



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



Photo by Jim Roberts

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

Happy New Year! 2016 is now behind us and we are at the threshold of a fresh new year. So, NMGMS, I ask you, what are we going to make of this new year ahead? As I reflected in my comments last month, the society had a phenomenal year last year. What with the growth of our membership numbers, our "new" lapidary equipment, and acquiring the room at the Link Center, we were taking the steps to becoming a more diverse rock and mineral club, with more opportunities to offer our membership. NMGMS did well with its operating budget, too. According to the treasury reports, our bank account ended the year above where we were last year at this time. Through our events, classes and workshops, plus jewelry sales and auctions, our club managed to increase its income sources, so that the club did not solely have to rely on dues to cover its operating expenses. Hopefully this will continue, so that NMGMS can keep up its lapidary workshop, add to the workshop tools and supplies, plus get more of the donated equipment online.

So now there is a new year ahead of planning meetings, setting up field trips, scheduling workshops and other events, etc. What can we add? Where can we improve? What should we change or do differently? Well, it looks like we have been doing a lot of things right, but there is always room for improvement. Planning the fun club activities is the easy part; coming up with fund raising activities is a little more challenging. Most clubs rely on their annual rock and gem show as their big money making event. Others hold a large auction. Planning and operating these fund raising events takes a big commitment from the membership and requires everyone's participation in order to be successful. Even though we had record growth in our club membership last year, we still have the same handful that attend the meetings and work the events. We need to encourage the rest of our members to participate. Believe it or not, they are missing out on a lot of fun, not to mention getting to learn new things and make new friends.

The new year is a time for resolutions too, so here is one that I want to make: to have the lapidary room open at least once a month, if not more. I plan to work on a schedule, so everyone will know ahead of time when the room will be open. I can have the room open on a weekday for those who would like to come in and have a "mini" jewelry workshop or work with the saws and whatever cab machines we have running. I would like to eventually see the room open at least one evening a month and one Saturday. Finding a free Saturday, with all of the other activities that NMGMS does, will be a challenge! Another resolution is, to get several club members competent enough with the equipment so that they can be instructors and lapidary workshop leaders, who will be in the room when the equipment is in use. We still have equipment that needs some work before it is in operating order, but we have this lapidary equipment, so let's make us of it!

If the January schedule is any indication, it looks like our organization will be having another great, fun filled and educational year. We will start out the new year with a couple of workshops at the Link Center on January 14th. Members will be learning how to do copper brazing upstairs in the conference room; while there will be a slab saw and cabochon workshop down in our room, #136. January 21st is the field trip over to Alabama for Mississippian fossils and then Jan. 28th is our regular meeting at the library featuring Dr. Jennifer Gifford as our guest speaker, whose program of, "Wait! Slow down! What was that again?" (Identifying rock structures as you drive), sounds so very interesting. Can't wait to hear that one!!

The Parsons field trip has been rescheduled for Feb. 4th and we are extremely fortunate to be hosting another Kim St. Jean, mixed metals class, on February 11 and 12th. We are so excited about having the opportunity to offer two great classes presented by a world renowned mixed metals jewelry instructor.

So, I guess you can see that the club schedule is already getting filled up and off to a good start! Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar!

Our Jan. meeting will be at the Tupelo library on ****January 28, 2017** from **1 to 3p.m.** Program will be, "Wait! Slow down! What was that again?" (Identifying rock structures as you drive), presented by Dr. Jennifer Gifford. ****Note the date change from our regular Saturday!** (You know you are a true rockhound when you want to stop and check out a road cut, or find every hill and dale interesting. Here's your chance to find out what you're looking at!!)

Refreshments provided by Dana Armstrong and Cheryle Langford

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

Jan. 14, 2017: Copper brazing and slab saw/cabochon workshops at the Link Center (See pg 3)

Jan. 21, 2017: Field trip to Alabama for Mississippian fossils. (See pg 3)

Feb. 4, 2017: Parsons field trip rescheduled (See pg 3)

Feb. 11th and 12th: Kim St. Jean Mixed Metals classes at the Link Center, 9 to 5p.m. (See pg 4)

Feb. 18, 2017: NMGMS February meeting, 1 to 3p.m. at the **Link Center conference room.**

Program TBA

NMGMS Members Take Note! 2017 Membership Dues

2017 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

Our club has a lot to offer, so please consider renewing in order to remain on the club roster and eligible for our field trips. Each and every member is important to our organization and we would hate to lose even one of you!

Show Dates: Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

February 25-26, 2017, Jackson, MS 58th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show
Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (MGMS) Saturday, February 25, 2017 – 9 am to 6 pm
Sunday, February 26, 2017 – 10 am to 5 pm Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, Jackson, MS
Admission: Adults \$6.00; Students; \$3.00; Scouts & Leaders in Uniform - \$2.00; Children 5 and under – free

Copper Brazing Workshop



Photo of pendant by Nikki Kenney

Want to learn a metal technique called copper brazing? If you do, come to the Link Center in Tupelo on **Saturday, January 14th**. NMGMS will be having a mixed metals class, upstairs in the conference room, from **10a.m. until 4p.m.** You will learn how to create a prong type bezel or frame for a stone, using copper wire and brazing rods. This is a great technique for making pendants with very "organic" shaped stones. It's really a fun project and the results will amaze you! The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. The **\$20 class fee** includes all materials, tools and the use of the torches. **Please bring a brown bag lunch.** There is a refrigerator available. Email or call, if you plan to attend. therockhoundlady@yahoo.com 731-689-5336

Slab Saw and Cabochon workshop

There will be a lapidary workshop in our room at the Link Center in Tupelo on Saturday January 14th, room#136. NMGMS member, Mike Schuchs 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 14inch saw is running and also two 10 inch saws. Two trim saws will also be in operation, so you will be able to draw a cabochon out on a slab that you have and would like to trim. We have a box of slabs that you can "play" with, if you don't have any of your own. **Roger Lambert will also be doing a cabochon demo and giving lessons on the Genie machine.**

The workshop space is limited, so sign up early. **Please bring a brown bag lunch.**

Email therockhoundlady@yahoo.com or mike.schuchs@syntronmh.com if you plan to attend.

Up Coming NMGMS Field Trips: Alabama

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The first NMGMS field trip for 2017 will be on **Saturday Jan. 21st** to collect Mississippian fossils from the Bangor Formation. We will be collecting fossils such as bryozoans, blastoids, brachiopods, and corals. We will meet at the gas station/convenience store in Belgreen, AL on Hwy 24 and 187, approximately 17 miles east of Red Bay, AL. at **9:00 a.m.**

Bring small containers, cardboard flats and a bucket for carrying your fossils and gear.

Newspapers, paper towels or aluminum foil is recommended for wrapping up those that are fragile. A rock hammer, chisel and something to pry with is 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. 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

Next NMGMS Field Trip: Parsons, TN Quarry, Feb. 4, 2017

Quarry photo by Nancy Roberts



Due to inclement weather, NMGMS has rescheduled the Parsons field trip to Saturday **Feb. 4, 2017** to the Vulcan quarry in Parsons, TN. We are allowed 25 members to attend. If you want to be added to the list, send an email to therockhoundlady@yahoo.com The quarry only allows members 18 yrs or older. We will be collecting Devonian age fossils.

Note: all members attending the Dec. 17th field trip are required to have **safety glasses**.

We will meet at the quarry office (small stone building with the radio antennae on top and inside of the stone entrance) **at 7a.m. sharp**, to sign the waiver, listen to a safety talk, and then be escorted back to the collecting area. **The quarry closes at noon, so we must be out before then.**

Mixed Metals Class: offered by Kim St. Jean



Photo by Kim St Jean

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is very excited to announce another Kim St. Jean Mixed Metals class to be held at the Link Center, 1800 West Main Street, Tupelo on Saturday, **Feb. 11, 2017 from 9a.m. to 5p.m.** The project that Kim will be teaching for this class is called “It’s a Wrap” bracelet (see photo) and all materials used to make this project are included in the class fee of **\$125** per student. All tools and equipment needed are also provided for use in the class. Seating is limited to 15 students, max., so be sure and get your class fee in early to hold your seat! Sandwich fixins will be provided and attendees are asked if they could bring fruit, salad or a dessert.



Kim St. Jean will be teaching the “Stone Hinge” pendant (see attached photos) project on Sunday, **Feb. 12th from 9a.m. to 5p.m.** at the Link Center. All materials used to make this project are included in the class fee of **\$125** per student. All tools and equipment needed are also provided for use in the class. Seating is limited to 15 students, max., so be sure and get your class fee in early to hold your seat! So, you can choose to take one class, or the other, or both! You'll use torches, files, hammers, sawing and soldering to create a piece that showcases the stones. Choice of metals and cabochon makes each piece unique.

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Make check to NMGMS and mail it to NMGMS/Mixed Metals Class P.O. Box 1445 Tupelo, MS 38802

Kim St. Jean is a renowned mixed metals jewelry teacher who has teaches classes at the William Holland Lapidary School, the John Campbell Folk Art School, Bead Fest, her home studio and for other clubs and organizations. Kim has two books published thru Kalmbach Publishing Co. and several online classes and videos thru Beaducation.com and Interweave.com, as well as being featured in beading and jewelry magazines. Kim’s classes always fill immediately and end up with waiting lists.

WOW! What an opportunity, to have such a well-known and well like jewelry artist come to us

If you have any questions, email Nancy at therockhoundlady@yahoo.com or call 731-689-5336

Drop a line to let Nancy know that you are registering, thanks.

This is going to be lots of fun and some great classes!

NMGMS Participates:

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was invited to participate in a Holiday Market at the Link Center in Tupelo on Dec. 17, 2016. 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 Center.

Photos by Alison Schuchs and Nancy Roberts



Club News:

The following are the results of the 2016 SFMS Bulletin Editor's Contest as announced at the Nov.20, 2016 SFMS Editor's Breakfast in Marietta, GA in conjunction with the SFMS Annual Meeting:

NEW EDITORS:

First Place – Nancy Roberts: *The Nugget*, October 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

ORIGINAL ADULT ARTICLES:

Fourth Place – Dana Armstrong: Rock Solid People – *The Nugget*, April 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Sixth Place – Clarice Turner: Mysteries of 'Stone Hinge' Revealed – *The Nugget*, February 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Seventh Place – Rebecca Vallarian: What I Did on My Summer Vacation – *The Nugget*, October 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Ninth Place – Belinda Loyd: Day Hiking Essentials – *The Nugget*, February 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Honorable Mention – Nikki Kenney: Downloading Videos – *The Nugget*, January 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Honorable Mention – Nancy Roberts: Let's Have Another Workshop – *The Nugget*, January 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

WRITTEN FEATURES:

Sixth Place – Brittani Lambert: November 21, 2015 Rockheads Meeting – *The Nugget*, December 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Seventh Place – Dave Hanes: Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) 2015 Quarterly Report – *The Nugget*, June 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Eighth Place – Jim Roberts: NMGMS Goes to Missouri – *The Nugget*, April 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Tenth Place – Nikki Kenney: Metalsmithing Tips – *The Nugget*, October 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Honorable Mention –Rebecca Vallarian: 'What A Field Trip' or Collecting Mississippian Fossils in Alabama – *The Nugget*, January 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Honorable Mention – Mike Schuchs: Safety is a State of Mind and Should be First in any of Our Plans – *The Nugget*, December 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Honorable Mention – Konrad Armstrong: My Science Project – *The Nugget*, April 2015; North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

[Reprinted from the December 2016 Lodestar](#)

Several NMGMS members, who write for the MAGS newsletter, took awards for their contributions to that very fine publication. They are, Matthew Lybanon, Carol Lybanon, Mike Baldwin, W.C. McDaniel, and Sherrie Baldwin.

Congratulations NMGMS! I would like to thank everyone who contributes to our newsletter, *The Nugget*. It's a great little newsletter, and your articles, reviews, tips and pictures make it more interesting for everyone who reads it. Makes the editor's job easier too! Thank You! Your editor, Nancy Roberts

Old Bones......all about collecting!

Paleontological Resources Preservation Act

P.L. 111-011 Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

Subtitle D--Paleontological Resources Preservation

Rin: 1093-AA16 Document3: 2016-29244

This Preservation Act puts in place rules and regulations on the collecting of fossils on federal lands, including those managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamations, the Fish and Wildlife Services and the National Forest Service. It is a rather lengthy and not always easily understood document, but all fossil collectors should at least be familiar with it. Check out **Subparts A, B, D, and I**

The Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are in the process of review and finalization. Public comments must be received by Feb. 6, 2017. It appears that the NFS has completed their review and has issued the final rule. See the links below for details.

The complete bill can be found at this weblink:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/07/2016-29244/paleontological-resources-preservation>

Considerable discussion and explanation can be found at the NPS weblink:

https://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/prpa_text.cfm

National Forest Service, final rule, summary and comments:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2015/04/17/2015-08483/paleontological-resources-preservation>

Meeting Program Review: NMGMS 2016 Christmas Party!

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



Photos by Alison Schuchs and Nancy Roberts



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins

Rockhead Officers:

President,

Konrad Armstrong

Vice President, James Carr

Secretary, Marion Carr

Jan. 2017



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts

latergator2003@yahoo.com

At the Dec. 10, 2016 meeting our NMGMS junior member advisor, Jim Roberts, awarded the Rockheads, James Carr, Marion Carr, Alice Carr and Sophie Gunther with the FRA badges that they had earned over the course of the year. Konrad Armstrong also earned some badges, but was unable to attend. Congratulations for a job well done!:



Photo by Nancy Roberts



Photo by Alison Schuchs

Also at the Dec. meeting, these Rockheads were awarded the NMGMS "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award, which they had earned. Kudos to the Rockheads for a great year!

Note: At the Jan. 28, 2017 Rockheads' meeting, you will be working with a variety of maps for the FRA Map badge. Please bring a map that you find interesting to the meeting. Meeting is from 1 to 2p.m. upstairs at the Tupelo library.

For more information about the FRA badge program, check out this AFMS website:

http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm



Federation News:

January 2017 SFMS 1st Quarterly Meeting Information

Hosted by Pinellas Geological Society, Largo, Florida

The Pinellas Geological Society invites all Officers and members of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., to join us for our 41st Annual Gem and Mineral Show held at the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Dr., Largo, January 13-15, 2017.

We have reserved a meeting room, as well as a block of hotel rooms, at the Holiday Inn Express, 210 Seminole Blvd., Largo Florida, 33770. The hotel is only a few blocks from the Show.

King and Queen rooms are available at \$89/night. Call the hotel at 727-581-3900 to make reservations, asking for the Pinellas Geological Society block. Complimentary hot breakfast is provided, and microwaves and minifridges are in all rooms. There is a heated swimming pool.

SFMS Events:

Friday 7 PM – “Cracker Barrel” at Holiday Inn Express

Saturday 8AM – Registration, 9AM Executive Meeting at Holiday Inn Express

Saturday, 6 PM – Club Dinner at a local restaurant TBA (Usually Golden Corral)

Sunday 12 – 5PM, Show at Largo Cultural Center

Reprinted from the December 2016 Lodestar

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/>



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Salttillo, MS 38866

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cherlang7@att.net

NMGMS Meeting Minutes**Dec. 10, 2016**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Jake, Mari, and Ali Carr; Sophie Gunther.

Introduction of guests: Edwin Faughn, Curator for the Rainwater Observatory at French Camp. New Members present: Bill Wardlaw, Elizabeth Hill

The Nov. 19, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as printed in the Dec. 2016 Nugget.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of Nov. 30, 2016 \$4645.84.

Review of Committees:

Field Trips: The group was reminded the next field trip is to Parsons TN on Saturday Dec. 17th, weather permitting. Participants are to meet at the quarry office at 7a.m. *(See email or Nugget for additional details)*

The Jan. field trip will be Jan. 21, 2017 to Lost Creek, Alabama for Mississippian fossils. Participants are to meet at the Belgreen store at 9am. *(See email or Nugget for additional details)*

The NMGMS spring break field trip will be March 11th and 12th to Missouri for drusy. A block of rooms will be booked for Fri. the 10th thru Monday the 13th for those who wish to stay over. Contact Nancy Roberts to reserve your room.

Publicity/Social Media: (John Byzet (Website)/Alison Schuchs (Facebook)) The club should start spreading the word about the April 8th Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the ODCM. 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. John Byzet & Alison Schuchs were awarded a "Thank You" gift for maintaining the NMGMS website and Facebook pages.

Membership: (Ann Byzet) It is time to renew your NMGMS member ship for 2017. Dues are still \$12 for an individual and \$20 for a family. The group and new members were reminded to sign the liability waivers that must be kept on file for field trips. If anyone needs a new member packet, contact Ms. Ann Byzet.

Hospitality:

Refreshments: Volunteers for Jan. 28th: are Dana Armstrong and Cheryle Langford.

Volunteers for Feb. 18th: are Rebecca Vallarian and Nancy Roberts. Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome!

Newsletter: (Nancy Roberts) A "Thank You" was given out by Nancy Roberts to all members that have written features or articles for The Nugget this past year. Our newsletter took 4th place in the new editor category of the 2015 AFMS bulletin competition this past July! 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 have completed several FRA badges and we have 5 of them who have earned the club's Junior Rockhound of the Year award! Badges and certificates were awarded to Jake Carr, Sophie Gunther, Alice & Marion Carr and Konrad Armstrong.

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) It's time to wrap up 2016, so that the club yearbook can be put together. Please turn in any 2016 club memorabilia to Cheryle Langford. Brenda Manning and Ann Byzet have volunteered to help as assistant historians.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) The Club is scheduled to hold another Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the ODCM on April 8, 2017. Set up of the display cases at the museum will be the last week of March and displays will run until mid-May of 2017.

Safety: (David Loyd) A "Thank You" was given out by Nancy Roberts and club members to Mike Schuchs for his safety contributions to The Nugget this past year.

Minutes continued on pg 10

NMGMS Meeting Minutes Dec. 10, 2016, cont'd:

Old Business:

- ❖ Any member that would like to use one of the Plexiglas cases to display their own collection during the Geology Fest & Fossil Road Show, contact Nancy Roberts. If you are unable to set up the case during the last week of March, the museum can open on April 1, 2017 for setups. Volunteers are needed to help with the displays or if you have any suggestions or themes for the cases, contact Nancy Roberts. One suggestion for was to display the FRA Badges that Junior Rockhounds could achieve.
- ❖ Our Jan. meeting will be at the library on January 28, 2017 from 1 to 3p.m. Program will be, "Roadside Geology", presented by Dr. Jennifer Gifford, of the Univ. of Miss. Geology Dept. ***Note the date change due to booking conflicts at the library!*
- ❖ Kim St. Jean will be teaching another mixed metals class @ the Link Center's conference room February 11th and 12th. The class will be from 9 to 5p.m. on Saturday February 11, 2017. The class project on the 11th will be a wrapped leather bracelet; cost, and official notice will be coming soon. There is a possibility of holding a second class on Sunday Feb. 12th, if there is enough interest in doing the Stone Hinge project again. Classes are limited to 15. The cost for each class is \$125. Anyone interested in either one or both classes, contact Nancy Roberts.

No further old business at this time.

New Business:

1. Our SFMS membership renewal (\$278.25) is due to by the end of January. There is a slight increase from last year due to the increase of membership to the club. The rent on the Link Center workroom will be due by Feb. 1st. Currently it's \$165 per month. A motion was made to pay both by the due date.
MOTION APPROVED AND SECOND
2. Work has started on a specimen box of MS rocks and fossils to send to the Venture CA club for their 2017 AFMS annual meeting display. The specimens must fit into a 2x1 1/2inch space. If you have any interesting pieces that you would like to donate for this, please bring them to the Jan., Feb., or March meeting. Fifteen (15) or twenty (20) specimens are needed to complete the box. Labels need to have specimen ID and at least the county where it was collected. The club will receive a box of CA rocks in return. AFMS meeting is in June.
3. A copper brazing workshop is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14th @ the Link Center from 10 - 4pm. Participants will learn how to braze copper wires together to form a wire frame or bezel for an oddly shaped stone. The class fee is \$20 and includes all materials, tools and the use of the torches. Sign up early, class is limited to 12 students. And bring a brown bag lunch. Also scheduled is a slab saw operation workshop @ 10 am in room #136 for any members interested. Bring a piece of rough that you would like to slab. If time allows, maybe a cabbing class can be fit into the day. Roger Lambert will check his work schedule for availability.
4. Nominations for the 2017 NMGMS officers are as follows: President, Nancy Roberts, Vice President, Mike Schuchs, Treasurer, Nikki Kenney, and Secretary, Paul Gunther. No other nominations were received. A motion was made to elect the slate of 2017 officers as presented. MOTION CARRIED AND SECOND. All current committee chairpersons agreed to continue to serve in their present capacity.
5. NMGMS will be setting up a jewelry sales table at the Link Center's Holiday market on Saturday Dec. 17th from noon until 4p.m. Nikki Kenney, Cheryle Langford and Elizabeth Hill volunteered to set up and man the sales table.

No further new business at this time. Meeting adjourned.