

Nancy at the MMNS 2017 Fossil Road Show



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



Photo by Jim Roberts

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

Thank you, thank you! Here is a big "THANK YOU" to all of the NMGMS members who helped setup our "Stones and Bones" display at the Oren Dunn Museum. Your time and artistic talent was greatly appreciated. Through hard work and combined efforts, we now have a display consisting of 15 cases, showing all kinds of specimens and topics related to the earth sciences and lapidary arts. It's a display that we can all be proud of. I encourage everyone to take some time to go out to the museum and see it. I also extend a hardy "thank you" to all of those members who loaned specimens, lapidary items, and hand crafted jewelry for this display.

Another big "THANK YOU" goes out to all of our members who helped man the activities at the April 8th Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show. It takes a lot of time and effort to put on a good show. This is one of our club's community outreach events, as well as a fund raiser for NMGMS. Not only can collectors bring in specimens to be identified, but they can also learn something about our organization. This event gives us the opportunity to share our knowledge and interests, not to mention showing the kids a good time in the process. All of the games and hands-on activities that we run at the "Fest" require manpower, and they all were well covered and ran smoothly. I especially want to thank all of the Rockheads who came out and worked at this event. Way to go! Even though attendance was light this year, we still managed to gain some new members and make some new friends.

NMGMS had a great birthday celebration at our March meeting and I was quite impressed with all of the displays that fellow members brought to show. There were collections of various rocks and fossils, jewelry creations, cut and polished stones, and even some creative "rock" art. Our organization has a very talented and diverse membership, as far as their interests and skills go. Looks like the membership has made good use of all of the field trips and workshops that we offer throughout the year, and I hope that we can continue to provide these opportunities, so that members can add to their collections and creative abilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage more of our members to take advantage of the field trips and workshops that we put together. Not only do we have fun at these events, but we also learn a lot, whether it be the name of a new fossil, how to cut a slab, or how to solder a copper ring. Field trips and workshops are a good place to get to know your fellow members better, too! NMGMS has a very talented and knowledgeable group of people, all of whom are willing and eager to share their skills with their fellow members, be it specimen identification, rock polishing, or jewelry creations. So, if you are at all interested and willing to learn, don't be afraid to sign up. We all learn from each other; there is always room for new ideas and ways of doing things. So don't feel like you aren't skilled enough or knowledgeable enough to try something. Each and every member of NMGMS is a valuable asset and has something to share. The "water" is warm, so jump right in!

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS April Meeting

Since Easter fell on the third weekend of April this year, we have moved our club meeting to later in the month. The NMGMS April meeting will be on **April 29, 2017** and will be held at the Lee County Library in Tupelo from **2 to 4p.m.** Note the later time, due to the room being used until 1.

The program will be "Making a Gem Tree", so bring a nice rock, about 2x3 inches or so, with one flat side to use as a base for your tree. Wire and stones or beads will be provided. A few rocks will also be on hand, if you don't have one. This is a really fun project and each tree is unique!

Refreshments are courtesy of Deborah Boone and Dana Armstrong

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

May 6, 2017: NMGMS Twenty Mile Creek field trip and Rockheads cookout (See pg 5 for details)

May 13, 2017: NMGMS copper brazing class in West Point MS (See pg 4 for details)

May 20, 2017: NMGMS May meeting from 1 to 3 at the Tupelo library. Program on Chakra Stones, given by NMGMS member Cathy Miller

June 17, 2017: Collecting at Twenty Mile Creek, Robert Langford's summer schedule (See pg 5 for details)

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)

June 3-4th, 2017: Tannehill Gem, Mineral & Lapidary Show NMGMS will participate as a vendor. (See pg 4 for details)

June 10, 2017: Fossil Road Show, 10 to 2pm at the Union County Heritage Museum, New Albany, MS

Club News: Geology Merit Badge



Photo by Jim Roberts

On February 20, 2017 NMGMS members, Nancy Roberts and Christy Paul, met with 8 scouts and their scout master from New Albany at the Blue Springs site to complete the field work required for the Boy Scout Geology Merit Badge. The group also went to Twenty Mile Creek for a few hours to collect shark teeth. The classroom portion of the Geology Merit Badge was completed under the instruction given by NMGMS member, Robert Langford, last year in April.

NMGMS Participates: MMNS Fossil Road Show

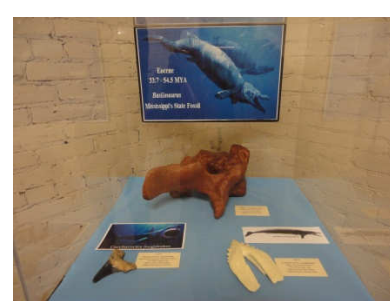


Photo by Nancy Roberts

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society participated in the MMNS Fossil Road Show again this year. The club set up as an exhibitor, and displayed a variety of fossil corals and sponges, many of them collected on our Parsons, TN and Alabama field trips. We met lots of fellow fossil collectors, young and old alike, and were able to help participants identify their own specimens by comparing them with many of the ones that were in our exhibit. It's always rewarding to see the glow on a person's face when they learn that they really have found a neat fossil treasure! We had a chance to glean information about our own collections, too, from the participating professional experts. A great learning experience all around! Nancy Roberts

Oren Dunn City Museum Display: "Stones and Bones"

Photos by Rebecca Vallarian



The NMGMS display at the Oren Dunn Museum in Tupelo is finished and open to the public. Club members worked for three days at the museum, getting the displays organized, installed in the cases, labeled, and all signs and information up. It's hard work, but lots of fun, too, for everyone who helps out. You learn a lot when you help unpack the specimens and label them. Some of the specimens are owned by NMGMS, but by far, the majority comes from the personal collections of our fellow members. It's amazing the amount of wonderful material we have collected over the years! This year, the focus was a bit more on rocks and minerals, but there is a nice display of Paleozoic fossils and Cretaceous age mosasaur and turtle bones. We also are showcasing our jewelry and lapidary workshop creations. So be sure and make a trip out to the museum to check out our display and enjoy the diverse collection. I guarantee you will learn something!

Nancy Roberts

More Upcoming NMGMS Events: Copper Brazing Workshop



The West Point/Clay County Arts Council is hosting another wonderful day of jewelry design with the North MS Gem & Mineral Society out of Tupelo. Copper Brazing Workshop! **Saturday May 13, 2017 10 to 4p.m.**

Want to learn a metalsmithing technique called copper brazing? In this workshop, you will learn how to create a prong type bezel or frame for a stone, using copper wire, brazing rods, and a torch. This is a great technique for making pendants with very "organic" shaped stones. You will also learn to finish the ends of leather and make a clasp, so you can wear your pendant. You will make at least two pendants in this class, and if time allows, we will introduce you to some simple soldering

techniques and make a few "stack" rings with copper wire. These are really fun and easy projects.

The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. The \$40 class fee includes all materials, tools and the use of the torches.

Please bring a brown bag lunch. There is a refrigerator and microwave oven available.

When: Saturday, May 13, 2017

Where: Louise Campbell Center for the Arts, 235 Commerce St. West Point, MS

Time: 10 to 4 Class fee: \$40

If you plan to attend, contact Nancy Roberts, (therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) 731-689-5336 or Kathy Dyess, (kathydyess@bellsouth.net) 662-494-5678

We are asking, that if you plan to attend, please mail a check for \$40 to:

WP/CC Arts Council P.O. Box 105 West Point, MS 39773 so that we receive it before Friday, May 12th

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

April 22 (9:00 to 6:00) and April 23 (10:00 to 5:00) Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show "The Earth Wide Open" Memphis International Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN Adults - \$5, (2 day pass \$8), 12 & under - \$2; Scouts in Uniform- Free Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society
www.theearthwideopen.com Email: info@theearthwideopen.com 901-274-7706

April 29, 2017; Huntsville, AL

The Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society (HGMS) invites you to our Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Fundraising Auction!!!

Where: JAYCEE BUILDING 2180 Airport Rd SW, Huntsville, AL 35801

Who: Everyone is welcome! **How Much:** Admission is FREE! **Date:** 29 April 2017

Time: You can register and start looking at items at 9:30 a.m. **The auction starts at 10:00 a.m.**

If you win a bid, you can pay with cash, check, and credit cards. All proceeds help HGMS with operating costs including Lapidary, Children's Educational Programs, & other outreach club programs. Please join us for some fun! For more information, please visit our web page: www.huntsvillegms.org

The Tannehill Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show June 3-4, 2017

The AMLS outdoor show is held at the Tannehill Furnace State Historical Park near McCalla, AL.

The show is Saturday June 3rd and Sunday June 4th, from 9am to 5pm. Admission to the park is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children; there is no additional entrance fee for the show.

Upcoming NMGMS Field Trip:

May 6, 2017 Twenty Mile Creek field trip and Rockheads' cookout

Photo of ID Station by Jim Roberts



Put on your water shoes, grab your sieves and buckets and let's get out there for those shark teeth and have a splash of a good time too!

On **Saturday May 6, 2017**, the NMGMS Rockheads will sponsor a field trip to the famous Frankstown "Shark Tooth" site (the W. M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park), which is located on Twenty Mile

Creek in Prentiss County, Mississippi. We will meet at the Site at **10:00 a.m.** Parking is on the eastern side of US Highway 45 in the flat grassy area, just off of the side road and includes under the bridge. We will be sifting through the creek's sand and gravel for shark teeth and other small Cretaceous fossils. Be prepared to get wet and take precautions to limit sun exposure! You will be down in the creek, so you need to be able to go down the bank and get in the water. There is a somewhat steep, sandy path leading down the bank on both sides of the bridge, so wear shoes that can get wet and a walking stick is a good idea. Bring a screening device, like a colander, sieve, or homemade screen made out of hardware cloth and a wooden frame, or fiber screening put into a large plastic embroidery hoop. Also, you will need a small garden trowel or scoop, plus small plastic jars with tight fitting lids, ziploc bags or pill bottles, to use as storage containers for the fossils. There are no facilities here. Be sure to bring plenty of drinking water, a hat, sunscreen, a towel, and dry cloths to change into. This is a wild site, so watch for poison ivy on the banks and snakes at all times. You will find many different kinds of teeth here, shark, ray, bony fish, Mosasaurs, and crocodile; also some vertebrae, turtle bone, scoots, petrified wood and lots more. Many of the teeth are good sized, but most are 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: Nancy Roberts, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com 731-689-5336,

Lunch: The Rockheads will be cooking hot dogs. There will also be chips, cookies, and lemonade, all for the small donation of \$2. What a deal! Please bring your own chair. So come on out to support our Rockheads and have a great time too!

Additionally: Robert Langford will kick off his 20-Mile Creek Summer 2017 Program and NMGMS will be joined by several Scout groups for this field trip. The identification station will be set up on top of the creek bank. Robert will have fossil identification books, fossil labels, and will assist you in identifying and logging your best finds. **Robert's summer Saturday schedule at Twenty Mile Creek will be as follows:**

May 6, 2017, June 17, 2017, July 15, 2017, and August 19, 2017

Meeting Program Review: NMGMS 16th Birthday



Photo by Jim Roberts

The March 18, 2017 NMGMS meeting was our 16th birthday. The meeting was a celebration of what the club had accomplished over the past year. Members brought in items from their collections or lapidary endeavors for "show and tell". Incredible talent and creativity was on display, plus some very interesting rock and fossil specimens. We had our annual Brown Bag auction, too, and there were lots of wonderful goodies

discovered when the auction bags were opened. Of course, we enjoyed a marvelous feast and birthday cake!



Photos by Nancy Roberts

Field Trip Review: Mt. Ida, AR Crystal Trip, by Jim Roberts

Photo of Jim by Nancy Roberts



The week before our much anticipated club trip to the Arkansas quartz mines near Mt. Ida, we were checking the weather forecast every day, and each day the forecast for the weekend stayed the same, rain and thunderstorms for Saturday and rain on Sunday. A few of our fellow rockhounds decided to skip the trip, but the rest of us hardy souls crossed our fingers and set out on Friday for the long drive to Mt. Ida.

Saturday dawned cloudy, cold and rainy, but by the time we headed to the Twin Creek Mine, the rain had stopped. NMGMS had visited this mine last year, and again we found it to be productive. Luckily, the rain and thunderstorms held off most of the day, but with cloudy skies overhead, the day remained chilly. The mine operators kept a campfire burning all day, which was nice to sit by and warm up. After a morning of digging through the mine tailings, the owner let our group go into a new area where he had been digging that morning with his big equipment. I think everyone had a good time there and managed to find some nice crystals. We were mostly getting clusters of small to medium sized points instead of loose, individual crystals. Closing time at the mine came around all too quickly, thus we had to descend the hill and head back to Mt. Ida. Once we got back to town, the rain started up again, so we were glad to have had a good day, despite the weather.

Sunday turned out to be sunny and much warmer for our trip to the Ron Coleman Quartz mine, which was about an hour away from Mt. Ida and on the other side of Lake Ouachita. This mine is very “touristy”, with a large gift shop and even a zipline attraction, which I had to try! Never having “zipped” before, I found it quite fun and exhilarating. The quartz collecting area was huge, piles and piles of mine tailings covering several acres. There were a lot of folks collecting here, since the Ron Coleman Mine is well advertised and very popular. I have to admit, that I had better luck at the Twin Creek Mine.

By the time we made the long drive back to our motel, we were ready for a really nice dinner. Larry Armstrong and Mike Schuchs built a campfire in the outdoor fire pit that the Royal Oak Inn had in their picnic area, plus the grill that was there was fired up. So, soon we were dining on delicious charcoal grilled steaks and hamburgers. We all enjoyed sitting around the campfire, discussing our collecting adventures. It was a very nice ending to a great day. As we packed up the next morning to head home, everyone agreed that this had been another successful NMGMS field trip.

Photos by Nancy Roberts





Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins

Rockhead Officers:

President,

Konrad Armstrong

Vice President, James Carr

Secretary, Marion Carr

April 2017



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts

latergator2003@yahoo.com

Rockheads March 18, 2017 Meeting:

In attendance were, Mr. Jim, Liam and Victoria Langford, Sophie Gunther, Konrad Armstrong, and Julia and Levi Williamson.

The Rockheads continued to work on part of the Stone Age Tools and Art badge by painting rocks with their representations of Indian "cave" paintings. They also had a "mini" field trip by going through several cardboard flats of fossils and compiling a collection in an egg carton. Their goal was to have "like" fossils in each compartment. Based on the final results, they all did extremely well!

Note: At the April. 29, 2017 Rockheads' meeting, you will be working with clay and making some Native American pottery for the FRA Stone Age Tools and Art badge. Meeting is from 2 to 3p.m. upstairs at the Tupelo library.



Photos by Nancy Roberts



"Triple Crown" Winners!

NMGMS is very proud to announce that two of our junior members, Matthew Lambert and Konrad Armstrong, recently took top awards at the state competition for their science projects. Both Matthew and Konrad took a first place at their school and then went on to take another first place in their regional competition. Matthew and Konrad through their hard work, excellent presentations and thorough knowledge of their subject, took first place at the state level in their respective divisions. Congratulations! Well done, and keep up the great work!

Bead Soup: A place to talk “shop”! Spinner Ring Workshop



On Saturday, March 25, 2017, NMGMS held a spinner ring workshop at the Link Centre in Tupelo. Members had a chance to work with copper sheet metal plus several different gauges and varieties of wire. They were even introduced to soldering sterling silver wire! The project was challenging, but oh so rewarding when finished. The base of the ring was formed to the size needed by overlapping the ends of the copper metal; it was then riveted together to form the ring. Sizing the spinners to the ring base so that they managed to spin freely, yet not slide off after the ring was flared, was the challenging part, but NMGMS

members are patient and persevering, and soon they figured out the best size to make the spinners for their rings. Everyone had so much fun making the first ring that they all jumped right back into the process and managed to make at least one more, if not several, before the class was over. Everyone attending this workshop really learned a lot and added many new skills to their creative repertoire; even the “instructors”. That’s one great thing about our workshops, we all learn from each other! Nancy Roberts

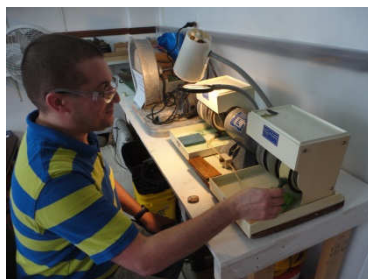
Spinner rings photo by Nancy Roberts



Photos by Nancy Roberts

Lapidary Workshop: Cabochons!

While the ladies were upstairs hammering away at their spinner rings, the gentlemen of the club were in the lapidary room downstairs, sawing and grinding away at their rocks. Several nice slabs were made with the big saw, and Paul Gunther managed to create his first cab, despite the fact that no templates were to be found. (Ed. Looks like we need to get some!)



Photos by Nancy Roberts

Lapidary Words: Test Your Knowledge!

Answers to March: **Notched** and **sintered** are terms that pertain to the different types of diamond saw blades that are available for lapidary work. A notched rim saw blade (like the HP Congo) has narrow slits that are cut into the edge of the steel blade. These “notches” are then filled with diamond powder and closed. Barranca was the last company in the USA to make a “true” notched rim saw blade. The notched rim saw blades on the market today are made with a single continuous diamond matrix that is bonded to the steel core with a notched pattern molded into it (like Barranca 301).

Lapidary Words: Continued....

A sintered saw blade, on the other hand, has diamond grit that is secured by a metal bond which extends the full depth of rim. In a sintered continuous rim saw blade, the edge of the blade has a continuous rim of sintered diamond matrix. Sintered blades are quieter, give a smoother cut, and they cut much slower than a notched blade. Notched blades are recommended for harder stones like agate, but they make a rougher cut and can waste more material. Notched blades tend to be less expensive than sintered blades and they are also highly recommended for novices!

Dopping and **Dop Stick**: New form of hockey?? Have you ever done it or used one? Find out next month!



SFMS Federation News

The Southeast Federation's second quarterly meeting will be held on May 13, 2017. It is being hosted by the Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, NC. For more information about this meeting and show, check out, <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/brd-meeting-details.html> Also, the SFMS William Holland Workshop week is June 11-17, 2017 Tuition is \$370 A full description of the classes and instructors is on the website. <http://sfmsworkshops.com/>

NMGMS has received 100 SFMS scholarship fund raffle tickets. After checking with the Mississippi Gaming Commission about the legality of raffles in the state, since NMGMS and SFMS are both nonprofit organizations, all prizes are donations, and the money goes to the nonprofit organization, we are able to participate in this raffle. So let's see how many of these tickets we can sell and maybe we'll be able to send a club member to William Holland on a Southeast Federation scholarship! Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Prizes can be viewed on the website or in the Lodestar.

We have to sell them before October 1st!

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/>



Congratulations!



At the March 18, 2017 meeting, several NMGMS members were awarded certificates for their 2016 SFMS Bulletin Competition winning entries. Congratulations to Nikki Kenney, Dave Hanes, Mike Schuchs, Dana Armstrong, Konrad Armstrong, Nancy Roberts, Jim Roberts, Rebecca Vallarian, Belinda Loyd, Brittani Lambert, and Clarice Turner for their achievements and outstanding efforts toward making *The Nugget* a great publication. Your editor thanks you! Nancy Roberts.

Photo by Keith Merritt

NMGMS March 18, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Paul Gunther

1. The IRS has accepted our 2016 990N e form.
 2. We have received several PayPal card readers for us to use when we set up as a vendor at shows. Nikki will explain the use of said. Mike Schuchs received a Paypal card reader.
 3. NMGMS decided to donate a book to the library in memory of Bill and Joann Wardlaw.
 4. Mike Schuchs offered to arrange activities for the junior Rockheads over the summer.
 5. The club balance should not be shown on minutes posted on our website.
 6. We decided to set the prices as follows for the upcoming Geology Fest:
 - Gem Trees \$3.00/ea
 - Grab Bags \$3.00/ea or \$5.00 for 2
 - Tickets \$1.00 for 2
 7. Tannehill show space was upgraded to one with electricity.
- Adjourned at 1:00pm Attending: Nancy Roberts, Paul Gunther, Mike Schuchs, Nikki Kenney, and John Byzet

NMGMS Meeting Minutes**Date: March18, 2017**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Mathew and Nancy

Introduced guest Keith Merritt

Feb. 18, 2017 meeting minutes as printed in the March 2017 Nugget approved.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of 3/17/2017 was given by Nikki Kenney.**Chairpersons' Reports:**

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be to the Trebloc lime pit on April 1, 2017, weather permitting. We will meet at the quarry at **9a.m.** There is a DMC field trip hosted by MGMS on March 25th to a gravel operation near Jackson, MS. Those interested in going, should let Nancy know. This trip is limited, so registration is required. DMC field trips are for members only.

Publicity: (John Byzet) Spread the word about our April 8th Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the ODCM! The show is from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. A Vistaprint sign was made for the show.

Membership: (Ann Byzet) John will be compiling the NMGMS 2017 membership roster. There are 138 members on the 2017 NMGMS roster so far. Dues are still \$12 for an individual, and \$20 for a family. John Byzet has started creating the new member roster.

Hospitality: Refreshments: Volunteers for: April 29th: Danna & Debra Boone May 20th: Nancy Roberts & Robert Langford. 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: (Nancy Roberts) Please 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. This is an excellent chance to find plenty of shark teeth.

Historian: Cheryle Langford needs 2016 club memorabilia for the yearbook. It's time to wrap up 2016, so that the club yearbook can be put together. Brenda Manning has volunteered to help as assistant historian.

Minutes continued on page 12.....

NMGMS Meeting Minutes: cont'd.....

Date: March 18, 2017

Geology/Kids Day: Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford will begin setting up the display cases at the museum on March 29th. Nikki Kenney, Cheryle Langford, and Linda Blackmon volunteered to help. Setup for the Geology Fest will be on Friday, April 7th. All members who are working at the museum on April 8th need to be there by 9a.m. that Saturday. Come earlier, if you can, to help with any final setups.

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

Old Business:

Nancy asked for any specimens to be turned in for the museum displays. Museum loan sheets were passed out to members donating specimens. Reminded 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 following members are signed up to man these Geology Fest activities: Lapidary: **Nikki Kenney, Cassandra Carr, and Cheryle Langford**, Food sales: **Debra Boone, Dana and Larry Armstrong, Rebecca Vallarian**, Fluorescent room: **Mike Schuchs and Jake Carr**, Ticket and grab bag sales: **Ann and John Byzet**, Spin and Win: **Marion Carr and an adult Carr** Fossil dig: **Konrad Armstrong**, Fishing game: **Linda Blackmon and Alice Carr**, Bean Bag Toss: **Jim Roberts**. **We still need one adult for the Fossil Dig. Another volunteer is needed 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 from 9 to 6 and 23rd from 10 to 5**. We plan to be selling cookies again and if we demonstrate some jewelry techniques, we can sell our creations for the club. There were 8 Boy Scouts from New Albany who completed the Geology Merit badge on Feb. 20, 2017. The copy of The Geology of Mississippi, by David Dockery, is here and it has been signed by Mr. Dockery. We will be donating it to the Tupelo library. Mike Schuchs asked for help packing items from Marshall and club to sell at Tannenhill show. Mike could also use 5 gallon buckets.

New Business:

NMGMS has a spinner ring class scheduled for Saturday, March 25th at the Link Center, from 10a.m. until 4p.m., upstairs in the conference room. The class is limited to 12 students. The \$25 class fee includes all materials, tools and the use of the torches. Please bring a brown bag lunch.

NMGMS has the large pavilion at Ballard Park reserved for our annual picnic and rock swap on Saturday October 28, 2017 from 1 to 4p.m. The \$50 deposit has been paid.

Our April meeting will be on **April 29, 2017** at the Tupelo library from **2 to 4p.m.** The meeting date was changed, since Easter weekend fell on the third weekend of the month this year. Time change is due to another group having the room until 1p.m. Program will be making gem trees.

The Rockheads' field trip and cookout at Twenty Mile Creek will be on Saturday May 6th. Details will be in the April Nugget.

The West Point Arts Council has set aside Saturday, May 13, 2017 for NMGMS to teach a class for them. The class will probably be the spinner ring project.

NMGMS decided to donate a book to the library in memory of Bill and Joann Wardlaw.

Motion to Adjourn..... Adjourned at 1:45pm submitted by Paul Gunther

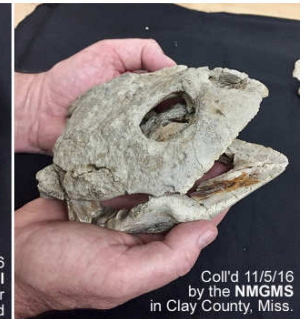
Old Bones...all about collecting!

On the NMGMS Nov. 2016 field trip, Rebecca Vallarian discovered a pile of bones. After carefully collecting the scattered pieces, and through the skillful work of George Phillips at the MMNS, these bones now reveal a really nice turtle skull! Specimen has been donated to the museum in Jackson. Photos of bones by Nancy Roberts



From this.....

(Ed.: Isn't "he" cute!)



Skull photo submitted by MMNS

To this!....

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