

Photo by Beverly Kraft



## The Nugget

*North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter*



Annealing Copper

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

Happy Holidays! Here we are again, at the close of another fantastic year for the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society. The year goes by so very fast, but we always manage to fill it up with lots of great things. It was just one year ago, that we first discussed the acquisition of some used lapidary equipment from Huntsville and the possibility of finding a place for it. Here we are now, off to a good start, with a room set up at the Link Center and some of the equipment in running order. NMGMS also inherited more lapidary equipment and supplies this summer, so our lapidary workshop is beginning to look like a reality. With the equipment now under our belt, our next goal is to get enough members trained on the use of the saws, grinders, and polishers, so that we can set up some shop "open" hours and hold classes in there for the rest of the membership. It's been at least 25 years since I made any cabochons, so I will need training too!

Having the room at the Link Center for our lapidary workshop has opened up other opportunities for us, also. We have access to the Center's large upstairs conference room, so NMGMS was able to hold several copper and jewelry making workshops in there this year. This has allowed us to expand our lapidary/metalsmithing techniques, since we can now use torches and other necessary supplies that we couldn't use at the library. Having the club's workshop room downstairs with all of the tools, supplies, materials, etc. makes it so convenient. I am hoping that we see a lot more activity and use at this facility in 2017.

In looking back over the last 12 months, I see that we had some fantastic programs and field trips, too. NMGMS started the year off with an excellent presentation on earthquakes given by Dr. Terry Panhorst, and ended it with a fun hands on minerals program by Rebecca Vallarian and Konrad Armstrong. Our 2016 field trips covered a wide range of interests, from collecting quartz crystals in Mt. Ida, AR to discovering beautiful plant fossils in the surface coal mines of Alabama. We even went panning for gold this year! NMGMS members worked with wire and copper at several of our club workshops, where they learned to make bangle bracelets, to do fold forming and lots of other fun jewelry techniques.

Our NMGMS junior Rockheads group also had a good year, with lots of fun projects at their meetings, as they continue to work on the FRA badges. NMGMS now has 7 of our Rockheads listed on the AFMS honor roll as having earned the Rockhound badge. Check out who they are at, [http://amfed.org/fra/honor\\_roll.htm](http://amfed.org/fra/honor_roll.htm) I am hoping that they will continue their good work and maybe one, or several of them, will earn the title of "Rock Star" by getting all 20 of the FRA badges from the American Federation. The challenge is on!

On another note, our 2016 Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show was a huge success. So much so, that NMGMS has been asked to hold this event at the Oren Dunn Museum on an annual basis. We are now gearing up for our next Fest, which will be held on April 8, 2017. So, as you can see, this past year was a pretty fun and exciting one. NMGMS also set a record as to the number of paid memberships for one year. Hopefully we can keep this momentum going, by moving forward with our lapidary room, and continuing our phenomenal programs, field trips and workshops. I am looking forward to the coming year, and I hope that you are too. I think we will see lots of new and exciting developments, as our organization continues to grow. Our club has a lot to offer, so please consider renewing your membership in this very fine organization. Roll up your sleeves and get ready for a fun filled, adventurous 2017! Nancy Roberts

## Mark Your Calendar!



### NMGMS December meeting: **The Holidays are coming!**

The NMGMS annual Christmas party and potluck luncheon will be on **Saturday Dec. 10, 2016 from 11 until 3p.m., upstairs at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo, MS.**

The club will provide a ham for the party and **members attending are asked to bring a potluck dish to share.** We will have a gift exchange also. If you wish to participate, please bring a gift (\$10 max) and label it either as a man, woman, or child's gift. We are also asking members to please bring a few canned goods or other nonperishable food items for our club's contribution to a local food pantry. We will also participate in the "Toys for Tots" program, so please bring a new toy to donate. The toys will be dropped off at the Oren Dunn Museum after the party.

**We will be doing the "Night before Christmas" ornament exchange. If you would like to participate in the game and ornament exchange, just bring an ornament. They can be handmade or store bought. Everyone that brings an ornament will go home with one.** Hope to see everyone there to help NMGMS celebrate another great year. Remember, this is when NMGMS passes out badges, awards and certificates to members for their accomplishments.

Photo by Nancy Roberts

## Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

**Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>:** Field trip for Devonian fossils at the Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, TN. (See pg 3)

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

**\*Jan. 28, 2017:** NMGMS Jan. meeting, 1 to 3p.m. at the Tupelo library. Program: Roadside Geology by Dr. Jennifer Gifford, Univ. of Miss.

**\*Note: the Jan. meeting is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. due to scheduling conflicts at the library.**

## NMGMS Members Take Note! **2017 Membership Dues**

2017 is fast approaching 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](http://www.nmgms.org)

## Next NMGMS Field Trip: Parsons, TN Quarry, Dec. 17, 2016

Quarry photo by Nancy Roberts



NMGMS has a field trip scheduled for Saturday **Dec. 17, 2016** to the Vulcan quarry in Parsons, TN. We are allowed 25 members to attend and I have 19 on my list so far. If you want to be added to the list, send an email to [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) If you have already signed up for this field trip and find that you can't make it, please let Nancy Roberts know. The quarry only allows members 18 yrs or older.

**Note:** all members attending the Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> field trip are required to have **safety glasses**, so be sure you have yours!!

The Parsons facility is huge and we have a very large area in which to collect. Be prepared to do some clambering over the tailings piles; they can be a bit steep. There are plenty of easier collecting spots along the quarry roads where we will be. The Devonian fossils are very abundant here; you can't help but step on them! Large crinoid stems and some calyxes, many brachiopods, bryozoan, several types of coral and quite a few trilobites can be found. No one goes home empty handed!

**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 in, 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.** Quarry phone # 731-847-3211

Everyone has to sign the quarry waiver when you get there.

## 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.** Watch your email for more details.

## Club News:

The following slate of officers for 2017: President, Nancy Roberts, Vice President, Mike Schuchs, Treasurer, Nikki Kenney, and Secretary, Paul Gunther, will be presented for election by the membership at the Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## On the Hunt for Mosasaurs and Sea Turtles in Chickasaw County

By Beverly Pettigrew Kraft



A trail through thick cedars ended abruptly at the edge of the abandoned lime quarry at Trebloc. Oyster shells littered the sloping margins, and marcasite nodules dotted acres of powdery, pale gray soil. I resisted the urge to gather a bucket full of *Exogyra* and other primitive fossil oysters, but selected a few specimens. I did collect a bag full of marcasite. The new curiosity will have to be bagged for storage to avoid contact with any good fossils. Marcasite, akin to pyrite, destroys any fossil that it touches. Nancy Roberts sniffed her hand and got a whiff of sulfur from the marcasite. This is iron sulfide, and it breaks down to sulfuric acid. I was glad to be wearing gloves.

The Trebloc quarry in Chickasaw County is Cretaceous age Demopolis Chalk. Today, a few scrubby cedars, dwarfed by the alkaline soil, and occasional clumps of sage grass, eke out an existence on an otherwise barren and dry expanse at about 300 feet above sea level. But 70 million years ago, this was an ocean teeming with life. The morning sun glinted off a small, brown tooth with a serrated edge. Nancy confirmed it as *Squalicorax*, a prehistoric shark. I was lucky to find two more during the day.

David Kraft was the first to spot a mosasaur vertebra far out into the quarry during the Nov. 5 hunt. He dug and found two more. By the end of the day he had found seven. I was ecstatic to find one. When David later found turtle bones, someone declared him a “fossil magnet.” My orange turtleneck sweater, shed earlier as the day warmed, provided a good cushion for the delicate pieces.

Rebecca Vallerian showed Nancy a piece of bone. “Is this old?” “It’s old,” Nancy confirmed. They hurried back to the spot and started to excavate. A broken piece of modern day animal bone, collected nearby, provided a handy digging implement. Rebecca’s find appeared to be part of another turtle.

A corner of thin, sharply pointed shell protruded from the gray soil. I scratched away the dirt, taking care not to break this possibly fragile piece. It turned out to be the buried empty seed pod of a trumpet vine. Later, as I scanned the ground near the edge of the quarry, I picked up two striated, brick red pieces. “What are these?” I asked Nancy. “Brick,” she said. I felt dumb as a brick. A walk through the field of fossil abundance had lulled me into thinking everything must be Cretaceous.



Photos by Beverly Kraft and Nancy Roberts



## Meeting Program Review: Minerals We Use Every Day



Well done Konrad and Rebecca!!

At the Nov. 19, 2016 NMGMS meeting, members were treated to a very fun and informative “hands on” minerals program. Konrad Armstrong and Rebecca Vallarian did an excellent job of presenting information on an array of the minerals that we use every day, as we go from brushing our teeth in the morning, to having a snack in the late afternoon. Did you know that you were eating titanium dioxide when you put a hand full of those colorful M&Ms in your mouth?? Well, now we know!



We learned about minerals that we eat; those that we use in getting ready for the day, as well as those that we use throughout the day, like when doing the wash, cooking, and many other uses. Wow, minerals are really a very big part of our everyday lives and are very important to our wellbeing and lifestyles.

Nancy Roberts



Sulphur, PU!



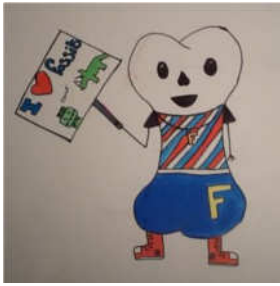
They held a rapt audience too!

Photos by Nancy Roberts and Alison Schuchs

Check out the short video and other photos that are posted on the NMGMS Facebook page!

### Starting the New Year...2017

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!!)



## Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins



Dec. 2016

### Rockhead Officers:

**President,**

Konrad Armstrong

**Vice President,** James Carr

**Secretary,** Marion Carr

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

**Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts**

latergator2003@yahoo.com

Photo by Alison Schuchs



Rockheads Meeting: Nov. 19, 2016

In attendance were: Marion Carr, Alice Carr, Liam Langford, Sophie Gunther, Alison Schuchs, and Mr. Jim Roberts

We are making crystals. We made lots of different shapes.  
by Marion Carr

Submitted

Photo by Nancy Roberts



### Mineral Program Review: by Sophie Gunther

The demonstration was fun and educational. The gold used in electronics was so sparkly and yellow. Rubbing the pennies together and smelling the copper on my hands was gross. The sulfur from matches was stinky. The ground up garnets on the sandpaper was rough. The talc used in talcum powder that was passed around was really soft and felt smooth. The fluoride in toothpaste had a shimmer to it.



After the regular meeting, some of the Rockheads ventured over to the Lapidary Room at the Link Center and learned about shop safety.

Photo by Alison Schuchs



## Federation News:

The SFMS (Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies) quarterly meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express on Seminole Blvd, Largo FL (across the park from the Pinellas Geological Society's show) on Saturday, January 14, 2017, 9 AM - 12 Noon.

A Cracker Barrel is held the evening before (Friday the 13th from 7-9 PM) to informally discuss some of the issues that may arise at the more formal meeting on Saturday. These meetings and a block of hotel rooms will all take place at the Holiday Inn Express. January 13, 14, and 15, 2017 Hosted by the Pinellas Geological Society, Inc. Largo Cultural Center, Largo, FL

The SFMS Newsletter, the Lodestar, and the AFMS Newsletter are available for all members to read on line

## Show Dates: Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society

**36th Annual Earth Treasures Show Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, & Fossil Show & Sale**

**December 10-11, 2016 Sat 9:00 AM - 6:00PM Sun 10:00 AM - 5:00PM**

**Williamson County Ag Expo Park 4215 Long Lane Franklin, Tennessee 37064**

Mineral:
Locality:
Catalog number:
Date collected:
Collected by:

## Safety: Labels are Important! By Mike Schuchs

Recently our club undertook the task of helping to identify and dispose of the assets of an avid collector who had crossed over to the giant jasper cube in the sky. The collection is interesting, large and beautiful, with most everything tagged for ID. One of the items was a sample in a vial of clear liquid; another was a pliable strip being used as a sort of book mark. Neither of the aforementioned items were labeled. One member suggested the blue minerals in the vial might be a dangerous copper mineral; maybe it is. One member recognized the pliable, white, fibrous book mark as asbestos gasket material, or maybe some sort of candy(?). Hmmm, and we thought proper labels were just being a little too OCD.

(Editor: QED...You may know what it is, but the next person may not.)

Here is a site you may want to visit. <http://www.geologyin.com/2015/01/killer-minerals-worlds-10-most-deadly.html>  
If you can't access the site, at least take the time to look at the beautiful (except for ugly Hydroxyapatite) minerals in this list and learn the hazards.

*Chalcanthite, Hutchinsonite, Galena, Asbestos, Torbernite, Erionite,*

*Cinnabar, Phenacite, Stibnite, Hydroxyapatite*

For more information on why and how to label a collection:

<http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/jhbnyc/articles/labels.htm>

<http://www.mindat.org/article.php/1263/Making+Labels+for+Mineral+Specimens>

## Mixed Metals Class: offered by Kim St. Jean



Photo by Norm St. Jean

Kim and Norm St. Jean will be coming to Tupelo again in February of 2017 to teach another mixed metals class for NMGMS. We have already booked the Link's Center conference room for the weekend of Feb 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. **The class will be from 9 to 5p.m. on Saturday February 11, 2017. Reserve that day!** The class project on the 11<sup>th</sup> will be a wrapped leather bracelet (see the above photo); cost, and official notice will be coming soon. There is a possibility of holding a second class on Sunday Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, if there is enough interest in doing the Stone Hinge project again. Kim has a unique way of doing hinges and this project is a great way to learn how to incorporate movement into a jewelry piece.



Stone Hinge Pendant by Justin Hobart (Photo by Nancy Roberts)

## NMGMS 2016 Officers:

President/Field Trip Chair:

Nancy Roberts

25 Amber Lane

Counce, TN 38326

(731)689-5336

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

Vice-President:

Mike Schuchs

1148 Lake Dr.

Fulton, MS 38843

(662)862-3160

[mike.schuchs@gmail.com](mailto:mike.schuchs@gmail.com)

Secretary:

Belinda Loyd

7834 Cherry Valley

Southaven, MS 38671

901-605-9772

[bloyd\\_utlady@yahoo.com](mailto:bloyd_utlady@yahoo.com)

Treasurer:

Nikki Kenney

PO Box 808

Tupelo, MS 38802

662-844-6142

[nmgms@comcast.net](mailto:nmgms@comcast.net)

## Committees:

Publicity Chair/Web Master

John Byzet

1209 Queensgate Dr

Tupelo, MS 38801

(662)844-9841

[wa4iax@comcast.net](mailto:wa4iax@comcast.net)

Membership:

Ann Byzet

1209 Queensgate Dr

Tupelo, MS 38801

(662)844-9841

[annbyzet@comcast.com](mailto:annbyzet@comcast.com)

Hospitality:

Rebecca Vallarian

308 Meadowbrook Circle

Armory, MS 38821

(662)256-2040

[janiegirl@vallarian.com](mailto:janiegirl@vallarian.com)

Historian:

Cheryle Langford

121 Willow Creek Rd

Saltillo, MS 38866

662-869-2278

[cherlang7@att.net](mailto:cherlang7@att.net)



**NMGMS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes****Date: November 19, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was held on Saturday, November 19, 2016 from 12:35 to 1:00pm @ the Lee County Library in Tupelo. The meeting was called to order by the president of the club, Nancy Roberts.

**Members Present:** Nancy Roberts, Nikki Kenney, Belinda Loyd, John Byzet and Mike Schuchs.

**Treasurers Report:** Closing balance as of Oct. 31, 2016 was \$4402.86 which included some jade that was sold.

**Discussion:** A new email address ([nmgms2001@gmail.com](mailto:nmgms2001@gmail.com)) has been set up to be used in conjunction with the clubs PayPal account. This was setup to facilitate the transfer of funds from online sales of rocks, miscellaneous club equipment and club dues only. The club has sold a few items from the donated Bob Marshall collection. The PayPal account is active, and if any member wishes to pay their dues by PayPal, please add \$1 to cover the processing fee.

The Link Center is over flowing with rocks and equipment. The club has sold some of the rocks from Bob Marshall's collection to help pay for the room's rent. It is suggested the club sell some of the equipment that won't be used. A motion was made to sell one (1) 10" saw & one (1) 12" saw. Price to be determined after further research. MOTION CARRIED AND SECONDED.

The Link Center rent will be due again Feb. 1, 2017. There is a possibility it will be raised again. Coordination on how and when to volunteer for events or work with the Link Center has been unsuccessful. A new office person is supposed to be working on this issue. Following some discussion, the Board agreed to stay at the agreed maximum amount of \$200 monthly for rent.

Due to holiday closings at the Library, the Jan. meeting will be on the 28<sup>th</sup>, a week later than our usual time; and the Feb. meeting will be at the Link Center. The club program can be a lapidary/ jewelry type program upstairs and a saw/cabochon program downstairs.

Nancy Roberts is working on getting Kim St. Jean to teach another class for the club on Feb. 11, 2017 at the Link Center. She will also try to setup a club workshop for Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> and/or Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps, copper brazing or some simple soldering and making stack rings.

2017 officer nominations are needed. Slate for officers is as follows:

- Nancy Roberts, President
- Mike Schuchs, Vice President
- Nikki Kenney, Treasurer
- Paul Gunther, Secretary

It was discussed getting at least one cabochon machine running and try to setup a room schedule to make it possible to start using the room as a lapidary workshop. Also discussed was the possibility of a club member getting cabochon lessons or attending another club's workshop for training. Perhaps Roger or Mathew Lambert could conduct a lesson or two.

Discussion moved to whether the club would want to keep the dues the same for another year? The motion was made to have the dues remain the same. MOTION CARRIED AND SECONDED.

It was mentioned the club should start working on the 2017 Geology Fest and museum displays scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:58pm.

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



**NMGMS Meeting Minutes****Nov. 19, 2016**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Konrad Armstrong

Introduction of guests and new members...Jane Coryell

The Sept 17, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as printed in the October. 2016 Nugget

**Treasurer's Report:** Closing Balance as of Oct 31, 2016 \$4406.86. This included the \$288 from the picnic.

**Review of Committees:**

**Field Trips:** The next NMGMS field trip will be to the Vulcan Quarry in Parsons TN on Saturday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. Participants will meet at the quarry office at 7a.m. This field trip is limited to 25 members and only over 18yrs. old. The Jan. field trip will be Jan. 21, 2017 to Lost Creek, Alabama for Mississippian fossils. Members were asked if there was an interest in planning a spring break field trip. Members agreed on a field trip to Missouri for drusy.

**Publicity:** (John Byzet) More announcements and photos are being posted on the NMGMS Facebook page and the website. Please send photos to John for posting.

**Membership:** (Ann Byzet) The total membership count for 2016 is 159 members. We have 120 adults and 39 junior members. Also, it's time to renew your NMGMS membership for 2017. Dues are \$12 for individual and \$20 for family. Dues can also be paid through PayPal. Please include \$1 for the processing fee. If anyone needs a new member packet contact Ann Byzet.

**Hospitality:**

Refreshments: Mike Schuchs volunteered to do the ham for the Christmas party pot-luck luncheon on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. All members attending the luncheon are asked to bring a casserole, salad or dessert. The two volunteers for Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> meeting is Dana Armstrong and Cheryl Langford. Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome!

**Website:** (John Byzet) The updated NMGMS constitution and bylaws has been posted on the website, as well as previous issues of The Nugget. Check us out at [www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org)

**Newsletter:** (Nancy Roberts) The deadline for newsletter submissions is the **second Friday** of the month.

Email anything for The Nugget to: [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) There is always a need for more articles and reviews from other club members. If you attend a field trip, workshop, or other club event, please consider writing a review for the newsletter.

**Youth Members:** (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads are reminded to complete any of the FRA badges they have been working on, so Mr. Roberts can order the badges and have them ready to be handed out at the Dec. party. Also, don't forget to turn in your articles for the Nugget, if you are working toward the Junior Rockhound of the Year award.

**Historian:** (Cheryle Langford) It's time to wrap up 2016, so that the club yearbook can be completed. Please turn in any 2016 club memorabilia to Cheryle Langford. Volunteers are needed to help Mrs. Langford with this project. If any member is willing to serve as assistant historian, contact Nancy Roberts or Cheryle Langford. Brenda Manning volunteered.

**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 Oren Dunn City Museum on April 8, 2017. We will be setting up the display cases at the museum the last week of March and letting them run until mid-May of 2017.

**Safety:** (David Loyd) Safety articles for the Nugget are needed. If anyone has any suggestions for safety topics or articles, please submit them Mr. Loyd or Nancy Roberts.

**Minutes cont'd on pg 11**

**NMGMS Meeting Minutes: cont'd****Nov. 19, 2016****Old Business:**

- ❖ The copper fold forming class in West Point w very successful, even though the attendance was small this time. Everyone managed to make a beautiful copper cuff bracelet and a nice pair of earrings. We sold the extra class materials kits, so NMGMS made \$245 on this class.
- ❖ Due to the large response for the Parsons field trip, MAGS will be doing their trip to the quarry in January. There are 19 NMGMS members signed up, so there is room for a few more.
- ❖ Alison Schuchs and Mary Carr volunteered to sew 6 or 8 bean bags to be used for a bean bag toss game at the Geology Fest.

No further old business at this time.

**New Business:**

1. The December Christmas Party/ luncheon will be Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at the library from 11 to 3p.m. We will have a short meeting and then eat at noon. The room will be available starting at 10:30. The club will provide a ham and members are asked to bring a potluck dish. We will have a gift exchange (\$10 max.), everyone who wants to participate should bring a gift either for a man, woman or child. The club will be collecting foodstuffs for a local charity, a "toys for tots" and holding the "Night before Christmas" ornament exchange.
2. It's time to start planning the display cases that will be setup at the Oren Dunn Museum next March. Museum. The club is scheduled to start setting up display cases the week of March 27th thru the 31st. Last year's displays focused on Mississippi fossils. This year's focus is more on rocks and minerals. The club's collection has some very nice specimens. Possible displays would be: Agates, Quartz crystals, Calcite, Petrified wood, Fluorite, Geodes and so on. It was suggested members might like to use one of the Plexiglas cases for their own collection. If members are unable to set up during the last week of March, the museum has agreed to open on April 1, 2017 for setups. We will set up a fossil display in the long case in the main room. If you are bringing in a specimen to loan for a display, be sure to label it with your initials and fill out a museum loan sheet.
3. Nominations for the 2016 NMGMS officers are as follows: President, Nancy Roberts; Vice President, Mike Schuchs; Treasurer, Nikki Kenney; Secretary, Paul Gunther.  
No further nominations were received from the floor. A motion was made to accept the voting slate as is.  
MOTION CARRIED AND SECONDED. Voting on the officers will be next month if there is a quorum.  
  
Is there anyone who would like to serve as a committee chairperson or help out on one? No volunteers stepped forward. Current chairperson's agreed to continue to serve in their present capacity.
4. The Jan. meeting will be at the library on January 28, 2017 from 1 to 3p.m. Program will be, presented by Dr. Jennifer Gifford, of the Univ. of Miss. Geology Dept. \*\*Note the date change due to booking conflicts at the library!
5. There is a possibility that we will be hosting another mixed metals class taught by Kim St. Jean on Saturday Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at the Link Center. Waiting to hear a definite answer, as well as, the class cost and project.

No further new business at this time.

Meeting adjourned.

