

Photo by Jim Roberts



## The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



Nancy

Collecting rocks!

Notes from the President's Desk.....Sept. 2016

Hello NMGMS! It's been awhile since you have heard from me; I hope everyone enjoyed their summer vacations. Seems like the summers go by very fast (or is it just that I'm getting older??), so it's hard to cram in all of the things that I'd like to do. Hopefully, you all were able to do some collecting, make a few lapidary projects, visit a neat museum or park, or at least stay inside, were it was cool, and get your collection organized. That last one is still on my "to do" list! Can't believe that Labor Day has come and gone and it's still hot. Guess summer just doesn't want to let go. I hope that things will cool off in time for our fall schedule of field trips. When I called the Parsons, TN quarry to inquire about scheduling a field trip there, I was told to wait until it got cooler. I asked if Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> would be cool enough; he chuckled and said "Hopefully!"

So, with fall fast approaching and the kids back in school, it's time to get back into our club activities. The first upcoming event will be the September meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. Mark this on your calendar and be sure to be there, as we are having a guest speaker coming from Texas. Russell Ferrell will be discussing his two books and showing a video on the Acrocanthosaurus dinosaur. Mike Schuchs will be officiating this meeting in my absence. Thanks Mike! Roger Lambert will be the field trip leader for the Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> trip out to the Blue Springs crab site.

It will be picnic time before we know it, and we will be needing items for the club auction. Anything is acceptable, from rocks, minerals, fossils, supplies, lapidary creations etc. If you are a lapidary artist, we would love to have something that you have created for this auction. Our club picnic is always a fun event for everyone and a great opportunity to spend time with fellow members after our summer hiatus. Also, the picnic/rock swap is your chance to swap out your extras for something different and pick up a bargain at the auction!

This coming fall, I plan to devote as much time as I possibly can to getting the rest of the lapidary equipment running, so that we will finally have a lapidary workshop at our Link Center room. This is a tall task, and one that I can't possibly do all on my own. So I am asking all members to lend a hand in whatever capacity that they can, even if it is just providing some needed supplies. There is still a lot of work to be done, but we will get there, if we all pitch in together. We acquired some more equipment from the estate of past NMGMS member, Bob Marshall, and I think a rock tumbler and cabochon machine were among some of the items. We acquired a lot of his rock collection too! Can't wait to get in the room and get busy!

As always, please bring anything that you have collected or made over the summer to our meetings for "show and tell". We all enjoy seeing and sharing our finds, etc. Happy rockhounding!

Nancy Roberts

## Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS September meeting

The September meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be from **1 to 3p.m.** at the Lee County Library on **Saturday, September 17, 2016**. The program, which follows the business meeting, will be given by Russell Ferrell, author of "The Bone War of McCurtain County" and "Acrocanthosaurus: The Bones of Contention" based on the true story of Cephis Hall and Sid Love, two amateur rockhounds who discovered and excavated one of the most complete Acrocanthosaurus skeletons to date.

Refreshments are courtesy of Dana Armstrong and Debra Boone. Come join us, and learn all about the finding and excavation of this fossil dinosaur.

### Other Upcoming Events:

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>: Field trip with MAGS to a north Mississippi gravel site operated by Memphis Stone and Gravel. For details, come to the Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> meeting or email [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)

Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>: NMGMS annual picnic and rock swap, starting at 1p.m. at the large pavilion in Ballard Park, West Main St. Tupelo, MS. .

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>: Copper Fold Forming Class at West Point, MS, 10a.m. to 4p.m.

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>: NMGMS meeting, 1 to 3p.m. at the library. Minerals and their uses program by Rebecca Vallarian and Konrad Armstrong



Photo by Nancy Roberts

### Up Coming NMGMS Field Trip:

The September field trip for NMGMS will be to the Blue Springs crab site in Union County on Saturday Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the site at 9a.m.

Along with collecting fossil crabs, you will find turtle and mosasaur bone, shark teeth and vertebrae, mollusks and bi-valves of all kinds, spiny lobsters, small corals, bryozoans and some nautiloids. This site is an Upper Cretaceous Coon Creek deposit.

Watch your email for directions.

For more information contact Roger Lambert, [roger.lambertjr@yahoo.com](mailto:roger.lambertjr@yahoo.com) or Nancy Roberts, [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)

## Fold Formed Copper Cuff Workshop

The West Point/Clay County Arts Council is hosting another wonderful day of jewelry design with the North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society. .  
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 cuff bracelet 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.

Please bring a brown bag lunch. There is a refrigerator and microwave oven available.

Creative possibilities are endless, so get ready for a fun day of working with metal and let your imagination soar!

**When: Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016**

**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](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com))

or Kathy Dyess, ([kathydyess@bellsouth.net](mailto: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 150](#)

[West Point, MS 39773](#)

so that we receive it before Friday, Oct 28th



Photo by Beverly Kraft

## NMGMS ROCK SWAP

7th Annual Rock Swap Picnic **October 22, 2016** at the large pavilion in Ballard Park , West Main Street/Highway 6, Tupelo, MS

We would like to invite all rock hounds from the surrounding areas to join our members for a day of great fun, trading and fellowship. There is no charge to attend or to set up and trade. The picnic is located in a large covered pavilion (on the west side of the lake) with many picnic tables. There is room to park and tailgate, so bring whatever you'd like to swap and trade with fellow rockhounds!

Indoor restrooms, bike path, outdoor skate park, lake, Oren Dunn Museum and children's playground are close by. Bring something to trade or just come by to join the picnic, look around and visit with fellow rock hounds. The Swap is from **1p.m. until 5 p.m.** (Set up to begin at 12:30p.m.) The Park closes at 10p.m. We will be having a club auction, as well as other donated items for sale, (donated items are most welcome!) NMGMS will have hot dogs, chips and drinks. **Members are asked to bring a dessert and folding chairs.**

## NMGMS Announcements:

Photo by Dana Jones



### Arch Murphree

Arch Ernest Murphree III, a North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society founding member, passed away Friday August 12, 2016 at his home in Tiplersville. He was born on July 1, 1946 to Arch Ernest Jr. and Ardith Irene Carter Murphree in Clarksdale. He was a veteran of the United States Army. Before retiring, Arch was employed at Jessco-Cooper Tire. He was a member of the New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church.

Arch Murphree served NMGMS as Vice President and as the club's second president for two years. He was also very active at the William Holland Lapidary School and he taught classes in working with opals.

### Robert Langford:

Robert Langford's triple bypass surgery went well. They also inserted a pacemaker. He is now out of CCU and in a room at the Tupelo hospital. We are all wishing Robert a speedy recovery.

## Show Dates:

**HGMS Huntsville, AL show      **October 7, 8, & 9, 2016****

**48th Annual Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show    Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society –  
Huntsville, AL    Fri: 10AM to 6 PM;    Sat: 10 AM to 6 PM; Sun: Noon to 5 PM**

Jaycees Community Building - 2180 Airport Rd.. Huntsville, AL

Located west of Memorial Pkwy & east of Leeman Ferry Rd.

North of Airport Rd. Turn North at Jaycee Drive @ the traffic light.

18 Dealers with Minerals, Gems, Jewelry, & Fossils    Display Cases, Demonstrations, & Hourly Door prizes, Mining Flume, Fluorescent Room, & Gem Dig for Children

\$3.00 donation at the door, children under 5 - Free. Weekend passes available for \$5

A Snack Bar will be available during the Show, and there will be plenty of FREE parking for everyone.

## Bead Soup: A place to talk "shop"!    By Nikki Kenney

When riveting one piece of metal to another, tape the flat end of the rivet to the outside of the metal to hold it in place while you hammer the other end.

To make a wrapped loop to connect a bead, clasp, etc. to a chain, make the loop in one end of your wire, then



thread the loop through the link of the chain. Grasp the loop with bent nose pliers, having the tip of the pliers facing the back of the loop, thus enclosing the loop and the link of chain. Wrap the tail end of the wire two times around the loop. Clip the wire close to the loop, and file or crimp the cut end to ensure there is no roughness to snag clothing or scratch the wearer.

Photo by Nikki

Liver of sulfur (LOS), when used cold, will give colors similar to the patina acquired with a torch, and has a look like oil on water. Just dip the item and rinse repeatedly until the desired effect is achieved.



An inexpensive plastic coffee filter with a nylon mesh basket will work in your pickle pot, or your LOS to contain small items such as findings and jump rings, thus making them easy to retrieve from the solution. The small plastic tray that comes in a jar of jewelry cleaner also works well, and the attached stem makes it easy to lift out of the solution. Line the bottom of the tray with a small piece of used dryer sheet, cut to size, to keep small items from falling through the holes. The basket or tray containing your small items can then be placed directly into the rinse water.    Basket Photo by Nikki



## Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins

### Rockhead Officers:

**President,**

Konrad Armstrong

**Vice President,** James Carr

**Secretary,** Marion Carr

Sept. 2016



[www.amfed.org/fra/fra\\_badge.htm](http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm)

**Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts**

latergator2003@yahoo.com

### Rockheads Review: By Alice Carr



Alice Carr has been busy making earrings (with a little help from her Nana) for the Mimosas & Masterpieces Festival, on Robins St, Tupelo, August 6th. She made 36 pairs. Alice says, "Beads are Beautiful, all of them", she doesn't have a favorite and she wants to help NMGMS. She loves going to the Rockheads' meetings, and one of her favorite activities was when she helped paint Jupiter. "We learn a lot" she said.

Photo of Alice by Alison Schuchs

## Next Rockhead Meeting: Sept. 17, 2016

The next Rockhead meeting will be from 1 to 2p.m. in the conference room at the library on Saturday, Sept. 17th. Alison Schuchs will be your program director. Should be fun!

### Community Service:

NMGMS would like to thank Rockhead, Konrad Armstrong for his participation in helping with the minerals program at the Oren Dunn City Museum's summer camp this past June. Konrad also did a mineral program for his local vacation Bible school's summer camp Thank you, Konrad, for sharing your knowledge and interests with your community.

## 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. There are several Rockheads who have already completed the three requirements for the NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Award, which 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](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) . It doesn't need to be long or complicated!

If you need to do a display, bring one along to any of the next few meetings.

## NMGMS Participates:

Over the summer months, several NMGMS members participated in local events.

In June, Rebecca Vallarian and Konrad Armstrong presented a "Minerals and Their Uses" program for the Oren Dunn City Museum's summer camp participants.



Photo by Rae Mathis ODCM

In August, Nikki Kenney, Debra Boone and Jennifer Eubank represented NMGMS by setting up a booth at the Mimosas and Masterpieces Art Festival in Tupelo. They were selling handcrafted jewelry pieces made by club members and donated to NMGMS.



Photo by Alison Schuchs

## Safety: Work safely so you can do it again By Mike Schuchs

Most snake bites occur in the spring and fall when both humans and snakes are more active together in the great outdoors. Now that the weather is cooling off, we are all thinking of good places to go rock hunting, and the snakes are looking for a good meal before they turn in for the winter. We need to avoid each other. You may not believe this, but it is a fact, that snakes are just as wary of you, as you are of them. The majority of snake bites are the result of people trying to catch, handle or kill a snake. No one has ever been bitten by a snake that they were running from.

It has been estimated that 7,000–8,000 people per year receive venomous bites in the United States, and about 5 of those people die. Most fatal bites are attributed to the eastern and western diamondback rattlesnake. Of the 6 US fatalities in 2015, 1 was a suicide by pet cobra, one was part of a church service, and the others either did not seek medical help, or received it too late.

Closer to home, Mississippi has had the occasional fatal snake bite. Here are a few tips for staying safe and out of the snake bite statistics:

- Hunt in groups of loud, stomping, noisy people. You don't have to sneak up on rocks. Snakes have no ears but can detect vibrations.
- Try to wear at least ankle high boots and thick socks. Many snake bites are on the foot or ankle.
- Loose fitting pants can help protect your legs.
- Never stick your hands in crevices, cracks or holes that you cannot see into entirely, and always look around before you pick up anything, as many more bites are to the hands.
- Avoid weeds and brush where you cannot see the ground well.
- Carry and use a stick, cane or pole to poke, prod and pry.
- Don't use the stick to attack the snake, just move away and warn others.
- If you do not have enough phone service to dial 911, make sure you have a plan.
- Avoid church services that use poisonous snakes.

These tips are generalized for rock collecting. There are other tips for hunters, swimmers, fisher folk and people that work in the outdoors. If the pretty rock you are about to pick up is long and tapered, use a stick!



### Federation News:

The 2016 annual meeting of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies will be hosted by the Cobb County Gem and Mineral Society of Marietta, GA on November 18-20, 2016. Check out the SFMS website for more details.

**For Federation news, please check out these websites:**  
<http://www.amfed.org/>      <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>





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## Editor's Note:



Be sure and catch a glimpse of the September "Corn or Harvest" moon on Friday September 16, 2016.

While enjoying the clear night skies of Vermont this summer, I have been taking sky charts out with me and adding lots of star and constellation id's to my repertoire. Looking at the Milky Way through a pair of binoculars is an awesome experience. I've even spotted the galaxy of Andromeda; it's only a glowing smudge through

binoculars, but exciting to behold anyway. Being away from city lights can have its advantages! Next time we have an overnight field trip, I'll "walk" you around the sky. Now, if only I could find a meteorite!

Nancy Roberts

Photo by Nancy Roberts