Area with Rockzone, featuring Gem and Fossil Dig, Geode Bowling, and Rocks Around the Clock. Includes "The MAGS Rock Banquet" a table full of rocks that look like real food; developed and maintained by the club since 1980.

Web: www.TheEarthWideOpen.com, email info@theearthwideopen.com.

Show Chair James Butchko 901-743-0058 Dealer Chair WC McDaniel 901-274-7706, 901-490-3575

Old Bones: all about collecting!

Photo by Nancy Roberts



NMGMS goes to Parsons by Jennifer Eubank

After having our Parsons trip postponed twice due to bad weather, we finally were able to make a go of it! On a very chilly February 4th morning, a handful of NMGMS members gathered at the Vulcan Mine in Parsons, TN to gather Lower Devonian fossils from the Birdsong Shale deposit. Ten of us arrived at approximately 7am for a brief safety talk at the main office. We then played “follow-the-leader” to the mine collecting site, and we were guided to a very large area in which to collect. However, since there were not that many of us, and the fossils were plenty, we ended up sticking together in a smaller area.

The active mine is only open from 6a.m until noon on Saturdays, hence the need to meet and start on our hunt early. At this time of year the sun was barely up, and the temps were in the twenties at the start! It was quite cold for fossil hunting, initially. We were all bundled up like Eskimos! This was a group of hard-core rock hounds!

Upon first look, I could not believe my eyes! There were fossils everywhere underfoot! You couldn’t help but step on them. Crinoid stems were most plentiful at this site. Multiple species of brachiopods were easily found. I picked up the largest brachiopod that I have ever found (approx. 3 inches across). Also found were, Bryozoa, sponges, corals, mollusks, and trilobites. I was surprised by the trilobites. None that I found this day were entirely intact, and I was told that it is difficult to find a whole one, but, as Mike Schuchs called them, I found several trilo-“butts”! Nancy was fortunate enough to find a large, beautiful specimen of a crinoid calyx (the top “flower” part of the crinoid). Calyxes are not easy to find, and the theory is, that during storms they would be broken off and float away, thus not usually being found amongst plentiful crinoid stems.

Many fossil specimens, like the mollusks, sponges, and corals, at this site were very small (like 1-2 cm). My favorite hunting method was to just plop down in a fossil pile and pick up specimens from a sitting position, rather than bending over and stooping. The fossils were easier to see this way, and it saved my back and knees. After a little while I would get up and move to a new pile. I also noticed this to be beneficial, as different tailing piles contained different material, based on what layer of depth that pile came from. The Birdsong Shale is further divided into 3 sub-layers: the brachiopod, bryozoan, and trilobite zones. Hence, one pile might be full of crinoids, another pile full of brachiopods, and yet another with trilo-“butts”! It was fun and easy collecting here.

Photo by Nancy Roberts



After spending the morning at the mine, since our collecting time ended close to noon, we had a nice group lunch at the local Hardees. On the way back home, it was decided that some of us would carpool for a little ways to make a few road-side stops that Nancy had mentioned: a few road cuts and a bluff to collect some Devonian and Silurian fossils. The first road cut was large and a few more fossils were found but the Calcite crystal chunks from the rock wall were cool. Also, the pink colored crinoid stems at this location were interesting!

The next bluff location had an abundance of Silurian sponges that were smaller and a little more difficult to find. Our last stop at another, smaller road cut, had evidence of more Devonian fossils but much larger trilobites! One piece that I carried home had a trilobite head nearly 4 inches wide! Whoa! Can you imagine finding a complete one that size!? I want to go back there for sure!

After our last stop and long ride home, I was completely exhausted. Another fun day of rock hounding!

Photo by Nancy Roberts



NMGMS goes to Parsons by Jennifer Eubank, cont'd:

For your reference purposes on this site, I recommend two publications:

1. Birdsong Shale Fossils by Mike Baldwin; Memphis Archeological and Geological Society Paleontology article October 10, 2006 (a nice brief overview)

http://www.memphisgeology.org/p_birdsong.htm

2. Lower Devonian Fossils of Tennessee by Kieran Davis; Memphis Pink Palace museum (a 40 pg in-depth article with great reference photos available in PDF format)

[www.memphisgeology.org>images>Devonian](http://www.memphisgeology.org/images/Devonian)

For those who have collected specimens from this site, here is how to properly identify and label your specimens. Remember, a good, organized, and identified collection is worth more than if not! Happy Hunting! Jennifer

1. Specimen name
2. Site: Vulcan Quarry [Parsons TN]
3. County/State: Decatur/TN
4. Formation: Ross
5. Member: Birdsong Shale
6. Epoch: Lower Devonian [408-387 mya]



SFMS Federation News

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, the SFMS replaced the stamp collecting program with a drawing to raise funds to provide full Scholarships to the SFMS Workshops. The federation is asking all member clubs and societies to participate in two ways.

The first way to participate is to donate an item to be a drawing prize. Each member club will receive acknowledgement if it donates a prize, or if a member of the club donates a prize.

The second way to participate is to sell the drawing tickets. Each member club is being sent 100 tickets for the drawing. The tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The drawing for the prizes will be held at the Annual Meeting. We will need the ticket stubs, etc., returned no later than 3 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. For 2017, October 1st is the date we are looking to have the items returned by.

For the scholarship drawing, each member club will have 1 chance in the drawing for each prize item donated from the club. Also for the drawing, each member club will receive chances based on the number of tickets sold divided by the number of members, as reported to the membership secretary for that year.

Please remember, the scholarships to SFMS workshops are NOT prizes in the drawing. Photographs and descriptions of all prizes will be posted on the SFMS website and published in the Loadstar.

Editor's Note: We have received the tickets; so let's participate and win some scholarships!!

The SFMS Newsletter, the Lodestar, and the AFMS Newsletter are available for all members to read on line

For Federation news, please check out these websites:

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

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>



Outstanding Mixed Metals Classes!

Photo by Nancy Roberts



NMGMS was fortunate again to host not one, but two fabulous Kim St. Jean mixed metals classes for its members. This year, Kim and Norm St. Jean made the stop in Tupelo as they worked their way home from the big International Gem Show in Tucson, AZ. Kim and Norm were joined this time by their son, Chase, along with his constant companion, Tonka. Kim St. Jean is an excellent teacher, and we soon were on the way to making some fantastic metal pieces with the skills she was teaching us. The Saturday class, "It's a Wrap" bracelet project, added lots of new soldering techniques and challenges, which made the piece so much more rewarding when we managed to finish it; which everyone did! Kim added a new twist to the Sunday's "Stone Hinge" pendant, by introducing us to the art of piercing and sawing out a detailed design. We also were able to "play" with some of the club's mica pieces and added those as "windows" to our pendants. Both classes went extremely well, as Kim and Norm worked well together, getting each step laid out and organized, so that we could just go from one technique to the next, smoothly. It's amazing how Norm knows exactly what each "thingamajig", "whatchamacallit", or "whoseywhat" is when Kim needs something set up, but I guess they've done this enough times to know! Both projects for this year's classes were really fun pieces to make, and everyone enjoyed the classes immensely. All members who attended were very proud of their accomplishments. Nancy Roberts

Here are a few comments and photos to attest to the great weekend:



I enjoyed the Kim St. Jean classes. Her work is fabulous! I was just amazed at what I, being a "newbee", was able to accomplish under her direction. Also, I appreciate all of the extra effort NMGMS members contributed with food and facility. I had a great time, and learned more than I ever expected. Jane Coryell

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Kim is an excellent teacher. I have taken all of her classes when she is at NMGMS and also a weeklong class of hers at William Holland. I always learn something new, and I am never disappointed in her class. Loretta Hettler

Photo by Cheryl Langford



I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend of Kim's classes; I was fortunate to attend both. I was so relieved on the first project that I didn't have to saw; I was dreading the next. Yet, this time something she said made it click for me, and I had to be forced to stop sawing.

Kim and Norm are incredibly patient. No matter what my neighbor and I screwed up (there was an egregious hinge hammering on my part), or how gross our stories got, I was handled with patience, aplomb, and (I like to imagine) humor.

Supplies and advice are available to assist you in starting your own metal hobby, or improving your practice. By this point I feel like Kim and Norm are family, excellent teachers, and mentors.

I am fortunate to be able to learn from them. Dana Jones

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Mixed Metals Classes, cont'd:



I was happy to be able to repeat Kim St. Jean's "Stone Hinge" class. There were so many techniques in this class, that I felt I needed a refresher. Since some of us had taken this class before, Kim decided to change it up a bit. My favorite technique that we learned, was to "pierce" saw a negative space in a piece of metal by punching a tiny hole in an inconspicuous area of the design, threading the blade of the jeweler's saw through that hole, and sawing around the outline of the design, thus keeping the space intact, without sawing through to the design from the outer edge of the metal piece. I was so proud of the tiny gecko figure that could fit back into the space from which it came. I want to do that again and again. Nikki Kenney

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Photos by Nancy Roberts



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins

Rockhead Officers:

President,

Konrad Armstrong

Vice President, James Carr

Secretary, Marion Carr

March 2017



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts

latergator2003@yahoo.com

Rockheads February 18, 2017 Meeting:

In attendance were, Mr. Jim, Cassandra Carr, Liam Langford, Austin, AJ, and Colin Carr, Sophie Gunther, and Julia and Levy Williamson.

The Rockheads worked on part of the Stone Age Tools and Art badge by painting rocks with their representations of Indian "cave" paintings.



Photos by Nancy Roberts

Note: If you missed the February meeting, you can make up this project at the March Rockheads' meeting.

Attention all Rockheads!! Please bring something from your collections to display at the March 18th meeting. Remember, doing a display at some point during the year, counts towards the "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award that NMGMS gives out at the Dec. meeting.

Lapidary Words: Test Your Knowledge!

Answers to Feb.: **Carborundum** is silicon carbide (SiC). It does occur in nature (moissanite), but is extremely rare (found in meteorites!). Virtually all silicon carbide is manmade. **Corundum** is Al₂O₃ (ruby and sapphire!) with a 9.0 hardness on the Mohs scale. Both are used as abrasives.

Notched and **Sintered**: What do they mean and what lapidary equipment would they pertain to?

Find out next month!

Bead Soup: A place to talk “shop”!

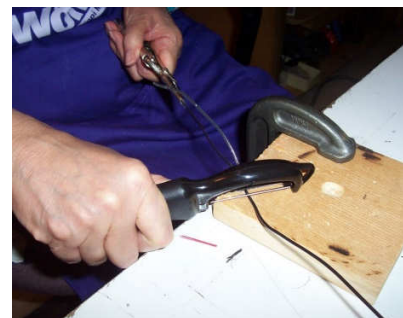
EASY TO STRIP (Wire) By Nikki Kenney

NEEDED:

1. Two receptacles for wire -before and after stripping
2. Vegetable peeler
3. Needle nose-vise grip pliers
4. Wire gauge
5. Baggie ties or chenille stems to wrap coils of wire
6. Small hole paper punch, fine point marker, scissors, and paper to identify gauge of wire coils
7. A block of wood about $\frac{3}{4}$ X 5 inches and a C clamp to protect table top while stripping wire, if needed
8. Piece of cloth, sock, or a work glove to pull wire through your hand while straightening wire
9. Wire cutters

NOW TO START:

1. Assemble tools and materials.
2. Straighten the wire – pull the wire through the gloved hand several times. An easy way to straighten the wire is to clamp one end in a vise, and pull the cloth or glove down the length of the wire.
3. Clamp the wood block to the edge of the table with the C clamp.
4. Cut off the length of wire to be stripped.
5. Take the peeler and strip about 1 or 2 inches of plastic coating from both ends of the wire.
6. Grasp one end of the wire with the vise grip pliers and hold the peeler on the wood block with the edge of the coating under the blades with the long end of the wire away from you.
7. With the pliers holding the wire, slowly pull the wire toward you while holding the peeler steady on the wood block.
8. A strip of coating will be removed by the peeler, leaving an opening along the length of the wire. Pull the wire free from the coating at an end, and continue to separate the wire from the coating.
9. Using the wire gauge, determine the gauge of the wire, then mark that gauge on a small square of paper.
10. Punch a hole in the paper label, and thread an end of a baggie tie or chenille stem through the hole.
11. Loosely coil the wire, and spiral the tie around the coil, with the label visible at the end.
12. Store the wires to be used as needed.



Photos by Nikki Kenney

Another method that I recently found, involves pulling the peeler towards you instead of the wire. Start by stripping a couple of inches on both ends of the wire. Place one stripped end in a vise or under a c clamp on your work table and hold the other end taut with the vise grip pliers. Start stripping the wire from the end in the vise and pull the peeler towards the hand holding the vise grip pliers. The secret is making sure the coated wire is as straight as you can get it. That will help the peeler to run smoothly along the wire.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: Feb. 18, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was not done because of no flag
Allen Carr and Krista Williamson were introduced as new members.

The Dec. 10, 2016 meeting minutes as printed in the Jan. 2017 Nugget and the Jan. 28, 2017 meeting minutes as printed in the Feb. 2017 Nugget were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of 2/18/2017 was 3779.83

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The NMGMS spring break field trip will be to Mt. Ida, AR March 11th and 12th. I have 10 rooms reserved and 23 members going, so far. Most will be going over on Friday night and some are staying through Sunday. If you would still like to go, you can try the Royal Oak Inn, The Shangri La Resort or the Mountain Harbor Resort for rooms. If you cancel out on this trip, please let me know, as soon as you can, so I can give your room to someone else. There is a DMC field trip hosted by MGMS on March 25th to a gravel operation. If you are interested in going, let me know. DMC field trips are for members only.

Publicity: (John Byzet) We need to start spreading the word about our April 8th Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the ODCM. The museum will be making up a publicity poster for the event.

Membership: Members asked to renew your dues by the March 18th birthday meeting, if you want to remain on the club's mailing list and eligible for field trips and workshops. **There are 99 members on the 2017 NMGMS roster so far. Dues are still \$12 for an individual, and \$20 for a family.**

Hospitality: Refreshments: Volunteers for March 18th: **Linda Blackmon and Mike Schuchs. Ann Byzet will get the birthday cake.** Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome!

Website: (John Byzet) If you happened to miss an issue of our newsletter, previous issues of The Nugget are posted on the NMGMS website. Check us out at www.nmgms.org **If you have any photos of NMGMS events, please send a few on to John for the website.**

Newsletter: Members were asked to consider writing a review for a field trip, workshop or club meeting that you have attended. We would all like to hear what our members think of our club events. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the **second Friday** of the month.

Email anything for The Nugget to: therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads will be doing their hotdog cookout at 20 Mile Creek on Saturday May 6th this year.

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) **It's time to wrap up 2016, so that the club yearbook can be put together. Please turn in any 2016 club memorabilia to Cheryle Langford.** Brenda Manning has volunteered to help as assistant historian.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) We will begin setting up the display cases at the museum on March 29th. The ODCM has picked the title of **Stones and Bones** for this year's exhibit. It will run until the middle of May. **We can sell hotdogs again at the Geology Fest.**

Safety: (Mike Schuchs) Need some safety topics and articles for the newsletter.

Old Business: Mike Schuchs will be putting together a display case based on the various forms of petrified wood and Jennifer Eubank will be showcasing some of her father's collection. Is there anyone else who would like to do one of the plexiglass cases with their own collection in it? If you can't set up the case during the last week of March, the museum can open on April 1, 2017 for setups. Rebecca will be revamping the "rocks like food" display, so if you have new pieces, please give them to her. Remember to use blue painters tape and place your initials on the bottom of any specimen that you are loaning NMGMS for a display case.

The Link Center room rent for the next 6 months has been paid. I still need a few specimens for the box of MS rocks and fossils that we'll be sending to the Venture CA club for their 2017 AFMS annual meeting display. The specimens need to fit into a 2x1 1/2 inch space. If you have any interesting pieces that you would like to donate for this, please bring them to the Feb., or March meeting. Labels need to have specimen id and at least the county where it was collected. We will receive a box of CA rocks in return. AFMS meeting is in June.

The following members are signed up to man these Geology Fest activities: Lapidary: **Nikki Kenney and Cheryle Langford**, Food sales: **Dana and Larry Armstrong, and Rebecca Vallarian**, Fluorescent room: **Mike Schuchs and Jake Carr**, Ticket and grab bag sales: **Ann and John Byzet**, Spin and Win: **Marion Carr**, and Fossil dig: **Konrad Armstrong and Linda Blackmon. Still need one adult for the Spin and Win.**

NMGMS Meeting Minutes, cont'd:

Date: Feb. 18, 2017

Volunteers for the Fishing Game: Alison Schuchs and Alice Carr and the Bean Bag Toss: Jim Roberts. Alice was volunteered for Fishing Game and Jim for the Bean Bag Toss.

NMGMS will set up as an exhibitor at the Memphis rock and gem show and we will need a few members to volunteer at the club table over that weekend of April 22nd and 23rd. We will be selling cookies again and if we demonstrate some jewelry techniques, we can sell our creations for the club. **No other old business discussed.**

New Business: The March 18, 2017 meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. This meeting is our annual birthday party. All members are asked to bring in something to display, showing what they have collected or accomplished over the past year in any related field. We will be holding the “Brown Bag” auction also. Members are asked to bring two items, each one packaged in its own brown paper bag. One item is to be a “nice” rock and gem related item (not absolute) and the other item can be silly, funny or cute, (kind of “white elephant”) but no garbage, please! These bags will be set out on the table for silent bidding during the meeting. We have always had some really nice surprises and this is lots of fun, especially with the younger members!

Reminded that the New Albany Boy Scouts need to finish up their Geology Badge, Nancy will be meeting them at Blue Springs at 11a.m. Monday, Feb. 20th to do some collecting, and then we will be going to 20 Mile Creek later that afternoon. Any member, who would like to meet at the crab site to help the scouts with their collecting, is more than welcome. The copy of The Geology of Mississippi, by David Dockery, that we plan to donate to the library, has arrived. Nancy is going to take it down to Jackson next weekend, and get Mr. Dockery to sign the book, before we give it to the library. The deposit and registration to setup as a vendor at the Tannehill show on June 3rd and 4th, has been sent in. Mike Schuchs is planning to man our club tables and sell some of the rocks that we received from the Bob Marshall estate. Nancy mentioned having another workshop for the club, possibly on March 25th, if we can get the upstairs conference room at the Link Centre. Project would be making a spinner ring. Because Easter is the third weekend of April, our April meeting will be on April 29th from 2 to 4p.m. at the library. No volunteers willing to man a sales table for our club jewelry at the Tupelo BBQ Duel on Saturday March 18th. Nikki was presented an award for her article she submitted to The Nugget. **Motion to Adjourn..... Approved at 1:40** **submitted by Paul Gunther**

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