



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Glacial erratics along Lake Champlain



Photo by
Nancy
Roberts

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

Happy Thanksgiving! Are there really only 7 weeks left to 2017? I imagine everyone is busy with preparations for the Holiday Season. Meanwhile, NMGMS has been busy with preparations in our lapidary workshop. Thanks to the hard working efforts of Mike Schuchs and Jim Roberts, two more cab machines recently went "online". Jim was able to wire up the two new motors that were donated to NMGMS last year, and Mike came up with an excellent water cooling system. The cab machines and their cooling system were up and running in time for the November 11th workshop. The workshop was well attended, and I saw some very nice cabs being made. Three slab saws and two trim saws are also in good working order. I'm sorry to say that the Genie machine is having some issues. Well, after all, we are working with used equipment, so we'll need to start investing in replacement parts at some point.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped out and participated in our Rocktoberfest. It was a very successful event, and I was excited to see so many new faces. This brings me to something that was discussed at the recently held Southeast Federation meeting. Several clubs were talking about low attendance, and how there is just a core group that comes to meetings and volunteers for events. One club is even going to cancel their rock and gem show because they just don't have the manpower anymore to run the event. So the big question was, how do we get more members involved and build up enthusiasm for our hobby and activities?

First, I think all members need to let people know what a rock and mineral club has to offer, and second, we need to encourage the new members to join in and to not feel like they haven't been in the club long enough. Be flexible and open to new ideas. Don't be so set on always doing something exactly the same way. New members can bring fresh ideas, and in order to continue to grow, a club needs everyone's input. NMGMS has lots of new members on the roster this year, so I am sure that there is a treasure trove of very capable and talented people just waiting to be tapped.

With 2017 rapidly coming to a close, it is time for us to get our 2018 officers and committee chairpersons lined up. We will be taking nominations for club officers at the November 18th meeting. The club needs you! We are looking for members who are interested and willing to serve as an officer or on a committee. If you are already a committee chairperson, we appreciate your hard work. All of you have been doing a great job. This is a phenomenal rock and mineral club, and we hope to be able to continue to provide our membership with a great organization. In order to do this, we need everyone's help and participation. If any member would like to serve, please jump on board.

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS November 18, 2017 Meeting

The next regular NMGMS meeting will be Saturday, November 18, 2017 from 1 - 3pm at the Lee County Library in Tupelo. Program by Nancy Roberts: "Working with Polymer Clay". This is a hands-on activity. We will be making beads and pendants out of clay. Fun for all ages! Refreshments will be courtesy of Nancy Roberts and Rebecca Vallarian.

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

December 9, 2017: NMGMS Christmas party meeting and luncheon from 11am to 3pm at the Tupelo Library. (See page 5 for details)

December 16, 2017: Possible NMGMS field trip. Location and time will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

January 20, 2018: NMGMS January meeting from 1 - 3pm at the Tupelo Library. Program will be on plate tectonics, given by University of Mississippi Professor, Dr. Jennifer Gifford

February 10, 2018: NMGMS February meeting from 1 - 3pm at the Tupelo Library. Program: Fossil Corals

Note! February meeting date is changed due to the library being closed on the third weekend of that month.

Other Upcoming Events:

December 2, 2017: Link Centre's Holiday Market, 11am to 5pm. NMGMS will be setting up as a vendor, and selling hand crafted jewelry items made by our members. Money raised from sales will go to our lapidary workshop. NMGMS volunteers will be needed at this event. Members will assist the Link Center at their sales table or food vending tables.

Show Dates:

November 24 – 26, 2017

Mobile, AL Mobile Rock and Gem Society Show

Friday, November 24, 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM Saturday, November 25, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sunday, November 26, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Admission: \$4, children 12 & under FREE with adult

Friday & Saturday FREE admission after 5PM

ABBA Shrine Center, 7701 Hitt Rd, Mobile, AL

For more information, go to <http://www.mobilerockandgem.com/show-summary>.

December 9-10, 2017

Franklin, TN Mid Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society's 37th Annual Earth Treasures Show
Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale

Saturday, December 9, 9am to 6pm Sunday, December 10, 10am to 5pm.

Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, TN 37064

Admission: \$5(2 day pass, \$7), students (18 and under) \$1, children 12 and under free with an adult

Scout Youth in Uniform are free

For more information, go to <http://www.mtgms.org/show.htm>.

December 1-3, 2017

47th Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, December 1-3, 2017

Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Drive, Montgomery, Alabama

Friday, December 1, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, December 2, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 3, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission: Adults \$2.00 daily, or \$3.00 for a weekend pass, 18 and under free with student ID and one paid adult ticket.

For more information, go to <http://www.montgomerygemandmineralsociety.com/mgms/index.php/annual-gem-show>.

October Picnic and Rock Swap Review: "Rocktoberfest"

Photo by Alison Schuchs



Despite the day being rather chilly, NMGMS had really good attendance for this year's Annual Picnic and Rock Swap, which we had decided to call "Rocktoberfest". Members spreading the word, the club's Facebook page, and the NMGMS website are doing a good job! There was a wide variety of rocks, minerals, and lapidary items available at the club's silent auction table. NMGMS also had a table with donated rock and mineral specimens for sale. Many members brought some of their own collection to swap or just for show and tell to interested attendees. Mike Schuchs did a great job of cooking the hot dogs, brats and kielbasa, so no one went hungry, and there were plenty of desserts, chips, drinks, and fixings to round out the picnic meal. With the north wind blowing through the pavilion all day, John Byzet's outdoor fire pit was a very welcome attraction. Another great attraction was the cabochon demonstration done by Don Hill. We were very glad to have Don and his wife, Jill, represent the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society at this event. Also, NMGMS was delighted to enjoy the company of our Southeast Federation's Mississippi State Director, Buddy Shotts and his gracious wife, Reba. Jim Roberts had the fishing game set up, and with the help of junior member, Hunter Watson, the kids at the picnic had fun "fishing" for gemstone treasures. We even had a few people who were just enjoying a day at the park wander over and take part in our fest. Several even joined NMGMS right then and there! It was a great day for getting together with fellow rockhounds, and many treasures found new homes. Nancy Roberts



Photos by Alison Schuchs and Nancy Roberts

Check out our Facebook page for more photos.

Field Trip Reviews: Field Trip to the Blue Springs Crab Site by NMGMS members

Sydney Thornton says: "This was my third trip to the Blue Springs Crab site. I found a lot of cool things. We found three crabs. It was really fun because we have never found that many in one day before. It was really exciting to find a lot of button coral this time. Right as I was about to leave, I found a Goblin shark tooth. I can't wait to go back to Blue Springs again."

Amelia Thornton says: "I like going to Blue Springs because there are so many fun things to find. My favorite things to look for are sea pens and shells. It was a great day because we found so many things, and the weather was perfect."

Justin Thornton says: "The Blue Springs site is great because it is easy to get to, and the abundance of fossils keeps everyone of all ages engaged. You find plenty, whether you wander around searching the surface, or just sit in one spot to dig and meticulously search a small area. It is especially wonderful to be there with knowledgeable and helpful members of the club who are happy to identify everything that is found, as newcomers like us try to learn."

Photos by Nancy Roberts



Tennessee State Fossil

By Hunter Watson

The Tennessee state fossil is *Pterotrigonia* (*Scabotrigonia*).*thoracica*. TN was the thirty eighth state to have a state fossil. "Ptero" was a late cretaceous bivalve that was wedged shaped, and it was a burrowing suspension feeder. It lived on the clayey-sand ocean floor in west TN 70 million years ago. "Ptero" has a unique striation of lines that go across its shell. The only few species of its kind left are the *Neotrigonia* and some off species of that." Neo" is found only in the Pacific Ocean, and commonly found around New Zealand.

The UT Martin Geo Club actually presented it to be the state fossil. They started the campaign for it to be the state fossil in 1996 and finally got it there in 1998. It is found in the Coon Creek Formation. The students that are in the Geo Club and their professors wanted a "spokesfossil" to promote awareness of Tennessee's geological resources and history.



This is a picture of *Pterotrigonia thoracica*.

Picture from <http://www.geocities.ws/cooncreeksciencecenter/Statefossil.htm>

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The Holidays are coming!

The NMGMS annual Christmas party and potluck luncheon will be on **Saturday Dec. 9, 2017 from 11a.m. until 3p.m., upstairs at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo, MS.**

The club will provide a ham for the luncheon, and members attending are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. We will also have a gift exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a gift (\$10 max) and label it either as a man, woman, or child's gift. We are also asking members to

please bring a few canned goods or other nonperishable food items for our club's contribution to a local food pantry.

We will also participate in the "Toys for Tots" program, so please bring a new toy to donate. The toys will be dropped off at the Oren Dunn Museum after the party.

We will be doing the "Night before Christmas" ornament exchange. If you would like to participate in the game and ornament exchange, just bring an ornament. They can be handmade or store bought. Everyone that brings an ornament will go home with one. Hope to see everyone there to help NMGMS celebrate another great year.

Remember, this is when NMGMS passes out badges, awards and certificates to members for their accomplishments.



SFMS Federation News by Nancy Roberts

I recently attended the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies' (SFMS) Annual Meeting in Knoxville on October 21, 2017. One of the items of business discussed was getting a Financial Bond to cover the SFMS Treasurer, Account Signatories, and possibly the other Officers. The bond needs to be issued in the state of incorporation which is North Carolina. It was noted that the 2018 insurance rate would probably see an increase since the present contract was up for renewal.

The Federation is working on putting together activities and resources packets for clubs to use for their junior groups. There was much discussion about participation, and how many of the clubs are having difficulty in getting their membership to be active and step up to volunteer for events or club positions. We all need to work on getting more of our members enthusiastic and involved. SFMS hopes to encourage more member Club involvement in the Federation. For the scholarship raffle, 49 items were donated, and 18 clubs sold tickets. Enough monies were raised to provide 7 scholarships for the 2018 SFMS sessions at either William Holland or Wildacres.

A motion was made to allot funds to each SFMS officer, chairperson and state director as a small reimbursement of expenses to attend Federation meetings. Since this would require a raise in the dues that each member club pays to SFMS, the motion did not carry. Further discussion was suggested, so the issue will be revisited at a later date.

A new Mississippi club, the Canton Mineral Club, applied for membership to SFMS and was approved to enter the Southeast Federation.

SFMS officers for 2018: President: Craig Hamilton, 1st Vice President: Reggie Bolton
2nd Vice President: No nomination, Treasurer: Mari Webb, Secretary: Jerri Heer
Assistant Treasurer: Barbi Beatty, Membership: Jason Hamilton
AFMS President Elect for 2019: David Wayment



The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' 2018 Annual Meeting will be held April 6-8th in Raleigh, NC.

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/>



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins

Rockhead Officers:

President, Konrad Armstrong

Vice President, James Carr

Secretary, Marion Carr

Nov. 2017



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts

latergator2003@yahoo.com

Next Rockhead Meeting: Nov. 18, 2017

The next Rockhead Meeting will be on Saturday, November 18th, 1p.m. at the Tupelo library. Rockheads will be completing whatever requirements they need for this year's FRA badges. Mr. Jim Roberts will have the FRA badge sheets at this meeting, so please plan to attend and be ready to sign off on any of the badges that you have completed. Badges will be presented at the December 9th Christmas Party meeting. Rockheads will also be learning about sedimentary rocks and working with clay.

NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Award

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

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

If you still need to get an article or review published in the newsletter, please send it to therockhoundlady@yahoo.com for the December Nugget. It doesn't need to be long or complicated. If you need to do a display, bring one along to the November 18th meeting.

Photos by Alison Schuchs



Lapidary Words: Test Your Knowledge! By Nancy Roberts

Answers to October's words, **Gauge** and **Granulation**:

Photo of gauge measuring device from Shoeboxstudio.com



In metalsmithing, gauge refers to the diameter of wire or the thickness of sheet metal. Sometime ago, I heard that the gauge of a wire referred to how many times it had been drawn through a draw plate. In researching this, I found that it is believed the first wire gauge measurements were based on this series of drawn wires.

Today, the two most widely used gauge measuring systems are the American Wire Gauge (AWG) and the Standard Wire Gauge (SWG) system. Here in the US, we use the AWG system (also known as Brown and Sharpe), which refers to gauges of **nonferrous** wire and sheet metal. Steel and other ferrous metals use a different gauge measuring system. The SWG (also

known as the Imperial Wire Gauge or the British Standard Gauge) is commonly used in Europe. In both of these measuring systems, the larger the gauge number listed, the thinner the wire. For example: 2-gauge wire is thick like a pencil, and 30-gauge wire is fine like thread. This also holds true for sheet metal. However, a 16 gauge wire in AWG is not the same diameter as a 16 gauge wire measured with the SWG system. So, a caveat here is to know what gauge measuring system your supplier is using for their wire and sheet metal! In much of the world, wire diameter and sheet metal thickness is often expressed in millimeters, or parts of an inch. The mathematics on which these two systems are based will make you crossed eyed, so for comparisons between AWG, SWG, inches and mm, there are many charts available online.

Here's a chart that I found very useful: <http://www.dave-cushman.net/elect/wiregauge.html>

Here's a video on how to properly use a gauge measuring tool: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsOxAt88PBk>

Photo from Artbeads.com



If you look up the word "granulation", you'll often find references to the healing of a wound. It's the general definition, "the formation of granules or grains" that we will be dealing with in metalsmithing. Bits of fine silver, gold, or sterling silver can be heated to the melting point and they will form little round balls called granules. These can then be used as a design element by soldering them onto a project to add surface texture and interest. The jewelry making technique of covering a surface with granules is called granulation.

Coming up: **Enameling** and **Etching**; find out in the next issue.

Safety: Work safely so you can do it again. By Nancy Roberts

"Work in a properly ventilated area" will be stated in the safety guidelines for a lapidary workshop or metalsmithing studio. We all realize the importance of ventilation when working with a torch, running a grinding or buffing machine, or any other equipment that can produce noxious fumes or dust. One thing we tend to overlook however, are the times when we are using something common place (like paint or glue) which doesn't bother us, but some individuals may react to. For example, while doing a gemtree project or bead embroidery piece, someone gets out a tube of E6000, opens it up to use it, then the person sitting next to them starts coughing and has to leave. Another example, that I experienced recently, was when we were giving a tour of our lapidary shop to our new members and the lid of the 12 inch slab saw was raised just to show everyone the inside. The saw wasn't even running, but one of the juniors in the group said the smell of the mineral oil was bothering him. He told me he had asthma, so I had him stand by the open door.

We have members in our club who are bothered by perfume, deodorants, and many cleaning agents. We forget that even everyday products contain chemicals that can cause irritations. So, even if it is just a regular club meeting or jewelry making get together, be aware of what you are using and how it may affect the others around you. Get to really know your fellow members, and always work in a properly ventilated area!

The Green Mountain State by Nancy Roberts

Vermont, known as the Green Mountain State, is home to many green colored rocks. Greenstones, green schists, green slate, green phyllites, green marble, and serpentinite are among the many green colored rocks to be found. All of these rocks are metamorphic and owe their green coloration to minerals such as chlorite, amphiboles, and epidote. I even have a piece of green talc from Vermont!

Green schists along the Mad River (The one on the left is huge!)



They even make the water look green!



Water worn phyllites at the Warren Cascades



Many of these green rocks can be found in the stream gravels (Fun!)

Photos by Nancy Roberts

For your information!



NMGMS held "Rocktoberfest", the club's annual picnic and rock swap, this past October, so there are no regular meeting minutes to report this month.

NMGMS Members Take Note!

2018 is fast approaching, and it is time to start thinking about renewing your NMGMS membership. 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

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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.