



Richardson Landing

photo by Alison Schuchs

## The Nugget

*North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter*



Notes from the President's Desk...Dec. 2015

Happy Holidays! It's hard to believe that another year of rockhound and lapidary adventures is coming to a close. Like the old adage "time flies when you're having fun", I certainly think NMGMS has been having its share of fun this year. Looking back through all of our club activities for 2015, I see that we had some fantastic meeting programs, from Dr. Panhorst's presentation on gold mining, to Mr. Arinder's fascinating discussion on Native Americans and their tools. We also had several very enlightening programs presented by our own club members; Dave Hanes' discussion of his hadrosaur discoveries, as well as, Mike Schuchs presentation on the geology of Scotland.

NMGMS was able to host another Kim St. Jean metals class in Tupelo for its club members, and we were able to hold several other club workshops at the Women's Center. Also, NMGMS members taught two jewelry making classes in West Point, MS through the West Point/Clay County Arts Council. Needless to say, we had some fantastic field trips throughout the year too, with the one to Missouri being a real doozy, or is that drusy?!

Our organization was well represented at the Memphis rock and gem show this year and we have managed to keep our membership numbers consistent over the past few years. The junior group, the Rockheads, stayed busy too, as they worked on earning several more of the FRA badges that the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies sponsors. They had some really great projects that they presented and due to their diligent sales of cookies and hot dogs, the Rockheads were able to fund the trip to the Rainwater Observatory in French Camp, MS.

So, with such a great year for our club, where do we go from here? At the Huntsville rock and gem show in October, I happened to mention to some of their members, how lucky they were to have a lapidary workshop. I also mentioned that several of our NMGMS members were getting into rock cutting and polishing and trying to set up their own lapidary equipment. It has always been the "dream" of the NMGMS founding members for this club to have its own workshop and equipment; an NMGMS place where members can come to do lapidary work of all kinds, hold workshops, classes, meetings, and store all of the club's supplies and materials. A place to create, learn new skills and have fun in the process.

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## President's Notes...cont'd



Well, due to the generosity of the Huntsville club members, they are planning to donate their used lapidary equipment to NMGMS, when HGMS sets up their new workshop sometime this month or in January. What a windfall for NMGMS! We are all so very grateful for this great opportunity to jump start us on our way to reaching that "dream" of a club workshop. NMGMS will be 15 in March 2016 and now it is time to turn to a new page in the history of our organization. What a fabulous opportunity to grow and expand our abilities. We will be able to learn how to turn those rocks that we so diligently collect, into beautifully cut and polished pieces, that we can display or turn into wearable art jewelry. This will help us reach out to new members and to the community; we'll have something new to offer.

So, in order to achieve these dreams and goals, we will need to apply for the 501©3 recognition with the IRS, and then all work diligently to find a suitable location in which to finally setup the equipment that Huntsville has so generously offered NMGMS . What a marvelous Christmas present to us! Nancy Roberts (photo by Alison Schuchs)

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Happy Holidays :

To get us all into the holiday spirit, we will be having our NMGMS annual Christmas party and potluck luncheon on Saturday Dec. 12, 2015 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 as either a man's, woman's, 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 also do 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 a great year and remember, this is when NMGMS passes out badges, awards and certificates to members for their accomplishments. Come and help us celebrate!

**Date to Remember!** Kim and Norm St. Jean will be coming to Tupelo again in January of 2016 to teach another mixed metals class for NMGMS. We have already booked the Women's Center for the weekend of Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. **The class will be from 9 to 5p.m. on Saturday January 23, 2016. Reserve that day!** The class project, cost, and official notice will be coming soon.

## More Upcoming NMGMS Events:

Our Jan. meeting will be at the Tupelo library on January 9, 2016 from 2 to 4p.m. Program will be, "Earthquakes: Natural and Manmade", presented by Dr. Terry Panhorst. **\*\*Note the date and time change! The library is closed on Saturday Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>.**

## Meeting Program Reviews:

Did you know that Mississippi contains a fossil deposit of hadrosaur dinosaur bones? At the October meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, NMGMS member Dave Hanes presented his "Fossil Discovery" program based on a fossil site in Prentiss County, MS. This site was mapped and excavated by Dave along with George Phillips, paleontologist with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. Dave had an excellent slide presentation showing the deposits at this local and he mentioned that many of the fossil bones already were greatly deteriorated, due to the reaction of marcasite (an iron pyrite) on the fossil material. Despite the disarticulation of the bones, Dave and George were able to recover many pieces. Dave displayed a beautiful fossil rib bone, toe bones and to top things off, the jaw bone of an infant hadrosaur (duck bill) dinosaur! Many of the fossils recovered are presently at the museum in Jackson waiting to be restored and cataloged. Wow, wouldn't you have liked to have been able to view what that part of Mississippi looked like back during the Upper Cretaceous, when these creatures were living here along the coastal edges of the Mississippi Embayment (Selma Sea) and its barrier islands? Well, maybe, from a distance?? Nancy Roberts

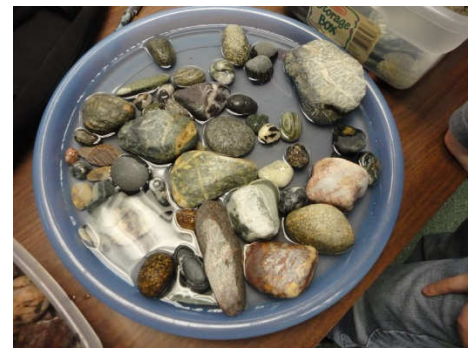
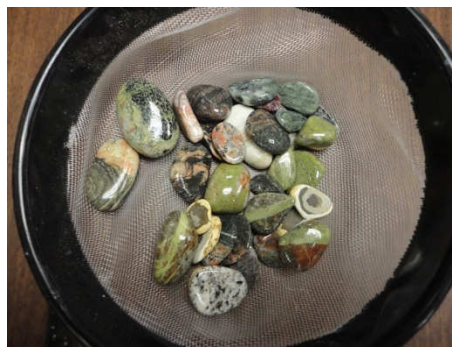
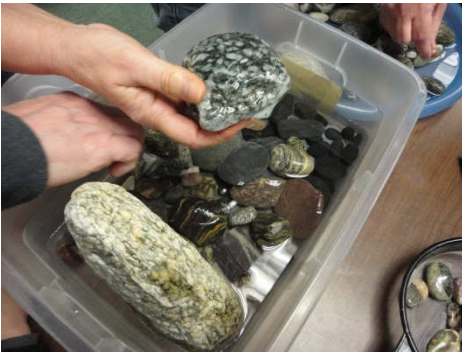


Photos by Alison Schuchs



## A Geologic Over View of Scotland

At the November NMGMS meeting, Mike Schuchs presented members with a very interesting overview of the many scientific inventions and discoveries that were contributed by Scotsmen. Many of our early geologists were Scottish. Why, because Scotland is truly the land of rocks. The land formations, the rock layers and other geologic features of the Scottish countryside led these early scientists to ask questions and to seek the answers, giving insight to the true nature of our planet and the forces that caused these phenomena. Mike and Alison had traveled to Scotland this past summer and were able to see firsthand many of the same formations that inspired these early scientists. The countryside of the Scottish Isles is breathtaking and so were the beautiful stones that Mike managed to bring back with him. We got to touch a little bit of Scotland and its geologic history! Nancy Roberts



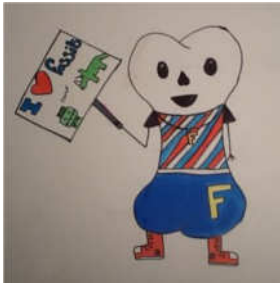
Photos by Nancy Roberts

### **NMGMS Members Take Note!**

2016 is fast approaching and it is time to start thinking about renewing 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)





Rockheads:

December 2015



**Rockhead Officers:**

**President**

Victoria Langford

**Vice President**

Konrad Armstrong

**Secretary**

Brittani Lambert

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

**Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts**

latergator2003@yahoo.com

November 21, 2015 Rockheads Meeting:

Attendees: Alice Carr, Jake Carr, Marion Carr, Konrad Armstrong, Victoria Langford, and Brittani Lambert

Today, on Nov. 21, 2015 the Rockheads are doing a meteor project. We are studying how to make meteor craters, using flour and dirt to represent the earth. The flour represents the earth and the dirt represents a field. They learned how craters look when they (meteors) hit earth. They proved that the bigger the meteor, the bigger the crater it is going to leave. They also learned that the faster the meteor comes through the atmosphere, the bigger the crater is. Brittani Lambert



Photos by Alison Schuchs



## Richardson Landing Field Trip

NMGMS was invited to join MAGS on their November 14<sup>th</sup> field trip to Richardson Landing. Despite the chilly morning temps, both clubs supported a very good turnout. The line of cars that caravanned to the gravel bar site was so long, that many passing cars thought we were a funeral and pulled over as we drove by! We were not disappointed at all when we arrived at the river. Enough of the bar was exposed to make it good collecting for everyone. Even tho there was a bit of a walk to get down to the river, it was pretty easy going. Even NMGMS member Julie Graves was able to make it, and she was using a walker! She had a great time, by the way, and wouldn't have traded the day for anything. You could walk for miles along the river on the gravel bars, if you wanted to, but many nice agates were found by those who just sat in one spot and dug around. We quickly warmed up, as the sun shown on the gravel. The sun also helped us to spot those choice rocks. Once the sun got lower in the sky however, it began to cool back down, and collecting got a little harder. Many nice river agates were found, as well as a few red Lake Superior agates. Roger Lambert found a fossil horse tooth and Alison Schuchs managed to discover some ice age bone fragments. All in all, it was a prosperous day. Most of us were packed up and gone by 4o'clock in the afternoon, but a few determined collectors stayed until dusk. We can't wait to go back! Thank you MAGS for including us! Nancy Roberts



Photos by Nancy Roberts

## Club News:

At the November 21, 2016 meeting, members present approved the following slate of officers for 2016: President, Nancy Roberts, Vice President, Mike Schuchs, Treasurer, Nikki Kenney, and Secretary, Belinda Loyd.

## For your Information!

The catalog listing of the 2016 classes at the William Holland Lapidary School in Young Harris, GA is now online. So check out the wide variety of lapidary skills being taught there and read about all of the class teachers. Better hurry if you want to register for a class, because they fill up fast. There are some really good ones!

<http://www.lapidaryschool.org/classschedule.php>

**For Federation news, please check out these websites:**

<http://www.amfed.org/>

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>



**Safety is a state of mind and should be first in any of our plans.** This month's safety word is **GFIC**.

If you exclude the outdoor hazards of collecting and field trips, there are only a few instant disasters that can befall us in our lapidary hobbies. Electrocution would be at the top of the list. Our club is about to embark on a new adventure with saws and grinders to create things of beauty. The equipment is driven by electric motors; the work and grinding surfaces will be cooled with water, not a perfect pairing.

Here is the rule to work safely in this case:

Before turning your machine on, insure that it is plugged into a GFIC device and into a properly grounded 3 prong 110v plug. If you are not sure of what you find, wait and ask someone else to verify the proper connection.

A ground fault circuit interrupter (**GFCI**) or Residual Current Device (RCD) is a device that shuts off an electric power circuit when it detects that current is flowing along an unintended path, such as through water or a person.

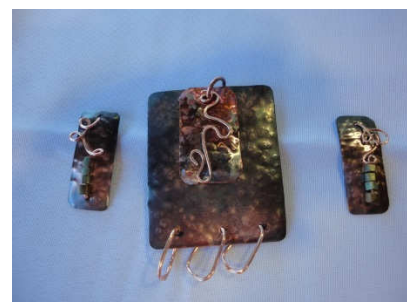
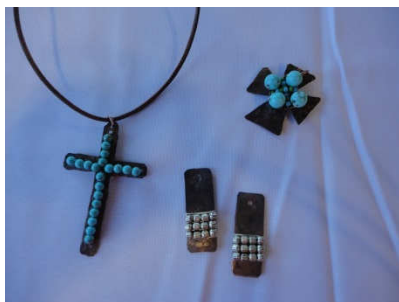


The club will provide these for each line of machines. Submitted by Mike Schuchs



## Bead Soup: NMGMS goes to West Point

On Saturday Dec. 5, 2015, Nikki Kenney, Cheryle Langford and Nancy Roberts headed down to West Point to teach a metals class for the West Point/Clay County Arts Council. Twelve eager students participated in this class. After making some design decisions, they immediately immersed themselves in the hammering and filing of their copper pieces. Students had fun using the patina techniques of either heat, to achieve some interesting colors, or giving their creations an antique look with Liver of Sulphur. Next came the embellishment step, and there were lots of different beads and gemstone chips to choose from. We could hardly get them to break for lunch! The afternoon passed very quickly, as everyone worked toward finishing their project pieces. It's amazing how many different creative expressions result from one set of directions! NMGMS sincerely thanks the West Point/Clay County Arts Council for inviting our organization to participate in their programs and to teach these kinds of classes. Nancy Roberts





**NMGMS Meeting Minutes**

Date: November 21, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Belinda Loyd No guests or new members....

Motion to approve the Sept. meeting minutes as printed in the Oct. Nugget and the Oct. minutes as printed in the Nov. Nugget was made, seconded and approved. None opposed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Closing Balance: \$2780.62

**Chairpersons' Reports:**

**Field Trips:** A DMC field trip sponsored by the Rome GA club on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> for Pennsylvanian plant fossils in Walker County Georgia was announced. The next NMGMS field trip will most likely be to AL for Mississippian fossils in January or early Feb., weather depending. A spring break trip to Mt. Ida for quartz crystals was planned for the weekend that school is out. Rooms will be booked at the Crystal Inn again.

**Publicity:** (John Byzet) John has the new club brochures. We need to start spreading the word about our next Geology Day on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the ODCM.

**Membership:** (Ann Byzet) **It is time to consider renewing your NMGMS membership for 2016. Dues are \$12 for individual, and \$20 for a family.** If anyone needs a "new member" packet, see Ann.

**Hospitality:**

Refreshments: Robert Langford volunteered to do the ham for the Christmas party pot- luck luncheon Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> All members attending the luncheon are asked to bring a casserole, salad or dessert. Dana Armstrong and Nancy Roberts volunteered for Jan. refreshments.

**Website:** (John Byzet) Check us out at [www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org)

**Newsletter:** (Dana Jones) Dana has the results of the SFMS Bulletin Competition, so hopefully we can pass those out at the Dec. meeting.

**Youth Members:** (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads are reminded to complete any of the FRA badges that they have been working on, so that Jim can order the badges and have them ready to be handed out at the Dec. party. Don't forget to turn in your articles for the Nugget, if you are working toward the Junior Rockhound of the Year award. There's still time to do a display also, if you need to.

**Historian:** (Cheryle Langford) If you have anything from the summer that's for the 2015 yearbook, please give it to Cheryle. This would include any fliers or brochures from the events, museums or other points of interest that you attend. If you see any newspaper or magazine article featuring one of our club members, save those too, even if it is not anything club related.

**Geology/Kids Day:** (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) **The date for our next Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the Oren Dunn Museum will be April 9, 2016. We plan to set up our displays at the museum in March and let them run until mid-May of 2016.**

**Safety:** (David Loyd) Mike Shuchs volunteered to write up some safety notes for the club newsletter.

**Old Business:** The long sleeved Tshirts are here! They are \$10 each.

We are planning to set up the displays at the museum this time by Miss. counties. So, if you are bringing in a specimen to loan for a display, be sure to label it with the county that it was found in. Another display will be covering petrified wood and the stages it goes thru in becoming petrified. So some nice lignite specimens would be good to have. Rebecca will be revamping the "rocks like food" display, so if you have new pieces, please give them to her soon, so she can be working on that. Loan sheets were handed out.

**For the geology day, we would like for everyone to bring something for the "hands-on" table.** We will be setting up the fluorescent room, the fishing game, the sandbox dig and the spin and win. The geode cracker will be back again, as well as Pat Arinder and his artifact display. Pat Arinder has requested some **shark teeth**, so that he can make some necklaces to give away at this event.

NMGMS will be teaching a metals class for the West Point Arts Council on Saturday Dec. 5, 2015 at the Louise Campbell Center for the Arts, 235 Commerce St., West Point, MS Come and take the class, or volunteer to help out! There was no other old business.

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**November 21, 2015 NMGMS Meeting Minutes cont'd:**

**New Business:** The December meeting will be the Christmas Party/ luncheon on **Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at the library from 11 to 3p.m.** We will have a short meeting and then eat at noon. 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 brings a gift either for a man, woman or child. We will be collecting foodstuffs for a local charity. Bring a “toy for tots” also. We decided to do the ornament exchange, too.

Nominations for the 2016 NMGMS officers were given, as follows: President, Nancy Roberts, Vice President, Mike Schuchs, Treasurer, Nikki Kenney and Secretary, Belinda Loyd. There were no other nominations from the floor. **Acceptance of this slate of officers was moved, seconded, and approved. None opposed.** Committee chairpersons were asked to continue in their present capacities, if they would like to.

**The Huntsville Gem and Mineral Society has graciously offered to donate to NMGMS all of their used lapidary equipment (minus the motors), as they phase in the new pieces that they have purchased. So now, we have to decide on how much of it we want and can use, and also what to do with it until we can procure a place to set up shop. It was decided to accept this generous offer. The benefits of having a workshop place and this equipment were discussed. This opportunity will allow NMGMS to grow and offer members a new resource. Cathy Miller volunteered to check with the senior center and John Byzet will check with the Create Foundation. The Community Development Foundation was also mentioned as a possible source to check into.**

Our Jan. meeting will be at the library on January 9, 2016 from 2 to 4p.m. Program will be, “Earthquakes: Natural and Manmade”, presented by Dr. Terry Panhorst. **\*\*Note the date and time change!**

**There was no other new business.**

**Reminder:** The Mobile, AL club has a rock and gem show Thanksgiving weekend and the Montgomery club has theirs Dec. 4-6<sup>th</sup>. The Middle TN club’s show is Dec. 12-13<sup>th</sup> in Franklin TN, near Nashville.

**NMGMS 2015 Officers:**

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