



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Photo by Alison Schuchs

Nancy and Rebecca examining microfossils



Notes from the President's Desk.....March 2018

Happy 17th birthday NMGMS! I can't believe that it has been that long since I joined the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society. I was not present at the March 17, 2001 meeting, but I was among some of the first members to join the club after it was founded. It was exciting to know that a rock and mineral organization was going to be located much closer to me, since all of the other clubs were over 2 hours away. NMGMS certainly has grown since that first meeting with 13 charter members in attendance.

Early on, our organization became a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Then later, the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society registered as a nonprofit corporation with the state of Mississippi. NMGMS also established an active junior group which participates in the "Future Rockhounds of America" badge program sponsored by AFMS. More recently, NMGMS managed to setup a lapidary workshop, and it now has several slab saws and cabochon machines in operation. In the past, some of our club members, either on their own or through scholarships, have taken classes at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts, and through the SFMS scholarship fund, we will be sending two club members to take the cabochon class at William Holland this summer. Also over the years, our members have worked hard to build a rapport with many other clubs and organizations, through joint field trips, participating as exhibitors at various events, working with scout groups, or teaching lapidary workshops.

I think the biggest accomplishment that NMGMS can boast, is its membership. Our organization is comprised of a fantastic group of talented individuals who work very well together. They are all willing to share their knowledge, interests, skills, and expertise with others. This enables us to provide club members with so many wonderful field trips, programs, workshops, etc. Only two of the 13 people who met on March 17, 2001 are still members of the club that they established. Through the years, we have lost members, some have moved away, others have new interests or responsibilities, or their kids are now grown, and so on. Today, with 131 members on our 2018 roster, we have many new faces and a lot more active members. We actually broke an attendance record with 50 members coming to our February meeting! Every club needs new members to provide fresh ideas and energy, but a club still needs a base of experienced members to provide help and guidance along the way. As Dana Armstrong once wrote, it's "rock solid" people who make a rock and mineral club great, and NMGMS is a "rock solid" organization in my book!

On another note, thanks to Alison Schuchs' hard work, we now have a flyer for our 2018 Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the Oren Dunn Museum. So please pick up a few copies at our March 17th meeting and post them around. Spread the word to your friends, families, church, and whatever other organizations you participate in. Also, consider signing up to help with the setup and to man the activities that we will be holding at this event on April 14th. 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 provides an opportunity to work closely with the museum. It's a fun event for all involved. Let's make this year's show the best yet.

I would like to encourage everyone to bring something to display at our yearly "Show and Tell" birthday meeting coming up on the 17th. I know members have lots of things that have been collected or made over the past year. We all want to see what NMGMS members have accomplished, so let's give this birthday meeting a good showing! Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS March 17, 2018 Meeting

Photo by Nancy Roberts Happy Birthday!



The NMGMS **March 17, 2018** meeting will be held at the Lee County Library from 1 to 3p.m. It's our 17th 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!

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 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. If the item is appropriate more for a junior member, please mark the bag with "boy" or "girl". We have always had some really nice surprises, and this is lots of fun, especially with the younger members!

Also, bring any specimens that you are loaning the ODCM for our display cases. We are especially looking for fossil turtle bones, turtle shell, etc.

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

March 24, 2018: NMGMS workshop for the West Point Arts Council in West Point, MS. (See page 6 for details).

March 24, 2018: NMGMS Lapidary Workshop at the Link Centre. (See page 6 for details).

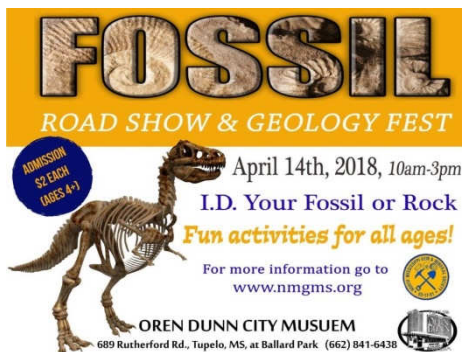
March 27-30, 2018: Oren Dunn City Museum (ODCM) display setup. (See page 7 for details).

April 7, 2018: Tentative NMGMS field trip to Trebloc. (Watch email for details)

April 14, 2018: Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show, 10a.m.-3p.m. at the ODCM in Tupelo. (See page 2 for details).

April 21, 2018: NMGMS April meeting from 1 - 3pm at the Tupelo Library, program: Capture that stone with wire!

Show Dates:



Poster by Alison Schuchs

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be holding a Fossil Road Show and Geology Fest on April 14, 2018 from 10am to 3pm at the Oren Dunn City Museum in Tupelo. Admission to the museum for this event is \$2 per person, ages 4 and up. Activities tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. As well as the fun activities, such as a rock and fossil "dig", a spin and win, or making a gem tree, there will be rock, mineral, and fossil displays setup at the museum. George Phillips, paleontologist with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science will be present to identify your fossil finds, and registered geologist, Robert Langford will be on hand to answer any questions and help with identifications. Attendees can bring in any of their rocks or fossils that they would like to have identified. There will also be some rock, mineral, and jewelry vendors, as well as the Geode Cracker at this event.

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April 28-29, 2018

Memphis, TN Memphis Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show

"The Earth Wide Open" by the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

Location: Memphis International Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN

Saturday, April 28th, 9am-6:00pm, and Sunday, April 29th, 10am-5pm.

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

Additional information: www.theearthwideopen.com

Meeting Program Review: NMGMS February Meeting Program

Photo by Jim Roberts



On February 10, 2018, Mrs. Nancy Roberts, the President of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, provided a presentation titled "Fossil Corals and Sponges". Mrs. Nancy led the group in a discussion noting the various types of fossil corals (rugosa and tabulata) and sponges. Her presentation included diagrams and labels, as well as sample specimens of each type, which were passed throughout the group to examine.

Rugosa coral, which was collected during a recent field trip to an Alabama site, was distributed to participants. These specimens were small cut pieces (from the lapidary) that participants could sand into a smooth finish and carry home to add to their own collection.

Mrs. Nancy's workshop equipped participants with information that connected prior field trip "treasures" into more meaningful pieces by providing a better understanding of the differentiation between the various types of fossil corals and sponges. Kellie Atkinson

Photos by Alison Schuchs



Mrs. Nancy gave a presentation about fossil corals. She showed us the different types by her pictures on her poster and with real samples too.

One type looked a lot like a honeycomb. This kind was called tabulate coral. Another type was called rugosa coral which could be found in colonies or alone. When it is found alone, it looks like a horn, and sometimes is called a "horn coral". We also picked out a piece of rugosa coral (colony) that had been cut. We sanded it and brought it home to add to our own collection. Mrs. Nancy sure does know a lot about fossils! Walter Atkinson, age 6

NMGMS member "Show and Tell": Micro Fossils and Summerville Agate

Photo by Alison Schuchs



Everyone enjoys seeing what treasures can be found on our NMGMS field trips, so at the February 10th meeting, Robert Langford set up his micro fossils equipment, enabling members to view the tiny fossils found in the "sand" brought back from the January trip to Alabama. Also, Roger Lambert brought specimens of the Summerville agate, so members could see what they would be able to collect on the upcoming field trip to Georgia in March.



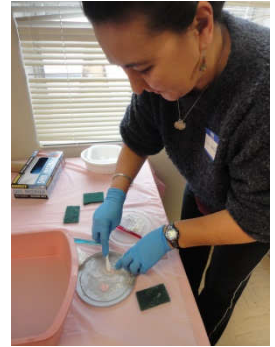
Photos by Alison Schuchs

Workshop Review: Copper Enameling Class, February 17, 2018



Enameling was such a fascinating process to observe and try out. Love watching the final product form and the color pop. Kellie Atkinson

The workshop was very informative. The directions were very easy to follow, and I got a lot of help since I was absolutely clueless about what to do. I was very pleased with the results, and I am looking forward to making more pieces of jewelry. Thank you so much! I really enjoyed it. Vika Jones



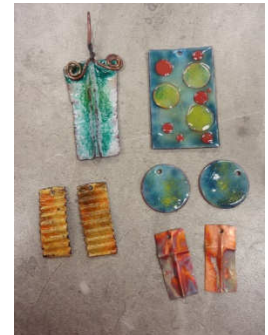
My Mother and I attended the enameling class, and it was wonderful. The teachers were very knowledgeable and helpful. I just wanted to say thank you to all of the teachers, and that y'all did a great job! I learned so much, and I had such a good time. I ordered a starter kit and some sample powder when I got home! We will be taking another class soon!!! Thanks, Barronee Vaughan



Enjoyed the workshop! Ready to do some more! Ha, ha! Sharion Carpenter

I think it turned out good. Nothing got burned. A few dumped, but that was because the pieces they chose to enamel were either small or odd shaped, or their gloves got in the way when they placed the pieces on the trivet. I was surprised at some of the pieces they completed. Overall, I do think they enjoyed themselves. It was nice to have as many helpers as we did, and I think some will go back home and get better, practice, and learn more about the colors. Clarice Turner

all photos on page 4 by Nancy Roberts



Workshop Review: Junior Lapidary Workshop, February 17, 2018

Photo by Jim Roberts



On Saturday, February 17, 2018, NMGMS held a “double feature”. While the enameling class was going on upstairs in the conference room at the Link Centre, Jim Roberts and Robert Langford hosted a junior member day in the club lapidary room. Attendees learned how to do chainmaille, how to trace out a shape for a cabochon, how to use the trim saw, and finally, how to shape and polish the cabochon.



Photos by Jim Roberts

Field Trip Reviews: NMGMS Field Trip to Alabama by Rebecca Vallarian

Photo by Alison Schuchs



Brookwood should be renamed "Rock Heaven". Collecting began as soon as one foot hit the ground and the other foot was still inside the car! Every rock was a "Look at this!" "WOW!" "Beautiful!" Our buckets were about half full before we had really ventured far. We made several trips back to our cars, scanning the roads and piles of gravel for just one more treasure that we might have missed.

Mike was a walking encyclopedia of what to look for, what we brought to him for identifying, and what we should look for. There were many side stories about how these wonders came to be, how they were formed, and how they held incredible things inside of them. The Indian Paint Pots amused every one, and when broken open to reveal the pigments inside, they showed nature's beautiful colors. We all wished we could paint our faces as the children did!

Alison led us to the area with the most paint pots, and despite the misty rain showers at times, we stayed and stayed. Beth learned that she could control the rain showers by taking off her rain gear, then it sprinkled; she put the rain cape back on, then the rain stopped. Way to go, Beth!

Tadpoles proved to be another "take home" prize for the Thornton girls; a quick check of Google gave us all knowledge about the diet of the future frogs, rabbit pellets, and/or the green, slimy stuff that was in the water with the little things. After the lunch break and another hunt through the piles of quartz gravel, some of us sat down together for chit chats and "show and tells", still reaching out to pick up rocks around our chairs and cushions.

Some of the collections will be tumbled and polished for even more beauty to show through, some will be admired and left as is for future rock displays, some will be shared with others, but all will be remembered for the wonderful day spent picking up treasures in the Alabama gravel.

Photos by Alison Schuchs



More Upcoming NMGMS Events: Club Workshops

Lapidary Workshop, March 24, 2018

Photo by Jim Roberts



Our NMGMS lapidary room #136 at the Link Center in Tupelo will be open on **Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 10a.m.** for those members interested. **There are two large slab saws and two 10 inch saws available, as well as two trim saws and three cab machines.** Bring some stones that you would like to slab. We have a box of slabs that you can "play" with, if you don't have any of your own. The cabochon machines are available for those members certified to use them. Jim Roberts will be on hand to help with the saws and to get members certified to use the equipment. The room is small, so workshop is limited to 6-8 members at any one time.

Lapidary fee: \$1 per cut with the 12 or 10 inch saws and \$2 an hour on the cab machine and trim saw.

Bring a brown bag lunch. Please email therockhoundlady@yahoo.com, or latergator2003@yahoo.com, if you plan to attend. Junior members must be accompanied by a parent.

Copper Fold Forming Workshop: March 24, 2018 in West Point, MS

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The West Point/Clay County Arts Council is hosting another wonderful day of jewelry design with the North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society, an Easy Metalsmithing Workshop!

Want to learn a metalsmithing technique called fold forming? In this workshop, you will learn how to fold and hammer a copper metal sheet to make interesting and unique patterns while you create a pendant and a pair of earrings. You will also be texturing and stamping your metal, as well as learning to anneal and apply several different patinas. This

is really a fun project, and the results will amaze you! The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. The \$40 class fee includes all materials, as well as the use of the tools and torches. Creative possibilities are endless, so get ready for a fun day of working with metal, and let your imagination soar!

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

When: Saturday, March 24, 2018

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

Time: 10 to 4 Class fee: \$40

Class is limited to **12**, so please let us know if you plan to attend.

Contact Nancy Roberts, (therockhoundlady@yahoo.com), or Kathy Dyess, (kathydyess@bellsouth.net) with questions, or to let us know that you want to join us. Feel free to call Kathy at 494-5678

Again, we are asking that if you plan to come, 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, March 23rd.



Photo by Nancy Roberts

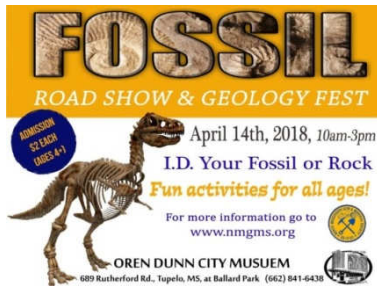
Club News: ODCM Display Setup

Photo by Nancy Roberts



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 17th meeting is the latest that we could take any loaned specimens, unless you can bring them to the museum the day of the setup. We will start setting up the displays at the Oren Dunn Museum on **March 27th**. 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: Fossil turtle, 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, Minerals, Mississippi Gravels, plus Cretaceous and Paleozoic fossils. If you have any interesting, unusual, or exciting finds, please consider loaning them for these displays.



NMGMS Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show

Poster by Alison Schuchs

April 14, 2018 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, making gem trees, and fluorescent minerals. 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 14th!**

NMGMS Members Take Note!



2018 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 meetings, 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

As per our NMGMS bylaws, this is to notify all members that a change in our annual club dues will be presented for a vote at our March 17, 2018 club meeting.

The proposed change is as follows: \$15 for a single membership, \$25 for a couple, and \$4 for each child.

Change needs to be approved by 2/3 of the members present at the March meeting. If passed, this change will apply to the dues starting with 2019. Any questions, feel free to contact me. Nancy Roberts, NMGMS President

Bead Soup: A place to talk “shop”! By Nikki Kenney

Photo by Nancy Roberts



“How to Dispose of Hazardous Waste Materials in Tupelo, MS.”

For those of you who do copper etching and need to dispose of your used ferric chloride, here is where you can take it: City of Tupelo Public Works Dept., 604 Crossover Dr., 662-841-6457, Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM

They are closed on the weekend, but it doesn't matter if you are just dropping something off. There is no gate, just a pallet outside of the brick building where you can leave the materials. Make sure any materials are in containers with tight lids, as they are left outside in the weather until they are picked up, about once or twice a year. Last year, it was just once, in April. They do not take fluorescent tubes, but you can take those to Lowe's or Home Depot.

NMGMS Participates: MMNS Fossil Road Show

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was honored to participate as an exhibitor at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science's 2018 Fossil Road Show. Robert and Cheryle Langford, as well as Jim Roberts and I, went as club representatives. I set up a display of my Blue Springs collection and Robert displayed his Twenty Mile Creek specimens. We met lots of fellow fossil collectors and were able to share our enthusiasm and interests with event participants.

We also had the opportunity to talk with members of other organizations, as well as professionals from the state geology department and area universities. It gave us the chance to learn about some of the things going on in the science and research aspect of paleontology, which helps us add pertinent information to our own collections. A great learning experience all around! If you have not had a chance to visit the museum since they redid the display cases, you really should make an effort to go down. They did a fantastic job depicting the geologic timeline with fossils found in Mississippi. Nancy Roberts



Photo by Nancy Roberts

Club Equipment Sale!



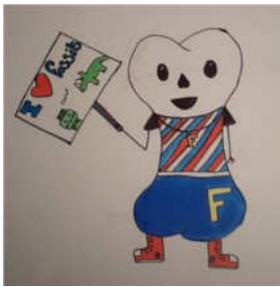
For sale by North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society:
Hexagonal Rotary Tumbler, 6lb capacity (?) Used, \$200, OBO
Slik Equipment, by S.E. Landon Co.
Motor: Dayton 1/40 HP, runs! Belt could stand to be replaced.

Photo by Nancy Roberts



For sale by North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society:
Beacon Star 10 inch slab saw, gravity or hand feed Used, as is, \$300
Model: 20-1 Serial#: 1-2204
Has a notched diamond blade. Cover is damaged and mended with duct tape, but does the job. Needs a motor and drive belt.

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins



March 2018

www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Rockhead Officers for 2018:

President, Hunter Watson
Vice President, Liam Langford
Secretary, Sydney Thornton

Adult Youth Advisors for 2018:

Diana Watson, jodyanddiana@hotmail.com
Krista Williamson, kristawilliamson2008@yahoo.com

Rockheads February 10, 2018 Meeting:

Photo by Krista Williamson



"We made igneous rocks, sedimentary rocks, and metamorphic rocks using Starburst candy. Using heat and pressure, we learned how each type of rock is formed. We had fun doing this activity. When we finished, we ate our "rocks". These were the tastiest rocks ever!" Submitted by Sydney Thornton



Photos by Krista Williamson and Diana Watson



Next Rockhead Meeting: March 17, 2018 Show and Tell!

Photo by Krista Williamson



As part of the March Rockheads meeting program, all Rockheads are asked to bring one favorite item from their collection and be prepared to tell a little bit about it.

Also, bring something to display, to show what you have collected or worked on over the last year. 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.

Note to Parents: Since many of the Rockheads' projects involve working with substances like food, clay, or paints, NMGMS asks that you please advise the youth leaders, either Diana Watson or Krista Williamson, of any allergies your child may have.

SFMS Federation News:



Classes being held at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts during SFMS Federation Week, June 10 thru 16, 2018 are:

Bead Weaving, Cabochons 1, Chasing and Repousse, Electro Etching, Gem Faceting, Immersion Enameling and Cold Connections, Intarsia, Intro to Inlay/Silver 1, Junior Rockhounds Wire Craft 1, Silver 2- Rings, Rings, Rings, Silver 1, Silver-Wear, and Wire 2.

For more information on the classes and instructors, or to register for any of these classes, go to:

<http://sfmsworkshops.com/>

The SFMS Newsletter, the Lodestar, is available for all members to read on line. <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>

AFMS Federation News:



April 5 to 9, 2018 — AFMS/EFMLS Convention and Show in Raleigh, North Carolina

The 2018 American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) and Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) Convention and Show ♦ Host: Tar Heel Gem and Mineral Club Convention: April 5-9, 2018 ▪ Embassy Suites Show: April 6-8, 2018 ▪ North Carolina State

Fairgrounds, Blue Ridge Road <http://www.amfed.org/show2018.htm>

The deadline to purchase tickets for the AFMS Endowment Fund raffle is March 20, 2018. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Check out the prizes, or where to get tickets, at www.amfed.org

The AFMS Newsletter is available for all members to read on line.

All Rockhounds should be aware of and comply with proper field trip etiquette. For the list of the AFMS “Code of Ethics”, go to, <http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>

For more AFMS Federation news, please check out their website: <http://www.amfed.org/>

NMGMS February 10, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Paul Gunther



1. Dues proposal to be voted on: \$15 single, \$25 couple, and \$4 per child. Send out reminder that we will be voting next meeting and dues will go into effect 2019 if passed.
2. I have sent Justin a copy of our club brochure with a few changes. Have 100 printed now with current due rates to last remainder of year. Sometime after the new due rates are voted on, have 250 more printed with the new rate.
3. I talked with Jeremy Martin and he says he can help us with getting our amended bylaws on file with the state, if we make a change in our dues.

4. Nikki paid our room rent for the next 6 months.

5. I talked with SFMS and William Holland to see if they would allow a 14 year old to take the cabochon class. SFMS, William Holland and the instructor have approved it, if we would like to send Hunter this year to take the cabochon class in June, but need to talk with Diana about it, unless she goes also. Called Dave Wayment and we should be getting two scholarships. We can register both Paul and Hunter tentatively right now, at least to get their spots reserved.

6. Paypal buttons added to our website to pay either single or family dues. We will have to look into how to implement for new dues if passed.

7. John Byzet and Paul Gunther will look into new webhosting for the NMGMS website. Adjourned at 12:58pm

NMGMS Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Paul Gunther**NMGMS Meeting Minutes:****Date: Feb. 10, 2018**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Julia, Levi, Hunter, Walter, Sophie, and Nancy
Guest, Dyer Atkinson was introduced by Kellie

The January 20, 2018 meeting minutes as printed in the February 2018 Nugget were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of 2/10/18 was given by Nikki Kenney.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be Feb. 24, 2018 to Brookwood, Alabama for jasper, agates, petrified wood, etc. We have been invited to join ALMS on this trip. If you are interested in going, I will email you the information and directions. Mike Schuchs will be the NMGMS leader for this trip.

On Saturday March 10th, NMGMS will meet at the Cathedral Caverns State Park in Alabama at 1:00pm to tour the cave. On Sunday March 11th, we will be collecting banded agate in Summerville, GA. (See the newsletter and your emails for details and directions)

There also is a DMC trip for kyanite on March 10, 2018.

DMC trips are open to club members only. If you are interested, let me know. Your dues need to be up to date!

Publicity: (John Byzet) We are making corrections and additions to the club brochure. Justin Thornton will be getting the new brochures printed for us at 20 cents a copy. We will have 100 brochures printed with the current dues. If the new dues pass, we will have some more printed later with the new rates. Also, we need to start spreading the word about our April 14th Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the ODCM. The museum will be making up a publicity poster for the event.

Membership: (Beth Thornton) Please renew your dues by the March 17th birthday meeting, if you want to remain on the club's mailing list and eligible for field trips and workshops. We have 86 members on the 2018 roster right now. Dues are \$12 for individual and \$20 for family. We are asking everyone to fill out an application form and sign the waiver, so we can update our records for the new membership chairperson.

Hospitality: Refreshments: volunteers for March 17, 2018: Nancy Roberts and Rebecca Vallarian
April 21, 2018: Pot Luck, please everyone bring a dish (Also, Jim Roberts' birthday)
Cassandra Carr volunteered to get the cake for our birthday March 17th.
Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome.

Website: (John Byzet) John posts issues of The Nugget 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) I will need someone to submit a review of the Feb. 24th field trip and send me some pictures, as I will be in Jackson, MS that weekend. Please consider writing a review for a field trip, workshop or club meeting that you have attended. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the **second Friday** of the month. Email anything for The Nugget to: therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Youth Members: (Diana Watson and Krista Williamson) The Rockheads will be putting together a display case showing what their group does for their meetings and badge work. This will be a part of the ODCM display that NMGMS is setting up next month.

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) It is time to wrap up 2017, so that the club yearbook can be put together. Please turn in any 2017 club memorabilia to Cheryle Langford. Ann Byzet will help as assistant historian.

Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show: (Nancy Roberts, John Byzet, and Rebecca Vallarian) We need to start planning out the museum displays that we will be setting up at the Oren Dunn Museum starting on March 27th. The exhibit will run until the middle of May. The Geology Fest and Fossil Road show event will be held on April 14th. It doesn't look like we will be getting any donated hotdogs to sell this year, so we will plan lunches for the workers only. Please bring any nice specimens of rocks or fossils you would like to donate for the display.

Safety & Lapidary Workshop Chairman: (Mike Schuchs) If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions about the room or equipment, see Mike. Need some safety articles for the newsletter.

Minutes continued on page 12.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes, continued:**Date: Feb. 10, 2018****Old Business:**

1. We are still waiting on the 2018 federation insurance renewal forms. They are not yet available on their website. The rate will probably go up. I believe we are covered thru March.
2. The SFMS scholarships have not been issued yet, but I see where they are offering Cab 1 at their June 10-16, 2018 session. I have obtained permission from SFMS and William Holland for Hunter to take the class.
3. We have eleven students in the copper enameling class, so it is full.
4. If you are going to be bringing specimens for the museum display cases, remember to use blue painters tape and place your initials on the bottom of any specimen that you are loaning NMGMS.
5. NMGMS will set up as an exhibitor at the Memphis rock and gem show over that weekend of April 28th and 29th. This is a good opportunity for us to promote the club, to demonstrate some of our jewelry making skills, and to sell some of our donated jewelry items. Volunteers to work at the club table are Robert & Cheryl Langford, Linda Blackmon, Jim Roberts, and Nikki Kenney.
6. We have the Geode Cracker, Pat Arinder, and our other vendors lined up for the April 14, 2018 Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show. Robert Langford will be on hand to help identify fossils.
7. NMGMS will set up as an exhibitor at the MMNS Fossil Road show in Jackson, MS on Saturday, March 3, 2018.

There was no other old business.**New Business:**

1. I need club members to sign up and volunteer to man these Geology Fest activities:
Gem Trees: Niki, Maya, Hope Lunches: Rebecca Fluorescent room: Mike (fluorescent box)
Ticket /grab bag sales: Cheryl, Linda, Ann Spin and Win: Kellie, Walter Bean Bag Toss: Jim, Liam, John
Fishing Game: Justin, Beth Fossil Dig: Paul, Hunter Members willing to help: Diana, Bernice, Alison, and Nancy
2. **The March 17, 2018 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!
3. Several NMGMS members will be teaching a copper fold forming class for the West Point/Clay County Arts Council on March 24, 2018 in West Point, MS. Class is from 10am to 4pm and fee is \$40. Details were in the Feb. issue of The Nugget. Nancy, Cheryle, Nikki, and Clarice will be teaching this workshop. Kellie Atkinson expressed an interest in taking the class.
4. The lapidary workshop room will be open at 10a.m. on Saturday February 17, 2018. Robert Langford will be demonstrating some chainmaille techniques, so come by and try your hand at it. Also, Jim Roberts will be available to run the slab saws, so bring a rock that you would like to cut. Junior members are invited, if accompanied by a parent.
5. Is there a member who would be willing to represent NMGMS at the upcoming SFMS executive meeting in Augusta, GA on March 10, 2018? No volunteers.
6. Dues proposal of \$15 single, \$25 couple and \$4 per child will be voted on at March meeting. It must pass by two-thirds vote of the members present. Changes will go into effect for 2019.
7. Discussed having field trips for kids over the summer. Possibilities are: Pinson Mounds, Discovery Museum, Blue Springs, 20 Mile Creek.
8. We would like to have a junior day at the lapidary room and find ways to make more use of the Link Center over the summer.

*****Reminder:** Don't forget the MGMS rock and gem show at the Fairgrounds in Jackson, MS Feb. 24th and 25th. Please return the name tags to the basket before you leave. Adjourned, 1:51pm

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NMGMS meets the third Saturday of the month (except June, July and August) from 1p.m. to 3p.m. at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo, MS. Any changes will be posted on the website www.nmgms.org, in *The Nugget*, or on the NMGMS Facebook page.

Annual Dues: \$12, single and \$20 family.

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was established in 2001 as a non-profit organization dedicated to education and the collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils. NMGMS is affiliated with the American and Southeast Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Our organization promotes the educational, scientific, and recreational aspects of the hobby in the subjects of mineralogy, geology, paleontology, the lapidary arts, and other areas related to the earth sciences. Through our meeting programs, workshops, field trips and other club activities, we strive to increase the knowledge and skills of our members in these subjects. We not only share knowledge within our club, but we have participated in activities throughout the community.

The Society's newsletter, *The Nugget*, is mailed to members electronically and posted on the website.