Volume 17 Issue 2 May 12, 2017

The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Photo by Jim Roberts



Exhibiting
At the
MAGS show

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

Graduations have already started, and soon school will be out for the summer break. The NMGMS meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 20th will be our last regular club meeting until September. Hard to believe that in a few weeks we'll all be off on our summer adventures. Despite the summer vacation, there will still be some club functions going on. Rebecca Vallarian will again be doing the hands on "minerals and their uses" program for the Oren Dunn Museum's summer camp on June 8th, then Jennifer Eubank and Robert Langford will be representing NMGMS in New Albany at the Union County Heritage Museum's Fossil Road Show on June 10th. If any member is available and willing to help out at either of these events, please drop me a line. Don't forget that Robert Langford will be setting up his fossil id and information station at Twenty Mile Creek during the summer, so be sure to mark those weekends on your calendar.

Over the summer, Nikki Kenney will try to get a couple of jewelry workshops scheduled at the Link Centre room, and Mike Schuchs hopes to plan a couple of field trips for the Rockheads, so watch your emails for those notices. With everyone's busy schedules, and all of the events that NMGMS holds or participates in, it has been hard to get a regular lapidary session set up for our Link Centre room. I would like to see the room get some use over the summer, so if you are interested in doing some rock cutting and polishing, please let Mike Schuchs or John Byzet know. Hopefully a session or two can get scheduled.

We still have two workshops on May 13th, our May 20th meeting at the library, and the June 3-4th Tannehill show, so don't pack your vacation bags just yet. I look forward to seeing you at one, if not all of these events.

Work has begun on the labeling, pricing and packing up of the rocks that NMGMS plans to sell at the Tannehill show. We also will be selling some equipment that's not being used. We have a plethora of saws! If you have a Sunday afternoon, or one day during the week free to help, let me know. The Tannehill show should be a really good one to attend. I have never been to one yet, so I am really looking forward to going this year. It is an outdoor show and is held at the Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park in McCalla, AL. Looks like a really beautiful park, too. There will be lots of great people from other clubs there to visit with, plus many fun activities, not to mention all of the rocks, fossils, etc. for sale! So mark June 3rd and 4th on your calendar, then pack up the tent or camper and come on over. Be sure to come by the sheds and check out the NMGMS booth. So join us and lend a hand. It'll be a fun weekend!

Nancy Roberts

https://www.facebook.com/ThisIsTannehill/ http://www.tannehill.org/

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS May Meeting

The NMGMS May meeting will be on May 20, 2017 and will be held at the Lee County Library in Tupelo from 1 to 3p.m. The program will be "Chakra Gemstones", presented by NMGMS member Cathy Miller. Learn about the chakra energy centers and how certain stones may be connected to them by color and believed properties. Refreshments are courtesy of Nancy Roberts and Cheryle Langford.

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

May 13, 2017: NMGMS copper brazing class in West Point MS.

May 13, 2017: Slab saw/cabochon workshop at the Link Centre in Tupelo, room #136. (See pg 8)

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

Other Upcoming Events:

June 3-4th, 2017: Tannehill Gem, Mineral & Lapidary Show NMGMS will participate as a vendor.

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

<u>June 10, 2017:</u> DMC field trip to a gravel facility. More information will be available at the May 20^{th} meeting.

Show Dates: June

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 3^{rd} and Sunday June 4^{th} , 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. There will be a club tent with children's games, demos, and classes. Vendors will be selling rocks, minerals, fossils, slabs, and lapidary equipment.

New Albany Fossil Road Show, 10 to 2p.m. June 10th at the Union County Heritage Museum Paleontologist George Phillips, Dr. Charles Swan, and the Geode Cracker will be on hand, as well as representatives from the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. The event is free and attendees can bring objects for identification and/or collections to show. Call 662-538-0014 or email at jill@ucheritagemuseum.com

- **3-4—MARION**, **KENTUCKY**: Annual show; Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum, Fohs Hall; 201 North Walker St; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Donations; The show will feature vendors, hourly door prizes, silent auctions, Indian Artifact Display, Children's Activities sponsored by Farmer's Bank & Trust of Marion, and for a fee there will be museum tours and mineral digs.; contact Tina Walker, P.O Box 391, Marion 42064, (270)-965-4263; e-mail: beclement@att.net; Web site: www.clementmineralmuseum.org
- 9-11—PARK HILLS, MISSOURI: Annual show; Mineral Area Gem Mineral Society, Park Hills, MO; Missouri Mines SHS, 4000 State HWY 32; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; Free Admission; 20th Annual Missouri Mines Rock Swap. Rocks, minerals, fossils, rock jewelry/crafts. Fun for entire family Visit Historic Site Mining-Mineral Museum is free! The auction of Minerals and Rock Jewelry will benefit the Museum. Music, demos, and presentations, Refreshment stand to purchase drinks and food. Contact Boneta Hensley, P.O. Box 492, Park Hills, MO 63601, (573)-760-0488 or (573)-431-6226; e-mail: mojellybean63@yahoo.com; Web site: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1249800061698210/

NMGMS Participates: 2017 MAGS "Earth Wide Open" Show

Photo by Nancy Roberts



NMGMS participated in the "Earth Wide Open" Memphis rock and gem show as an exhibitor. We had displays consisting of specimens that were collected on our club field trips, as well as a picture collage of the Rockheads' activities and badge program. Many show visitors stopped by our table, and talked to club members about our field trips, workshops, and other NMGMS activities. Some of our club volunteers demonstrated a few lapidary/jewelry making techniques, so there were rings, bangle bracelets, pendants, and earrings available for purchase; all hand crafted by NMGMS

members. Thanks to Dana Armstrong's illustrious baking efforts, NMGMS managed to sell over 500 cookies again this year! I extend my appreciation and say, "THANK YOU", to those members who helped man our exhibit table at the show. This gave NMGMS a chance to show a very large number of people what we do, and what the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is all about. Nancy Roberts











Photos by Nancy Roberts

Club News: ODCM Display, "Stones and Bones"

NMGMS will be taking down our rock and fossil display that is currently at the Oren Dunn City Museum in Tupelo. Take down is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th at 10 a.m. If you can come to help pack up the display, please come to the musuem that morning. Specimens that members have loaned the club for this display will be available for you to pick up at the May 20th meeting.

<u>Editor's Note:</u> In the "Club News" section of the April 2017 issue, the New Albany Boy Scout troop and Scout Master mentioned were, Troop 17 and Mr. Alan Greer.

We have mailed off a box of Mississippi specimens to the Ventura, CA club for their swap and show display.

Meeting Program Review: Let's Make a Gem Tree!

At the April 29th NMGMS meeting, members were able to enjoy creating a "one of a kind" gem tree using wire, a wide variety of gemstones, and beads. Two different wire techniques were taught, one was working from the base up, and the other method was from the branches down. Everyone had fun and lots of unique trees were created.







Photos by Nancy Roberts

2017 NMGMS Geology Fest & Fossil Road Show

































Photos by Nancy Roberts

Great event and fun for all!

Field Trip Review: Trebloc Lime Pit by Nancy Roberts



On April Fool's Day, NMGMS members managed to make one more field trip to an old lime pit locale before the summer heat wave moves in and makes collecting difficult. Walking along the clay exposures is like walking the sand beaches of the Gulf Coast. The white clay can reflect enough sun back at you to give you a good sunburn, if not well protected. In looking at the vast array of scattered fossil clam and oyster shells that are found in these Demopolis Chalk deposits, one literally feels like you are at the ocean, and during the Upper Cretaceous this was the Selma Sea. Besides the Exogyra, Inoceramus, Agerostrea, and other fossil mollusks, mosasaur vertebrae, shark teeth, and turtle bones were collected.









All photos by Nancy Roberts

NMGMS Field Trips: Robert Langford's Summer Schedule

Photo of ID Station by Jim Roberts



Mark your Calendars for a Special 2017 Fossil Collecting Activity

Registered Professional Geologist, Robert Langford, will be present at the W. M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park located on Twenty Mile Creek at the Hwy 45 Bridge near Frankstown, in Prentiss County, Mississippi on a voluntary basis to help novice fossil collectors to identify their fossils and to promote the NMGMS by handing out NMGMS information fliers. Family groups and Home Schoolers are very welcome. Boy Scouts, are you working on a BSA Geology Merit Badge? BSA Geology Merit Badge Forms are available.

Robert's 2017 summer Saturday schedule will be as follows: June 17th, July 15th, and August 19th

List of Things to bring:

Families are in for a treat. This site is extremely wet; be prepared to get very wet. The creek bed is rocky and there is some glass and wire. So have the kids wear shoes that they can wear into the water and a swimsuit. They will also need to bring a change of clothes, towel, sun screen, lunch, and water to drink.

You will need sieving screens that can be made from window screening attached to a frame, but many people use kitchen colanders or the screens you get in summer beach sand toys, just something to let the sand and water through so you can sort through the coarse material to find the fossils. Bring a trowel or a scoop and a couple of small plastic bags or boxes (egg cartons or yogurt cups with lids will do) to keep your fossils safe.

If you need additional direction to the W. M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park, please contact Robert Langford at rlangford@cobbenv.com.

What is it like to speak another language? By Rebecca Vallarian



"Otolith!" "What's that?" "A fish ear stone." "Oh, write it down, please, and say it again, while I am looking at the word." "Otolith!" "Okay, fish ear stone.....O-to-lith."

Now you have conquered two of the four skills in learning a new language. You are probably going to be much better at one or two of them than all four. Consistent practice and exposure to the words are great helps to a good vocabulary whether you speak Spanish, "!Ole!" or Paleontology, "Otolith!"

In learning: 1.You will hear the new language. 2. You will speak it. 3. You will write it, and 4. You will read it. These are complex operations and four distinct skills for the brain to comprehend. Usually the skills are in that order....1. "I've heard that word before but what is it?" "It's a giant marine reptile, prehistoric, and top of the food chain." 2. "Say it again, please. Mosasaur, ok, got it." 3. "Let me write it down." 4. "Mo-sa-saur, giant reptile, eats everything."

Now you know two words of Paleontology, "Otolith" and "Mosasaur." When you hear the words again, you will probably remember the meanings. You will probably stumble over the pronunciation for a while and the spelling and reading of these words will be two of the last skills developed.

In learning any foreign language, these four skills are never at the same level at the same time. You know more Spanish than you think you do (the menu at your favorite Mexican eatery), you know how to say more Spanish words (probably not as correctly as should be, but enough to make yourself understood). But reading a Spanish sentence, or conversing in the language, requires much more effort and study. The same is true in speaking "Geology" or "Paleontology" and all the other "ology" words we use in NMGMS Rock Club.

The more we use "Exogyra," the less we say "Oyster Shell." The more we pay attention to reading the words "Gneiss" and "Schist", words that are not pronounced like they look, the more our reading and speaking will improve. Children are a natural at this language learning, and our Rockheads are quick to understand, to speak the proper names of minerals, to recognize, and to write classification words. We adults sometimes need more practice in the geological language, unless we have been speaking, reading, and writing it most every day. NMGMS is very fortunate to have "native speakers" who are eager to help beginners learn the vernacular, even when we need gentle correction on the difference of "basalt" and "ballast."

Spanish takes a lifetime of learning and practicing from the simple "Si" and "?Como esta?", to a more complex understanding of the positioning of reflexive pronouns that come before a particular verb. Speaking "Geology" can be simply a matter of recognizing rocks and minerals by their common names and characteristics, or continuing a study of their scientific classifications and positions in geological time spans. Not everyone will be on the same level of skill. You can find your own comfort zone and enjoy!

Now, what was an "Otolith?" How do you pronounce "Mosasaur?"

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Geologic Time

Camels Often Sit Down Carefully. Perhaps Their Joints Creak. Early Oiling Might Prevent Permanent Rheumatism. *If you can remember this interesting scenario*, then you can remember the geologic time periods from oldest to youngest; Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Carboniferous, Permian, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene, Pleistocene, Recent.

From "Breccia" 2/1999 via "Rock Buster News" 04/2002, Via "Hound's Howl" March 2006 pg. 6, Via "Rockhound Roundup" May 2017



Rockheads:



May 2017

Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts latergator2003@yahoo.com

www.amfed.org/fra/ fra_badge.htm

Rockhead Officers:

Mascot by Remy Collins

President, Konrad Armstrong **Vice President**, James Carr **Secretary**, Marion Carr

Rockheads April 29, 2017 Meeting:

In attendance were, Mr. Jim, Liam and Victoria Langford, Sophie Gunther, Marian and Evie Dickey, Liam and Meghan Crownover, Julia and Levi Williamson, and Micah Lyle.

Photo by Nancy Roberts

The Rockheads continued to work on part of the FRA Stone Age Tools and Art badge. They worked with clay and made their own examples of Native American pottery. Unfortunately, no one got any pictures of this activity! All of the Rockheads enjoyed the gem tree program and some really pretty trees were created.

Note: At the May 20, 2017 Rockheads' meeting, you will be painting your air dried pots, so be sure to bring them to the meeting. If you did not get to make a clay pot, Mr. Jim will have the clay available at the May meeting, so that any Rockhead who missed the last meeting can catch up. Meeting is from 1 to 2p.m. upstairs at the Tupelo library.







Photos by Nancy Roberts

Lapidary Workshop: Cabochons!

Our NMGMS lapidary room, **#136** at the Link Center in Tupelo, will be open on **Saturday May 13th.** Jim Roberts will be conducting a slab saw safety and operation workshop at **10a.m.** for those members interested. Bring some stones that you would like to slab. Be sure the rough material isn't too small or too large to be clamped into the saw's rock vise (5" x 6 1/2" capacity vise). The 12inch saw is running, and also a 10 inch slab and 6 inch trim saw. We have a box of slabs that you can "play" with, if you don't have any of your own. John Byzet and Jim Roberts will monitor the **Genie cabochon machine** also. Lapidary fee: \$1 per cut with the 12 or 10 inch saws and \$1 an hour on the cab machine.

Please bring a brown bag lunch. Email <u>therockhoundlady@yahoo.com</u> or <u>latergator2003@yahoo.com</u> if you plan to attend.

Lapidary Words: Test Your Knowledge!



Answers to April:

Dopping and Dop Stick are terms that you will become familiar with when starting to shape a cabochon after all of the trimming has been done. "Dopping" is the process of adhering a stone to a dowel, usually with dop wax as the adhesive. This procedure offers you a way to hold the stone while cabbing without having to just hold it with your fingers. "Dop Stick" is a wooden dowel, or other similar item with dop wax on the end, to which a stone can be adhered before shaping. Here is a link to a good explanation on the process. https://thegemshop.com/pages/dopping

Bezels and Bails. NOT something you do when the boat is sinking! Find out next month.



SFMS Federation News

The **SFMS** scholarship fund raffle tickets were handed out at our April meeting in the hopes that members would be ab le to sell them to family and friends. Please bring any unsold tickets to the May 20th meeting

in case another member would like some. **Remember that we have to return any unsold tickets and all monies received to the federation by October 1st. 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. While you're at it, please check out the SFMS workshops that are being offered this summer at William Holland and Wild Acres. http://sfmsworkshops.com/

http://sfmsworkshops.com/?page_id=20 The SFMS week at William Holland will be June 11-17, 2017

The **AFMS** 2017 show and convention is being held in Ventura California on June 9-11th. Check out the website for more information: http://2017cfms-afmsshow.com/

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/sfms/





NMGMS April 29, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Paul Gunther

1. We are in good shape toward our next 6 months' rent of \$1110.00 at the Link Centre. Income other than dues so far: Spinner ring workshop, \$125, Geology Fest, \$361.50, MAGS show, \$595.80. Total: \$1082.30

Other upcoming sources: West Point brazing class (6 interested so far), Tannehill show and New Albany show.

- 2. John Byzet handles the website and membership, while Alison Schuchs does the Facebook page. Try to have members post our event notices up at the library and other places around town. Low attendance at April 8th event may have been due to lack of advertising.
- 3. Create a Lapidary Workshop chairperson slot and set up something for the summer. Need to make use of our room over the summer months. May 13th will have room open for cutting slabs and making cabochons.
- 4. Need to meet at the room and decide what equipment to sell at the Tannehill show. Meet on May 14 tentatively also possibly a day earlier in the week. Please bring buckets and boxes.
- 5. Make up a "wish" list over the summer for things we need/want in our lapidary workshop room. List so far includes dop wax, templates, cat litter, and paper towels.
- 6. Still need to order a book to donate to the library for the Wardlaws, as well as, Gary Law and Annette Kelly.
- 7. Thought of reversing the color of the t-shirts and logo, as well as having polo shirts with logo made. Adjourned at 2:00pm Attendance: Nikki Kenney, Paul Gunther, Nancy Roberts, Ann and John Byzet

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Nikki Kenney and Nancy Roberts
Guests and new members were introduced: Laura Dickey, Matt and Micah Lyle, and the Crownovers
The March 18, 2017 meeting minutes as printed in the April 2017 Nugget were approved

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was given by Nikki Kenney.

Chairpersons' Reports:

<u>Field Trips:</u> The next NMGMS field trip will be to Twenty Mile Creek on May 6, 2017, weather permitting. Meet at the site **at 10a.m.** This trip includes the Rockheads' hotdog cookout and Robert Langford will have his ID station setup on site. There is a DMC field trip hosted by Middle TN Gem and Mineral Society on May 6th to Cumberland Furnace, TN for slag. The slag can be cut and polished. If you are interested in going, let me know and I will send you the details. This trip is limited to members 6 yrs or older. DMC field trips are for club members only.

<u>Publicity</u>: (John Byzet) Need someone to help John with the publicity. He does the website and membership roster. Someone who can keep in touch with the local papers, etc. and post our notices.

<u>Membership</u>: (Ann Byzet) John will be compiling the NMGMS 2017 membership roster. There are 150 members on the 2017 NMGMS roster, so far. More NMGMS patches were ordered and they are in.

Laura Dickey received a new membership packet.

Hospitality: Refreshments: May 20th: Nancy Roberts and Cheryle Langford There is no June, July or August meeting. Volunteers for Sept. 16th: Jennifer Eubank 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.

<u>Newsletter</u>: (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. If you are interested in joining Mike Schuchs for any junior field trips over the summer, be sure that he has your email address and phone number. Laura Dickey and Krista Williamson wanted to join Mike Schuchs on junior field trips over the summer.

<u>Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show:</u> (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) If we continue to hold this event on the second Saturday of April, it will be on April 14th in 2018.

NMGMS April 29, 2017 Meeting Minutes continued on pg 10....

Date: April 29, 2017

NMGMS Meeting Minutes, cont'd:

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

Old Business:

- 1. Our display out at the Oren Dunn Museum is set to run through May 17th, so take down will be Thursday May 18th. I will bring your loaned specimens and signed museum sheets to the May meeting, so you can pick them up then.
- 2. The Memphis rock and gem show went very well for us. Quite a few people took our club brochure and several took application forms. We picked up several renewals and one new member. NMGMS sold over 600 cookies, plus quite a bit of our hand crafted jewelry items that were donated by club members. Sales of cookies, jewelry and rocks came to \$595!
- 3. The copy of <u>The Geology of Mississippi</u>, by David Dockery that NMGMS purchased, has been donated to the Tupelo library, and we received an acknowledgement thanking us for it. Check it out!
- 4. We have the large pavilion at Ballard Park reserved for our annual picnic and rock swap on Saturday October 28, 2017 from 1 to 4p.m.
- 5. NMGMS members will be teaching a copper brazing class for The West Point Arts Council on Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 10 to 4. At the Louise Campbell Center for the Arts, 235 Commerce St. in West Point, MS Class fee: \$40 If you plan to attend, contact Nancy Roberts, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com For more information, see the April issue of The Nugget. Kathy Westbrook offered to help and Linda Blackmon would try to be there as well.

There was no other old business.

New Business:

- 1. The May NMGMS meeting will be on Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 1 to 3 at the Tupelo library. The program all about Chakra Stones will be presented by NMGMS member Cathy Miller.
- 2. The New Albany Fossil Road Show is on Saturday June 10th, from 10 until 2, at the Union County Heritage Museum in New Albany. Jennifer Eubank and Robert Langford would be willing to set up a small exhibit table like we do for the MAGS show in Memphis and sell grab bags.
- 3. 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! Tickets were passed out for members to sell.
- 4. NMGMS need a few members to meet at our Link Centre room and help box up the rocks and equipment that we plan to sell at the Tannehill show the first weekend in June. Nancy Roberts, Jim Roberts, Paul Gunther, John Byzet, Jennifer Eubank, and Debra Boone all offered to help.
- 5. Cathy Miller has a friend interested in getting assistance with wire wrapping and copper working and would be supplying materials. For further information, please contact Cathy.

Adjourned at 2:40 pm Submitted by Paul Gunther

Bead Soup: A place to talk "shop"!

Here's a great tip for cutting wire, especially heavy gauge wire. When you need really smooth edges, or a flush cut on your wire (this is especially important for soldering) use memory wire cutters. Not only will they cut through heavy gauges, they also will leave flush cuts on both sides of the cut, not flush on one side and angled on the other, like flush cutters do. Give it a try!

Ed: This tip came in an email from Wire Jewelry.com and was the Tip for May 12, 2017 by Abbi Berta.

www.wirejewelry.com/jewelry-making-blog/21273/cutting-tips-by-abbi-

berta/?utm source=tips051317&utm medium=email&utm content=Flink&utm campaign=MonTip&ut

Date: April 29, 2017

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

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.