

Photo by Alison Schuchs



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Nancy is
Field trip
Ready!



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

Happy Valentine's Day NMGMS! The club stayed busy this past January with a workshop, a meeting, and a field trip held during the month. Luckily, the weather cooperated, and we were able to hold our January field trip as scheduled. It looks like February will be a busy month too, with something scheduled for nearly every weekend. NMGMS is certainly having an active and fun start to this calendar year! I would like to thank Dr. Jennifer Gifford for her excellent presentation at our January 20th meeting. We all enjoyed her geology lesson and her overview of the history of plate tectonics. Thank you Dr. Gifford!

Sixteen club members were signed up to take our January 13th copper etching class. But due to this crazy flu season and winter weather, we ended up with 8 attendees, who managed to brave the sleet, snow, and frigid temperatures, make it to the class. It was a lot of fun, and everyone had a very enjoyable day. They learned a new technique, and some fabulous pieces were created. I would like to thank Cheryle, Nikki, and Clarice for braving the elements and helping to make this workshop a success.

NMGMS is doing quite well so far on its membership renewals for 2018. There are 78 members on the roster now for this year, and we still have renewals coming in. We've gained some new families and junior members too. This reminds me of a saying we had when I was in Girl Scouts: "Make new friends, but keep the old; one is silver, and the other's gold." Speaking of membership, we discussed at the last meeting a possible change in our club dues. I will admit that I am one to shrug and say to myself "here we go again", whenever an organization talks about raising fees, but there is a time when it does become a necessary task. There is such a thing as inflation, and our costs do go up. Our organization last raised the dues in May of 2012, which took effect in 2013. The increase, if we pass it, is mainly to cover our insurance and operating expenses. NMGMS has been trying very hard to cover the lapidary workshop rent from our auctions, rock, grab bag, and jewelry sales, and event tickets like the fishing game, spin and win, etc. So please come to the meeting, and let your voice be heard, so we can vote on this proposal at the March meeting. Since the dues are listed in the club's bylaws, we will need a two thirds vote of the members present.

Looking ahead, NMGMS has an enameling workshop coming up this month, as well as several field trips lined up, so be sure to check out the events listed in this newsletter, and watch your emails for details. Also, our club's April 14th Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the Oren Dunn City Museum will be coming up fast. I would like to encourage all of our members to participate in our museum display. Please look thru your rock collections, jewelry, fossils, etc. for specimens that you would be willing to loan the club for this event. Gather up what you are planning to loan NMGMS for the display cases and bring them to the February or March meeting, so that we can start making up the identification labels. We will be setting up the displays the last week of March, and they will remain up until the middle of May. Rocks, minerals, and fossils are all welcome. We will also be show casing jewelry pieces that were created at our club workshops, so please include a few of those for the display. The museum patrons love to see what we create! So take a few moments on these chilly days of winter to go thru your collection and pull out a few of your treasures to show.

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS February 10, 2018 Meeting

The February NMGMS meeting will be on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at the Tupelo library from 1-3pm. Program will be: "Fossil Corals and Sponges", given by NMGMS member Nancy Roberts. There will be lots of "show and tell" and "hands-on" participation by members during the program. Refreshments are courtesy of Alison Schuchs and Hope Spencer. There will be a short board meeting at 12:30 before the regular meeting.

Note! February meeting date is a week earlier than normal due to the library being closed on the third weekend of the month.

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

February 17, 2018: NMGMS Copper Enameling Workshop at the Link Centre, (See page 6 for details).

February 17, 2018: NMGMS Lapidary Workshop at the Link Centre, (See page 6 for details).

February 24, 2018: Joint field trip with ALMS to an Alabama gravel site, 9am to 3pm. Watch your email for details.

March 10-11, 2018: NMGMS weekend field trip to Cathedral Caverns, AL and Summerville, GA, (See page 7 for details).

March 17, 2018: NMGMS March meeting from 1 - 3pm at the Tupelo Library, program: Happy birthday NMGMS!

March 24, 2018: NMGMS workshop for the West Point Arts Council in West Point, MS, (See page 7 for details).

March 28-30, 2018: Oren Dunn City Museum (ODCM) display setup.

April 14, 2018: Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show, 10a.m.-4p.m. at the ODCM in Tupelo.

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, in 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, from 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

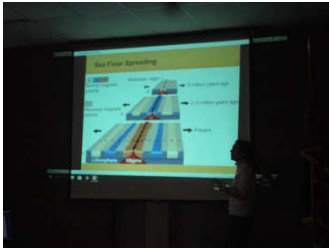
Saturday, April 28th, 9am-6:00pm, and Sunday, April 29th, 10am-5pm.

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

Meeting Program Review: NMGMS January Meeting Program

Photo by Nancy Roberts



At the January 20, 2018 NMGMS meeting, Dr. Jennifer Gifford presented members with a very thorough discussion on plate tectonics. When you look at a map of the earth, you can see by the shape of the continents that they look like they would fit together like pieces of a puzzle. Even many of the early scientists felt that the continents moved, but how was the question. As science and technology advanced, through the study of fossils and rocks across the continents, measurements showing the repeated changes of the earth's polarity, sonar to map the ocean floor, and many other discoveries, many of those early questions have been answered. Today, scientists can even measure the distance and direction that the crustal plates are moving.

Dr. Gifford explained how the mid ocean ridges are constantly moving apart, as molten material from the asthenosphere rises up and then settles as it cools; it is pushing the two oceanic plates apart and forming new oceanic crust. She went on to explain that this is a divergent boundary and is an active geologic place. There are constantly many earthquakes along the divergent plate boundaries, but most are small and in the middle of the ocean.

Convergent plate boundaries are where two plates are moving toward each other. For example, where an ocean plate meets a continental plate; here a subduction zone exists, and deep ocean trenches are formed. These zones are also active geologic places with volcanoes, earthquakes, and island arcs. Transform boundaries are where two plates are moving in different directions, and there are lots of earthquakes along these boundaries. One transform boundary that we are very familiar with is the San Andres Fault, where the Pacific plate is moving in a northwesterly direction and the North American plate is moving in a southeasterly direction. The closing topic of Dr. Gifford's program was "hot spots", and the one under Yellowstone National Park is being watched very closely! Everyone enjoyed Dr. Gifford's "Oreo cookie" tectonic demonstration. Needless to say, that was a yummy ending to a great program.

Nancy Roberts

NMGMS member "Show and Tell": Chainmaille

Photo by Alison Schuchs



Also at the January 20, 2018 meeting, NMGMS member Robert Langford (aka, the chainmaille man) had a very impressive display of some of his chainmaille accoutrements. It's incredibly amazing what can be made with a simple round piece of wire known in the lapidary/jewelry world as a jump ring. Some of the chain patterns formed are very intricate and beautiful. Robert even had a piece made with aluminum pop-tops! The ancient art of Chainmaille is an artistic form that is still very popular in the jewelry world today, and there

are even chainmaille classes taught at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts.

Nancy Roberts



Photos by Alison Schuchs and Nancy Roberts

Copper Etching Is Fun and Fetching, by Clarice Turner

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Copper etching is a fun and creative way to transform copper pieces into lovely wearable art. Copper is not the only "canvas" that can be used for etching, but it is the least expensive and is easy to cut. Other metals that can be used are: nickel silver, and brass. Sterling and fine silver require a nitric acid etchant.

NMGMS club members learned two ways to etch copper during a workshop held at the Link Centre on Saturday, January 13, 2018. They were able to try out a ferric chloride/citric acid solution and a hydrogen peroxide/muriatic acid mixture as etchants. President, Nancy Roberts gave an overview of the recommended safety procedures, the use of the different chemicals, and the steps involved in the etching process. Participants took copper pieces, finished the edges, cleaned the metal, and then applied a design to the surface using a Sharpie marker, ink stamps, or stencils. The ink or permanent marker provides the "resist" that allows the design

to remain after the metal has been etched. The etchant actually "eats" away the metal that isn't covered with the resist, leaving a raised design on the copper.

Robert Lane from Pulaski, MS commented that he enjoyed learning about the chemistry involved in etching, and the "chemistry mix" of the workshop participants was also enjoyable. Robert and his wife Leslie proudly showed their finished pieces, saying that they plan to do more etching at home. A variety of ways to patina the etched metal pieces were shown by Nikki Kenney and Cheryl Langford. Some of those methods were: antiquing with Liver of Sulfur, using a torch to apply a heat patina, or adding color to the piece with alcohol inks. Lastly, Nancy showed everyone how to make their own ear wires and ways to complete their pieces with leather, wire, and beads.

Several comments made during the workshop were: "This has been wonderfully therapeutic, and I learned a perfect way to make personalized gifts." Kellie Atkinson, Houston, MS.

"Today I enjoyed the time to create multidimensional art. I incorporated history and sacred geometry into my etched pieces." Joanna Morrow, Florence AL.

'Love everything we did today. I enjoyed working with everyone here and felt motivated to be more creative.' Raffieal Wallace, Tupelo, MS.

Most of the workshop attendees said that they plan to do more etching and will try brass or nickel silver. They will have fun being creative and enjoy making very fetching jewelry pieces in the New Year.



Photos by Nancy Roberts

Field Trip Reviews: NMGMS Field Trip to Alabama



Photo by Alison Schuchs

We had fun looking for fossils in Alabama. We found some pretty cool stuff. I collected lots of Bryozoans and horn coral. My favorite finds were the large pieces of fossilized coral. Submitted by Sydney Thornton

Good finds come to those who just sit on the rocks and don't wander! I found a large crinoid calyx, which had eluded me for several years, but there it lay, right beside me. Good fellowship too with our members, and the kids' enthusiasm was a joy to behold!

Submitted by Rebecca Vallarian

The collecting on the Alabama field trip was nothing short of a true treasure hunt! Around every bend in the river there were new fossils to be found. It was amazing to see so much diversity in a relatively small area. Hunter and I can't wait for an opportunity to collect there again. Submitted by Diana and Hunter Watson



Photo by Alison Schuchs

This was our first field trip with the group. We enjoyed the fellowship with the others and can't thank each of them enough for taking the time to make us feel welcomed. The way others help with identifying, to finding those special pieces, makes this group extra special. I love the field trip and the rock family. Walter says his favorite part was finding the coral, especially the pieces in the water. They really stood out.

Submitted by Kellie Atkinson

An easy and fun field trip! It was neat to come home with so many fun finds!!! Submitted by Hope Spencer



Photo by Alison Schuchs

I thought the location was beautiful. In my opinion, the site offered a wider range of fossils than some of the other sites that I have been to. Submitted by Krista Williamson

I thought the January 27th field trip was quite nice. The weather was unusually nice for January, and lots of fossils were to be found on the muddy shores of the lake. A great turn out with lots of experienced people on hand to help the new members figure out what to be looking for and answer questions. It was a nice Saturday afternoon spent out enjoying nature. Submitted by Paul Gunther

My dad and I found some fossils in the water. It was great. The swirly things (Archimedes spirals) are cool. I found fossils with Julia and had fun playing on the edge of the water. Submitted by Sophie Gunther



Photos by Alison Schuchs



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!

More Upcoming NMGMS Events: Club Workshops

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Copper Enameling Class, February 17, 2018 **Class is full!**

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 fold forming 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.

NOTE: Robert Langford will be on hand to demonstrate some chainmaille techniques. So while you are waiting for your rock to slab, try your hand at a little chain making. We are inviting the Rockheads to come by and bring a rock that they would like to have sawn open and to try their hand at some chainmaille. Junior members must be accompanied by a parent.

Club News: Equipment Sale!



Photo by Nancy Roberts

For sale by North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society:

Blake's Compact Gem Polisher, Model: 6XL, Serial#: 3343 Used, \$100 OBO

1/40HP 1500RPM 115volts Dayton, Motor Runs!

Included are some syringes of diamond compounds:

325 mesh equiv. - about 1 and 1/2 grams

600 mesh equiv. - about 3/16 gram

1200 mesh equiv. - about 3/16 gram

8000 mesh equiv. - about 1 gram

18,000 mesh equiv. - about 3/16 gram

50,000 mesh equiv. - about 1/8 gram

100,000 mesh equiv. - about 3/4 gram A small buffing pad on a mandrel is included with the 100,000 compound and about 1/4 of a bottle of Crystalube from Crystalite Products.

NMGMS Field Trip: March 10 and 11, 2018

Photo from the Cathedral Caverns Website



On Saturday, March 10, 2018 NMGMS members will meet at the Cathedral Caverns State Park Welcome Center, 637 Cave Road, Woodville, AL 35769 at 1p.m. We will plan to make the 2pm cave tour, and the junior members can try their luck at the gem flume. Rockheads' admission will be covered by the funds that they earned selling hotdog lunches at their Twenty Mile Creek cookout. If we have about 15 attending, we will get a discount. For more information about the park and cave,

check out their website: <http://www.alapark.com/cathedral-caverns-state-park-cave-tour>

Photo by Charles Carter



On Sunday, March 11, 2018 NMGMS members will rendezvous in Summerville, GA, at 10:30a.m.EDT. NOTE: This location is in the Eastern time zone, and we will have changed over to Daylight Savings Time the morning of March 11th, so be sure to take that into consideration when you estimate your driving times! We will be collecting the Summerville Agate at this locale.

Join us for both the cave tour and the agate collecting, or just pick which day you would like to do. If you are planning to make a weekend of it, the nearest hotels are in Scottsboro, AL. It is approximately a one hour drive from Scottsboro to Summerville.

Watch your emails for more details. (Editor's note: Jim and I are planning to book at the Red Roof Inn and I believe kids stay free.)

Copper Fold Forming Workshop:

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, tools, and the use of the 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

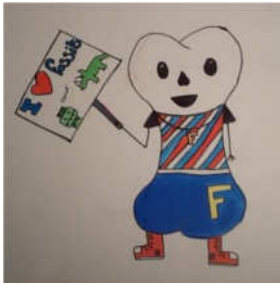
Again, we are asking that if you plan to come, please mail a check for \$40 to:

WP/CC Arts Council

P.O. Box 105

West Point, MS 39773

so that we receive it before Friday, March 23rd.



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins



February 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 January 20, 2018 Meeting:

Photo by Diana Watson



There were 7 members in attendance at the January Rockheads meeting. We learned about tectonic plates. We made edible tectonic plates with graham crackers and icing. We also had fun making our own volcanoes and erupting them.

Submitted by Sydney Thornton

Photos by Diana Watson, Krista Williamson, and Kellie Atkinson



Next Rockhead Meeting: February 10, 2018

Photo by Krista Williamson



The Rockheads will be learning about metamorphic rocks, which is the last installment in the "rock cycle series". We will also be doing a fun "hands-on" activity about metamorphic rocks.



Photo taken from a video clip by Kellie Atkinson



SFMS Federation News:

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies' Executive Meeting will be held on March 9-10, 2018. It is being hosted by the Aiken Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society and the Augusta Gem and Mineral Society.

Friday, March 9, 2018: Cracker Barrel – 7 PM – Meeting Room, Comfort Suites, 2911 River West DR, Augusta, GA, 30907

Saturday, March 10, 2018: Executive Meeting – 8:30 AM – Registration, 9 AM – Meeting, Meeting Room, Comfort Suites, 2911 River West DR, Augusta, GA, 30907

2018 Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show: The show will be held on March 9-11, 2018 at the SMITH CASINO ♦ 2200 BROAD ST. ♦ AUGUSTA, GA, Friday and Saturday, 10AM–6PM and Sunday, 11AM–5PM. Sponsored by Aiken Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society (<http://aikengmfs.org>) and Augusta Gem and Mineral Society (<http://agams.club>)

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/>

Editor's note: Mark Nelson, the AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Chair, has a column in the AFMS newsletter. In the most recent publication, Mark posted a list of the qualities of a good editor from Harold Evans in "Newman's English". I especially appreciated this one, as I realized I had been nearly three days at the computer putting this newsletter together: "Dedication to physical fitness in a trying, sedentary job that takes a toll on the stomach, eyes, and nerves." It also mentioned that the editor should have a sense of humor!

Quote reprinted from Volume 71, Number 3- February 2018, www.afms.org.

NMGMS January 20, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Paul Gunther

1. Our dues and insurance rates to the federation went up several years ago, and this year our insurance rate will probably go up again. Nearly all of the other clubs have raised their dues. We currently pay \$3.50 per member to SFMS for dues and insurance.

Our room rent at the Link Centre may go up this year. We have not heard anything yet. Many of the other clubs are charging a family rate and then an extra \$5 per child. Some are allowing adults to add grandchildren or other juniors that are not immediate family, if they pay the \$5 a head. Some clubs charge per adult and then add \$5 per child. NMGMS has not had a dues increase for a long time. We have some of the lowest dues rates of all of the clubs. We do not want to price ourselves out, and we want to keep up our family memberships, but we do need to consider a small fee for the kids. Suggested: \$15 for a single, \$25 per couple with \$4 per child

2. Susan Savarin had asked if we would sell some of her father's rock collection in order to help with her expenses, since she was not able to use the donation of the rocks and equipment as a tax deduction. We have managed to sell some of the rocks. Approved sending Susan some funds.

3. Nikki presented last year's income and expenses. Revisit budget for the lapidary equipment this year at a later time.

4. Decided to skip the Tannehill show this year.

5. To use the SFMS scholarship awards, NMGMS would like to send Paul Gunther to take the cabochon class. If we are awarded a second scholarship, then send Mike Schuchs also, or find another.

Adjourned at 12:50 pm

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:

NMGMS Minutes

Date: January 20, 2018

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Julia, Levi, Hunter, Walter, Sydney, Sophie, and Amelia

Introduce guests Dr. Jennifer Gifford.

The Dec, 9, 2017 meeting minutes as printed in the January 2018 Nugget were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of Dec. 31, 2017 was given by Nikki Kenney

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be Jan. 27, 2018 to Alabama for Mississippian fossils.

We will meet at the Belgreen, AL convenience store at 9a.m. We will reschedule to Feb. 3rd in case of bad weather. **There is a DMC field trip on Sunday, Feb. 11th to Summerville, GA for agate (looks kind of like crazy lace agate).** DMC trips are open to club members only. If you are interested, let me know, and I will give you the details. Your dues need to be up to date!

Publicity: (John Byzet) We are getting very low on club brochures. John has been getting a few quotes. Cheapest has been \$40 for 100 black and white brochures. John had given some quotes from two printers in Tupelo, at \$100 for 250 B&W or \$127 for 250 B&W, but Justin Thornton could have black & white copies made at a cost of \$.10 per copy or \$.20 for color.

Membership: (Beth Thornton) **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. Raising the club's dues was discussed and several suggestions were made.**

Hospitality: Refreshments: volunteers for February 10, 2018: Hope Spencer and Alison Schuchs
Volunteers for March 17, 2018: Nancy Roberts & Rebecca Vallarian
Volunteer to get the cake for our birthday March 17th: Cassandra Carr
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. Please help submit articles! 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) 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 28th. The exhibit will run until the middle of May. The Geology Fest and Fossil Road show event will be held on April 14th.

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 cont'd on page 11

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:**NMGMS Meeting Minutes: cont'd**Date: January 20, 2018**Old Business:**

1. Our SFMS membership dues have been paid. Their insurance renewal forms are not yet available on their website. The rate will probably go up.
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. We would like to send Paul Gunther to that class and Mike Schuchs if possible.
3. We had 8 attendees at our Jan. 13th copper etching workshop.

New Business:

1. Is there any member who has a particular display that they would like to do for the museum display? (Mike's petrified wood?) The Rockheads will do a case, as that would fulfill one of the requirements of the FRA showmanship badge. If you are willing to help with the displays or have any ideas for themes for the cases, please let me know. Rebecca will be revamping the "rocks like food" display, so if you have new pieces, please give them to her.
2. For the geology fest, we will be setting up the fishing game, the sandbox dig, making a gem tree, the spin and win, a bean bag toss, and maybe the fluorescent room. May set up a cabochon demo, if at all possible. Hopefully we will have all of the vendors back again. George Phillips will also be on hand to id fossils. I will need members to volunteer to man the activities, as well as our club info table, where we will be selling grab bags and activity tickets. **We need more rocks to use as bases for the gem trees and more 22 gauge craft wire.**
3. I have reserved the upstairs conference room at the Link Center for an enameling workshop on **Saturday, Feb. 17th from 9:30a.m. to 3p.m.** The **\$45** class fee includes all materials, tools, and the use of the enamels. The class is limited to 10 students, so sign up early. We are asking members to prepay for this class. Details are in the Nugget. The lapidary room will also be open at 10a.m. that day in room#136 for those members interested.
4. NMGMS has been invited again to set up an exhibit table at the MAGS show, **April 28th and April 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.
4. The February meeting will be at the library on **February 10, 2018** from 1 to 3p.m. Program will be on fossil corals. I hope to have a microscope for us to view close up some corals and bryozoan specimens. You will get to polish a coral piece to take home.
5. Our 2017 entries for the SFMS Bulletin Competition have been submitted.
6. Suggestions for a spring field trip: Spring break is late this year, **March 19th-23rd.** Take a look at Hogg Mine in GA, possible Cave Tour setup by Robert Langford, Lineville, AL for a possible gold trip, or back to the AR quartz mines.

*****Reminder:**

Please return the name tags to the basket before you leave.

Adjourned at 1:30

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.