

Photo by Alison Schuchs



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



Nancy dressed for the cold!

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

Brrrrr....welcome to winter! Looks like Old Man Winter has decided to head south this year and bring us some snow and cold temperatures. Makes it a little hard to be outside, let alone do any rock collecting. I hope that by our January 27th field trip things will have warmed up and all of the snow will be gone. Cold weather is a good time to work indoors on your collection and get it up to date and organized. I had hoped to try, but today my basement was 44 degrees! Guess I'll just have to get out my rock, mineral, and fossil books and study up.

Starting a new year is always a time for resolutions, and in looking back over my "President's Notes" from January 2017, I see that I made several resolutions that did not quite see fruition. One was to have the lapidary room open at least once a month. Well, it wasn't open quite that often, but we did manage to hold a lapidary workshop in our room each time we were holding a jewelry workshop upstairs. Also, there is more equipment up and running now, so more of our members have been able to do some cabochon work, as well as use the saws. That ties into my second resolution from 2017, to get several club members competent enough with the equipment to be instructors and lapidary workshop leaders. We did better on this one, since Jim Roberts is now a competent saw operator, and he has worked with several other members to get them going. Also, Andy Hight was able to give several cabbing lessons, so we now have several club members certified to use the cab machines. Mike Schuchs has been diligently working on getting more of the usable equipment ready for service, so things are really shaping up, and our little room is looking more and more like a lapidary shop.

So, for this year's resolution, I would like to see NMGMS send one of our members to William Holland for a cabochon class, so that the club will have a certified member available to teach and oversee the lapidary workshops. Our organization won one of the SFMS scholarships, so let's make good use of it. NMGMS has a lot of new family memberships with active junior members. So, my second new year's resolution is to hold some junior workshops in order to share and teach the lapidary arts to our younger generation. Remember, education is our top priority!

Speaking of workshops, over the past 4 years NMGMS has been very fortunate in being able to offer a class taught by Kim St. Jean to its membership. This year, due to their work schedules, coming to Tupelo didn't work out for Kim and Norm. However, our membership jumped up to the plate, and Clarice Turner will be teaching an enameling class for us next month. I am hoping that, as we build our skills, members will be able to offer more workshops with many diverse techniques, so that there will be something for everyone.

In looking to the future, we will still strive to provide our membership with great field trips, interesting and educational programs, fun and instructional workshops, as well as sharing our time, talents and interests with each other, but we need to ask how and where to go from here, if NMGMS is to continue to grow as an organization. Possible things to consider are, upgrading our lapidary equipment, becoming a 501©3, hosting our own rock and gem show, vending at more arts and craft festivals, setting up classes to teach scout merit badges, becoming more involved with the local schools and other organizations, etc. All of these endeavors will take a lot of hard work on the part of our NMGMS members, but they would open up new opportunities for our club and its membership. Hopefully NMGMS will continue to grow and move forward over the coming years, while still maintaining those things that have made our club such a fantastic organization.

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS January 20, 2018 Meeting

The January NMGMS meeting will be on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Tupelo library from 1-3pm. Program will be: "Slippin' and Slidin' "(Plate tectonics over the last 100 years), given by University of Mississippi Professor, Dr. Jennifer Gifford. Refreshments are courtesy of Cassandra Carr and Cheryle Langford. Should be a real earth shakin' program, so don't miss it!

NOTE: There will be a board meeting at 12 noon before the regular meeting.

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

January 27, 2018: NMGMS field trip to Alabama for Mississippian fossils. (See page 3 for details)

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.

February 17, 2018: NMGMS Copper Enameling Workshop at the Link Centre (See page 5 for details)

February 17, 2018: NMGMS Lapidary Workshop at the Link Centre (See page 5 for details)

Other Upcoming Events:

February 24 and 25, 2018: MGMS rock and gem show at the fairgrounds in Jackson, MS.

March 3, 2018: MMNS Fossil Road Show, 10am to 3pm, Jackson, MS

Show Dates:

February 24-25, 2018

MGMS February 24 – 25th 2018 Jackson Mississippi

59th Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show by the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, February 24, from 9 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, February 25, from 10 am to 5 pm

Location: Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, 1200 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39202

Admission: Adults \$6, Students \$3, Scouts & Leaders in Uniform \$2, and Children 5 & under—Free.

Additional information: www.missgems.org

March 3, 2018

MMNS, Fossil Road Show, March 3, 2018, 10am to 3pm.

Location: Mississippi Museum of Natural Science 2148 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202

Admission: \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 3 and up, children under 3 are FREE.

Museum Members are FREE. For more information, call: 601-576-6000, or visit

<http://mmnsfoundation.com/eventscalendar/>

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

NMGMS Field Trip: January 27, 2018 to Alabama

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The first NMGMS field trip for 2018 will be on **Saturday, January 27th** to collect Mississippian fossils from the Bangor Formation. We will be collecting fossils such as bryozoans, blastoids, brachiopods, and corals. Bring small containers, cardboard flats, and a bucket for carrying your fossils and gear. Newspapers, paper towels, or aluminum foil are recommended for wrapping up those fossils that are fragile. A rock hammer, chisel, and something to pry with are also handy to have. Wear boots or shoes that can get wet or muddy, and bring a hat, water, sunscreen, safety glasses, etc. A backpack or extra bucket is good to have, since we will be walking and carrying our gear with us.

Bring a lunch, or you can pick up something at the store. Watch your email for directions and more details. Please let me know if you plan to attend. Nancy Roberts, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com H: 731-689-5336

NMGMS Members Take Note!

2018 is here, and it is time to renew 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

To continue to be eligible for our club field trips and workshops, and be covered by our insurance, please renew your membership. You don't want to miss out on any of the fun and adventures!

Field Trip Reviews: NMGMS Field Trip to Richardson Landing by Nancy Roberts



December 16, 2017 turned out to be a perfect day for picking through the gravel bars along the banks of the mighty Mississippi. The day started out chilly with a bit of wind, but the sun soon warmed things up for us. We were mostly looking for agates and petrified wood, but the gravels contain many chert fossils, jaspers, and even a few Pleistocene fossils. You can literally walk for miles along the shore; looking through the washed up gravels as you go, hoping to spot a Fairburn agate or fossil horse tooth along the way. There are many interesting rocks that are just perfect for throwing into the tumbler, and I especially love

the orange, yellow, and reddish colored quartz pebbles that have been smoothed and rounded already by the forces of sand and water, nature's "rock tumbler". There had been a freeze during the night, so the sand and mud close to the river's edge was pretty gooey in places, and you had to watch your step, so you didn't sink down over your boots. The happy sound of rocks going into plastic buckets could be heard here and there, but then we realized that those buckets had to be carried all the way back to the car. That's when you start to be a little more selective in what you keep! Several members had backpacks, which help a lot, and one even brought a cart along for hauling the rock filled buckets back. We certainly got our exercise that day, but oh, what fun!

All photos by Nancy Roberts



NMGMS Participates:



The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society participated in a Holiday Market at the Link Centre in Tupelo on Dec. 2, 2017. Club members set up a booth and sold handcrafted jewelry items that were made and donated by fellow NMGMS members. Several club members volunteered to help work the event for the Link Centre.

Photos by Nancy Roberts



Meeting Program Review: NMGMS 2017 Christmas Party!



Good friends, yummy food, nice gifts, and great fun!

All photos by Nancy Roberts

More Upcoming NMGMS Events: Club Workshops

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Copper Enameling Class, February 17, 2018

Learn to paint with glass! If you would like to learn how to enamel designs with powdered glass onto copper metal for making jewelry pieces, this is the class for you. Class will be held at the Link Centre in Tupelo on **Saturday, February 17, 2018, from 9:30a.m. to 3p.m.** Enameling is a really fun process. The results are very exciting and make unique components to include in your jewelry creations. We will be working with a variety of copper "blanks" and also some wire, so you should be able to complete a pair of earrings and a pendant or bracelet. We will do a little foldforming on the larger piece and doming the disks for earrings. It'll be loads of fun!! Bring a brown bag lunch. The class is limited to 10 students, so to reserve your seat, we are requesting that you prepay and sign up early.

The **\$45** class fee includes all materials and use of the tools. This is a beginner/intermediate level class.

Email therockhoundlady@yahoo.com, if you plan to attend. Unless otherwise stated, workshops are for ages 12 and up.

Lapidary Workshop, February 17, 2018

Photo by Jim Roberts



Our NMGMS lapidary room #136 at the Link Center in Tupelo will be open on **Saturday, February 17, 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.

Club News:



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.



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, 5runs! Belt could stand to be replaced.

Bead Soup: A place to talk "shop"! By Nancy Roberts

NMGMS recently held a copper etching workshop, and here are a few tips from that class:

1. Use a citric acid solution along with the ferric chloride as an etchant; the addition of the citric acid speeds up the process and helps the ferric chloride etchant last longer. This etchant is made up of 4 parts ferric chloride and 1 part citric acid solution. Example: 16 oz. ferric chloride, 3 oz. H₂O (hot tap water), 1 oz. (2TBS) citric acid powder (anhydrous). Gradually add the citric acid powder to the hot tap water. Stir until it has fully dissolved. Slowly add the ferric chloride to the citric acid solution, and keep stirring until you have produced a uniform liquid.

2. When using the hydrogen peroxide/muriatic acid mixture as an etchant, be sure that you are using the 3% peroxide from the drugstore and the "green" version (approximately 15% hydrochloric acid, HCL and 90% less fumes) of the muriatic acid. The peroxide from the beauty salon is way too strong, and the regular muriatic acid (approximately 31.45% HCL) gives off more fumes and generates more heat when added to the peroxide, as well as making the etching process go too fast to be controlled. This etchant is made up of 2 parts hydrogen peroxide and 1 part muriatic acid. Always add the muriatic acid to the hydrogen peroxide when making up the etchant!

Always be safe when using any etchant. Work in a well ventilated area, wear safety glasses and gloves, protect your clothing and work surface, have a pan of baking soda and water close at hand for neutralizing the etchant, and remember "AAA" to always add the acid to the water. Read the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for any chemicals that you use!



SFMS Federation News:

Workshop I – William Holland – June 10-16, 2018

Classes: Beading, Cabs 1, Chasing, Junior Wire/Chainmaille, Electro-etching, Immersion Enamel and Cold Connections, Faceting, Intarsia, Inlay, Silver 1, Silver 2 - Rings, Rings, Rings, Wire 1 Spoon Jewelry,

Wire 2 Bracelets. Check out the website for class descriptions, fees, instructors, and registration form.

http://sfmsworkshops.com/?page_id=20

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

AFMS Federation News:



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

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

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

FYI: NMGMS Facebook Page



Be sure to check out the club's Facebook page for pictures, notices, and videos. If you missed Mike Schuchs's September meeting program on "Gravels in Mississippi", there is a video of his excellent and informative presentation on the NMGMS FB page:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/NMGMS/videos/?ref=page_internal



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins



January 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

Photo by Alison Schuchs



At the December 9, 2017 meeting, our NMGMS junior member advisor, Jim Roberts, awarded 15 Rockheads with the FRA badges that they had earned over the course of the year. Congratulations for a job well done!

Photos by Nancy Roberts



Also at the December meeting, two Rockheads were awarded the NMGMS "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award, which they had earned by doing an article for the newsletter and a display or presentation at one of our meetings. Congratulations Sydney and Hunter, and kudos to the Rockheads for a great year!



Photo by Alison Schuchs

Note: At the January 20, 2018 Rockheads' meeting, you will be doing an activity on igneous rocks (volcanoes!), then after some refreshments, Hunter has created an activity on plate tectonics for you

NMGMS Announcements:

Photo by Dana Jones

Past NMGMS member, Beth Wells - Parker passed away on December 18, 2017. Beth had been a club member for quite a few years and was very active in our club jewelry workshops, until her illness four years ago. She was also a member of the West Point Arts Council and helped out when we taught classes there. She took classes at William Holland and was a very talented and creative jewelry artist. She loved to collect and work with gemstones. Beth, a native of West Point, earned her doctorate in Psychology from Duke University, and for more than 20 years, she was a professor and distinguished research scientist at Mississippi State University. She was associate director of the Social Science Research Center at the time of her retirement. Beth was also a passionate supporter of no-kill animal shelters.



Congratulations!

Photo by Alison Schuchs



At the December 9, 2017 meeting, several NMGMS members were awarded certificates for their 2017 SFMS Bulletin Competition winning entries. Congratulations to Nikki Kenney, Jim Roberts, Mike Schuchs, Marion Carr, Jake Carr, Nancy Roberts, Christy Paul, and Jennifer Eubank for their achievements and outstanding efforts toward making *The Nugget* a great publication. Your editor thanks you!

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: Dec. 9, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Maya, Alice, Sophie, Sydney, James, Julia, Levi, Hunter, Liam, Austin, Amelia, and Marion

Nov.18, 2017 meeting minutes as printed in the December 2017 Nugget approved after date fixed.

Treasurer's Report: The Closing Balance as of **12//10/2017** was given by Nikki Kenney.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be to Richardson Landing, Millington, TN, on Dec. 16th. Meet at 9a.m. in the Popeye's parking lot which is front of the Millington Walmart. This is a large Mississippi River gravel bar. We will be collecting agates, petrified wood, jaspers, chert fossils, and maybe even some Pleistocene fossils. Also there is an optional trip to nearby Sugar Creek at a cost of \$10 per car.

The Jan. field trip will be Jan. 27, 2018 to Alabama for Mississippian fossils.

Publicity: (John Byzet) We are getting very low on club brochures. We need to find a printer that can do them for about what we paid last time. We would like to get a few quotes.

Membership: (Ann Byzet) If you would like a copy of the NMGMS 2017 membership roster, see John Byzet. He also has the club patches and new member packets. **Also, it is time to renew your NMGMS membership for 2018. Dues are \$12 for individual and \$20 for family. Beth Thornton will be the new membership chair. 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.**

Minutes cont'd on page 9

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:

NMGMS Meeting Minutes: cont'd

Date: Dec. 9, 2017

Hospitality:

Refreshments: volunteers for Jan. 20th: Cassandra Carr and Cheryle Langford. Volunteers for February 10th: Hope Spencer and Alison Schuchs. 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) 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) Diana Watson and Krista Williamson have very graciously and enthusiastically agreed to assume those duties for 2018.

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) **Please turn in any 2017 club memorabilia to Cheryle Langford.** Ann Byzet will help as assistant historian. Anyone else wishing to help is more than welcome.

Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show: (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) Next month, we will need to start planning out the museum displays that we will be setting up the end of March.

Safety: (Mike Schuchs) **Mike Schuchs is our Lapidary Workshop Chairman.** If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions about the room or equipment, see Mike.

Old Business: 1. NMGMS made \$161 at the Link Centre's Holiday Market last weekend from jewelry and rock sales.

2. The 2018 NMGMS officers are as follows: **President, Nancy Roberts, Vice President, Mike Schuchs, Treasurer, Nikki Kenney, and Secretary, Paul Gunther.** Motions passed and all willing to continue to serve.

New Business: 1. Our SFMS membership is due to be renewed before the end of January. The amount due, based on the 2017 membership will be \$244.50. Our insurance renewal with the federation will be due in February, and the rate will probably go up. We paid \$2 per member last year. The rent on the Link Center room will be due by February 1st, and that rate may change also.

2. NMGMS won at least one, and it may be two if there are enough funds, of the SFMS workshop scholarships for next year's federation sessions at either William Holland or Wildacres.

3. I have reserved the upstairs conference room at the Link Center for a copper etching workshop on Saturday January 13th from 10a.m. until 4p.m. The \$30 class fee includes all materials, tools, and the use of the etching chemicals. The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. Please bring a brown bag lunch. The lapidary room will also be open at 10a.m. that day in room#136 for those members interested.

4. The January meeting will be at the library on January 20, 2018 from 1 to 3p.m. Program will be on plate tectonics presented by Dr. Jennifer Gifford, of the Univ. of Miss. Geology Dept.

5. The 2017 Bulletin Competition awards and certificates were presented.

6. The FRA badges and awards to junior members were presented.

Meeting Adjourned at noon

Submitted by Paul Gunther

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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.