



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Nancy and Dr. Panhorst



Photo by Mary Reed

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

Happy Valentines' Day! Here it is February and already the groundhog is telling us that spring will be early this year. I guess I can believe that, since we had nearly 70 degree temps for our Jan. 30th field trip. Such a far cry from the ice and subfreezing temperatures of last year! Even tho January had 31 days, it certainly sailed by fast. NMGMS had an excellent turnout for the Jan. 9th meeting. As always, Dr. Panhorst presented members with a very informative program; this time it was all about the different causes of earthquakes. Then on Jan. 24th, NMGMS hosted another successful mixed metals class that was taught by Kim St. Jean. So now, those who attended, have lots of new skills to share at our club workshops and classes.

Looking ahead and thinking of spring, the Mt. Ida spring break field trip, March 11th - 14th, is shaping up to be a really good one. We have 22 club members who are planning to attend, so those Arkansas quartz crystals better beware! Also, our club's April 9th Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the Oren Dunn Museum will be coming up fast. Please gather up the specimens that you are planning to loan NMGMS for the display cases and bring them to the Feb. 20th meeting, so that we can start making up the identification labels. See page 3 for a list of the different displays to see what is needed. The display setup at the museum will remain up until nearly the end of May. And while you're going thru your collection, pick out something for the hands-on table that will be set up on the 9th. Be sure that it is something that can take being picked up and touched. Also, be sure to put your initials and county where it was collected on a piece of painters tape and place it on the bottom of each specimen. Rocks, minerals and fossils are all welcome! Our displays at the museum will be showcasing what earthly treasures can be found in Mississippi. When you think of our great state, you normally don't think of it in terms of rocks and fossils, but if your basement or garage is anything like mine, we know better!

On a final note, we have started to take measurements of room #136 over at the Link Center and to make some determinations, as to a good layout for our new lapidary setup. Through the generosity of our fellow members, we are acquiring some furniture, such as a desk, a workbench, chairs, filing cabinet and a few other items. On Saturday, Feb. 13th, members that are handy with tools will be moving some of these things over to the room and also assembling a few counters for the grinders and saws to sit on. So, if you are available, come on over!

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS February Meeting

The Feb. meeting will be on Saturday, February 20, 2016 from 1 to 3p.m. at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo. The program that follows the business meeting will be given by local historian and collector, Julian Riley. He will be covering the history of Twenty Mile Creek, as well as the fossils and artifacts that he has collected throughout the area.

Refreshments: courtesy of Cheryle Langford and Ann Byzet.

February makes one think of hearts, chocolate and red. Our refreshment hostesses have asked that everyone wear red on the 20th. How about bringing a red rock to display too!

Up Coming NMGMS Field Trips: Mt. Ida, AR

The 2016 Spring break field trip will be to Mt. Ida, AR for quartz crystals, March 12th and 13th. Rooms have been reserved for Friday thru Sunday night for those attending at the Crystal Inn Motel and Restaurant on Hwy 270, approx. 6 miles east of Mt. Ida **(870) 867-2643**.

We will be collecting at the Twin Creek Mines, Collier Springs Rd, on Saturday, March 12th. Rate is \$20 per person, if we have 10-15, \$18 per person for 15-20 and \$15 a person if we have over 20 people. Children 12 and under are \$12. Mine is open from 8-4. Check out their FB page! **870-867-4945**

We will be meeting at the Crystal Inn, Hwy 270 near Mt. Ida, AR at 8:30a.m. on Saturday March 12th before we go to the mine.

Sunday we will be collecting at Coleman's Miller Mountain Mine. It's about 45 minutes from Mt. Ida. Group fee is \$7.50 per person. We will try to get there around 9:30. This is a very "kid" friendly place to collect, so if you can't make the whole weekend trip, try to make it to this one.

More Upcoming NMGMS Events: Club Workshop



NMGMS will be having a club workshop at the Link Center in Tupelo on Saturday, Feb. 13th from 10am to 3pm. Meet upstairs in the large conference room for the workshop, but you can go down and see the room that NMGMS will be renting. We will be learning to make an "Alex and Ani" style bracelet. We will also work on another style of wrapped bangle bracelet and a cute pair of heart earrings to wear for

Valentine's Day. Kit fee to cover the wire is \$5.

We've got "oodles" of beads! Help make a few extra for the club to sell at our Geology Day, if you can. Ham and pimento cheese sandwiches, bottled water, coffee and some dessert, will be available; there is a fridge by the room, if you bring your own lunch. **Dress warm, the heat in the building has not been working very well lately!**

Earrings & photo by Nancy Roberts

Meeting Program Reviews:



Earthquakes: Natural and Manmade

Dr. Terry Panhorst presented NMGMS members at our January meeting with a very enlightening program on earthquakes. Dr. Panhorst discussed what causes earthquakes, the scale presently used to classify them according to the damage that they inflict and then he went over the history of earthquakes in Mississippi. He also talked about the New Madrid Fault and why it is such an active area for earthquakes. When we were shown the earthquake hazards map and took a look at where we are in relation to that fault line, it had some of us "shaking" in our seats! We even talked about earthquake insurance! Dr. Panhorst then went on to explain how similar underground pressures can result from man's activities in the oil and gas drilling business. One thing, that I did not realize, was how much salt water is extracted in the drilling process and that this water was pumped back underground for disposal. The pressures created underground from this disposal procedure can cause "manmade" earthquakes! Oh, by the way, I do carry earthquake insurance! Nancy Roberts

Oren Dunn Museum Displays

The following is a list of the display cases that NMGMS will be setting up at the ODCM starting March 17th:

"Rocks like Food", Igneous Rocks, Sedimentary Rocks, Metamorphic Rocks, Minerals and their Uses, Stages of the Petrification of Wood, Cabachon Making and Rock Tumbling, Miss. River Gravel Bar Collections, Lapidary and Jewelry Projects, Union County Fossils, Pontotoc County Fossils, Lee County Fossils, Clay County Fossils, Prentiss County Fossils, Petrified Wood (all counties) and other MS county finds. If you have any interesting, unusual or exciting finds from any of these places, or one that I have not mentioned, please bring them to the Feb. 20th meeting, or to one of our other events. The March 19th meeting would be **the latest** that we could take any loans. Things to consider loaning: Fossils from one of the above counties, river agates, jaspers, chert fossils, petrified wood, polished stones you've tumbled or cabbed, jewelry made this past year, lignite, bentonite, any interesting MS rock or mineral, etc. We want to show that North Mississippi does have an interesting Geologic History!

Show Dates: **MGMS Gem and Mineral Show**

Saturday, February 27, 2016 - 9 am to 6 pm **Sunday, February 28, 2016** -
10 am to 5 pm Mississippi Trade Mart Building State Fairgrounds, Jackson, MS

Adults \$6.00 • Students \$3.00 Scouts and Leaders in Uniform - \$2.00 Children 5 and under Free

MMNS Fossil Road Show



SFMS Quarterly Meeting

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies has scheduled its next Quarterly Meeting in Jackson Mississippi, in conjunction with the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society's Annual Show. The meeting is the morning of February 26, with the show being held both the 26 and 27th. All Club Presidents and or their Alternates are invited and encouraged to attend.

Friday, February 26, 7:30 PM – 9 PM: SFMS Cracker Barrel (informal discussion)

Hampton Inn, 891 U.S. 49 South, Richland, Mississippi 39218

Saturday, February 27, 8:30 AM –Registration, 9:00 AM Quarterly Meeting

Hampton Inn, 891 U.S. 49 South, Richland, Mississippi 39218

Safety First! Work safely, so you can do it again. By Mike Schuchs

It should be no surprise by now, that the club is getting lapidary equipment due to the generosity of a sister club in Huntsville Alabama. This safety note continues on the theme of potential hazards that you could encounter while working in the Lab, by focusing on rock dust. Not unlike smoking, the choice is yours to wear a dust mask or not. Instead of plagiarizing the work of others, or cutting and pasting, I have included a link to a thread regarding this very important subject. <http://www.gemcutters.org/LDA/RockDustDangers.htm>

Please read this and search for similar articles on the subject. Now take a deep breath and say out loud, "I love rocks". You can't do that with lung damage. Wear protection!



Brenda does! Photo by Nancy Roberts

Grab Bags!

We still need some!



Photo by Floy Hawkins

Due to a large donation of assorted rocks, fossils and minerals, from Floy Hawkins, we can fill many more grab bags!

Any NMGMS members, who like to sew, please take a look at this cloth bag. We could use some more made up for the grab bags that we sell at our events

Instructions: Cut an 8x15 inch piece. Notice how it's sewn;

You'll sew the casing for the draw string first and then do the side and bottom seams. Make seams half inch, so the finished bag is approx. 7x7 inches.

Experiment, they don't all have to be exactly the same size or configuration, just colorful and enticing!!!!!!!!!!!!!! . I sew a ¾ inch turn for the yarn first (with the yarn already in place). Fold in half, then sew the bottom & up the one side, stopping before the yarn tube. Good luck and thanks! See Marion's article for step by step photos!

Nancy Roberts

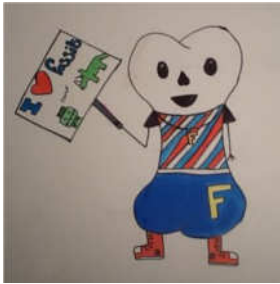
NMGMS Members Take Note!

It's 2016 and now is the time to renew your NMGMS membership. If you have already renewed or are a new member, welcome, your membership is greatly appreciated. NMGMS has a lot to offer you!

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



Rockheads:

February 2016



Rockhead Officers:

President

Konrad Armstrong

Vice President

James Carr

Secretary

Marion Carr

www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts

latergator2003@yahoo.com

Rockheads January 9, 2016 Meeting:

In attendance were, James, Alice and Marion Carr and Brittani Lambert

Sedimentary Rocks. We had a lesson on sedimentary rocks. We took a test and everyone made a 100. We made dinosaurs and sedimentary rocks out of clay. Brittani and James had the best dinosaurs. We had fun. Marion Carr



Photos by Alison Schuchs

Attention Rockheads! At the February 20th meeting, you will be learning about metals and their uses. You will also be planning your gold mining trip and Mr. Jim will have a gold pan at the meeting. Bring any metal specimens that you have or something made of metal for show and tell. Test your knowledge of metal!!

Making Grab Bags By Marion Carr

photos by Alison Schuchs



1. Cut your material 8" by 15".
It helps to make a cardboard pattern.



2. Fold down $\frac{3}{4}$ " for the casing
And put your yarn in before sewing.



3. Sew the casing, making sure
Not to sew over the yarn.



4. Always trim threads.



5. Sew the seams



6. I start at the bottom and sew
Up to the casing.



7. Fold inside out.



8. Repeat, repeat, repeat!

Community Service!

NMGMS members who are artistic, either with your lapidary work, painting or other creative mediums, I am asking you to consider donating one of your creative pieces to NMGMS. A group of high school seniors, for their community service requirement, are planning an art show at the Link Center on March 24th. We can set out pieces of our art jewelry, paintings, whatever, to sell, with half of the proceeds going to the Link Center and half to NMGMS. Thought we'd give it a try. So hopefully, we can make a little for the club and the center, show support for the students and the community, and get our name out there. If you can, please bring the donation to one of our club events, **no later than the March 19th meeting**. Also would appreciate you listing a fair asking price for the piece, if you have some idea. Thank you for your generosity. Nancy Roberts



Bead Soup: A place to talk "shop"!

On Sunday, January 24, 2016, NMGMS hosted another fabulous mixed metals class for its members. We again were fortunate to have Kim and Norm St. Jean make a stop in Tupelo as they worked their way west to the big International Gem Show in Tucson, AZ. Kim St. Jean is an excellent teacher and we soon were on the way to making some fantastic metal pieces with the skills she was teaching us. The "Hip to be Square" project for this year's class was really a fun piece to make and everyone enjoyed the class immensely. Here are a few comments and photos to attest to the great day,



I thoroughly enjoyed the day with such a terrific gathering of fellow jewelry making enthusiasts. Good rhythm to the day and I am always amazed at the variety of completed projects that emerge from the same instructions! Love Kim and her husband. Magic happens when they come.
Souzen Steelhammer



As usual, loved Kim's class! I always learn something new. The class reinforced my knowledge of techniques I already use and introduced me to new things. I especially loved using square wire. I hope she comes back again next year.
Loretta Hettler



I really enjoyed the "Hip to Be Square" Mixed Metals class. Kim is a phenomenal instructor and everyone left with a beautiful pendant and new metal-working skills. I can't wait to see what she has in store for us next year!
Justin Hobart

All photos by Nancy Roberts

Mixed Metals Class photos:



Photos by Nancy Roberts

Visit the NMGMS FB pg for more photos



Coral photo by Nancy Roberts

Old Bones...all about collecting!

Mississippian Finds in Alabama by Nancy Roberts

Once again, NMGMS had a fabulous day of collecting Mississippian fossils in Alabama. We couldn't believe our luck, as far as the weather went; over 60 degrees and very pleasant for a day in January! Our group was joined by members of the Alabama Paleontological Society for this trip, and we managed to make time for collecting at several sites in the area. What fun it is, to be clambering over the rocks, while talking fossils, etc. with a congenial group of fellow enthusiasts! Lots of fossil coral was collected, including the huge piece that Ashely Allen hauled out. I'll bet his tires were a little lower on the way home! Several pieces of crinoids were found, as well as a shark tooth. I found a very small ammonite; my first one from the Mississippian era! After a lunch break at the local quick stop, we went on over to the second site and found some nice blastoid specimens there. We also ran into fellow collector and author, Richard Keyes, who had some copies of his new book, Fossils of the Tennessee Valley. This publication contains an extensive amount of photos and ID information on the fossils collected in our area. A must for getting your collection identified! (<http://crinoids.org/index.html>) So, as the sun got lower in the sky, we finally packed up and headed toward home. A few of us made one last stop at a road cut, before calling it an end to a great field trip.



Photos by Nancy Roberts

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: January 9, 2016

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Mike and Alison Schuchs' grandchildren: Jake, Mari, and Ali Carr.

Introduce guests and new members: Michael, Aprylle and Savannah Downing

The Dec. 2015 meeting minutes were approved as printed in the Jan. 2016 Nugget.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of \$3553.05 as of 12/31/2015.

Review of Committees:

Field Trips: Our next NMGMS field trip will be to AL for Mississippian fossils January 30, 2016. We will meet at the Belgreen Gas/Store on Hwy 24 at 9a.m. Members present were reminded to watch their emails for more details. The Mt. Ida spring break trip for quartz crystals will be Fri. March 11th thru Sunday March 13th. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Crystal Inn for \$35 a night. The group will visit the Twin Creek Mines on Saturday and Miller Mountain on Sunday. The Twin Creek Mine group rate is \$20 for 10-15 people, \$18 for 15-20 and \$15 for over 20. Children 12 and under are \$12.

Publicity: (John Byzet) Alison Schuchs is going to make up a flier for our Geology Day. It will be posted to our website and FB page as soon as it is completed. Copies may be available to pass out at the Feb. meeting. Members were encouraged to start spreading the word about our next Geology Day which is on April 9th at the Oren Dunn City Museum.

Membership: (Ann Byzet) Members were reminded that it is time to renew their NMGMS membership for 2016. Dues are \$12 for an individual and \$20 for a family.

Hospitality: Refreshments: Volunteers for Feb: Ann Byzet and Robert Langford

Volunteers for March 19th: _no volunteers came forward

Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome!

Website: (John Byzet) Check us out at www.nmgms.org

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) The deadline for newsletter submission is the **second Friday** of each month.

Email photographs and articles for The Nugget to: therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

The club is starting a new year, so let's have some good articles and reviews that we can send into the 2016 bulletin competition!

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads are planning a gold mining field trip to AL sometime in May. Alabama Gold Camp, 1398 Co. Rd. 5, Lineville AL 36266 256-396-0389 (<http://www.alabamagoldcamp.com/>) Further information will be available soon.

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) Cheryle Langford will be starting on the 2015 yearbook, if anyone has anything to include in the yearbook, please touch base with Cheryle. Any fliers or brochures from the events, museums or other points of interest as well as any newspaper or magazine article featuring one of our club members can be included.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) The club will start setting up the displays at the Oren Dunn Museum on March 17th and finish up the next week. Members were asked to bring any specimens that are being loaned for the displays to the Feb. 20th meeting so labels can be prepared. The March 19th meeting is the deadline for submitting specimens.

Safety: (David Loyd) Mike Schuchs has agreed to write a safety article for the Nugget.

NMGMS Jan. 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes, cont'd: Old Business:

*The club is planning to set up a fossil display at the museum focusing on findings in Mississippi counties. Specimens on loan for display should be labeled with the county in which it was found. Mike Schuchs will be providing a petrified wood display, covering the stages it goes thru in becoming petrified. The "rocks like food" will be revamped, so if you have new pieces, please bring them. Specimen loan sheets were distributed to the group.

*For the geology day, members were asked to bring something for the "hands-on" table. The club will set up the fluorescent room, the fishing game, the sandbox dig, leather and bead lapidary project, and the spin and win. The geode cracker will be back again, as well as Pat Arinder and his artifact display. George Phillips will also be on hand to id fossils. There was discussion on the club being allowed to provide cookies and/or hot dogs. Dana Armstrong is certified to handle/serve food. The decision was to include serving food since there will be a certified handler available.

*A mixed metals class will be taught by Kim St. Jean on Saturday, Jan.23rd at the Women's Center on Gloster Street from 9 a.m. to 5p.m. The class fee is \$100. All materials and tools needed for the project are provided. Lunch will be served.

*Filing to become a 501©3 organization will cost \$400. The club is reviewing the required forms and agreed further discussion will be needed before a decision can be made.

*There was energetic group discussion regarding the available rooms at the Link Center. Cost ranges from \$285 to \$400 per month rent. The room with some storage cabinets and a small bathroom for \$285 was of great interest to the group. The Link Center requires a 3 month lease and is willing to let the club have the room for \$120 a month for 6 months, if club members help with maintenance and renovation projects at the Center. David Loyd volunteered to assist in painting, dry wall installation and various maintenance projects when needed. Mike Schuchs has picked up the grinding equipment and is currently storing it for the club. Dave Haynes requested a business plan be drawn up to support the expense of leasing the room at the Link Center. Discussion moved to suggestions for income sources. Art Councils in the surrounding area are requesting the club to schedule lapidary workshops. Members could set up at area flea markets to sell donated lapidary projects and do some demonstrations. Hold scout merit badge classes in the spring and fall with a charge of \$10 per scout. The motion was made to lease the space at the Link Center & schedule a workshop for February 13th by Mike Schuchs; seconded by Robert Langford. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

No further old business at this time.

New Business:

The clubs renewal with the Southeast Federation is due. The club ended 2015 with 98 members, so the renewal fee to SFMS is \$196.

The February meeting will be at the library on February 20, 2016 from 1 to 3p.m. The program will be given by Julian Riley, a local area collector and historian. His focus will be on specimens he has collected in the area creeks and a history of 20 Mile Creek. If there is enough time members will begin filling grab bags.

Part of the March meeting will be to fill grab bags and fishing cups.

A lapidary workshop at the Link Center is planned for Feb. 13th to do the "Alex and Ani" bracelets and a wire wrapped cage for a polished stone. Kit fee to be determined.

The SFMS February 1st quarterly meeting will be hosted by the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (MGMS) on February 26 and 27, 2016 in conjunction with its annual MGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show on February 27 and 28 in Jackson, Mississippi.

We have been invited again to set up an exhibit table at the MAGS show, April 23rd and 24th in Memphis. The club again has permission to offer cookies/cupcakes to sell. All proceeds would go to the club.

Other new business: *Mathew Lambert was awarded the Jr. Rockhound of the Year award. Britney Lambert was awarded the Certificate of Merit. The club presented Dr. Terry Panhorst with a set of Fossil Cycad Bookends from Barstow, CA. and an Agate Geode from Wiley's Well CA.*

Motion to Adjourn.....

NMGMS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: January 9, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was held on Saturday, January 9, 2016 from 1:30 to 2:10 pm @ 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, Brenda Manning, John Byzet, and Mike Schuchs.

The motion was made to approve the November board meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer presented the expense report for 2015. Monies in \$4718.77 – monies out \$3354.65 leaving an income for 2015 of \$1364.12.

Discussion: How to file the long form for obtaining the 501c3 nonprofit status. It was brought to the board's attention that several area gem & mineral organizations have filed the long form that didn't require the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE) code. One organization the 1023EZ form and used code U30. This code requires the organization to establish a scholarship fund. There was group discussion to determine what code the club would use. Social club vs U30 code. Decision was tabled until next meeting. There was additional discussion regarding the club being incorporated since 12/18/2013 which is approximately 25 months and if the club files before the 27th month there is the possibility of the 501c3 status being retroactive to Dec 2013.

Board members discussed how to increase the club's income and reduce the expenses. Several suggestions such as: 1) charging for snail mailing copies of the NUGGET; 2) flea market sales; 3) scout merit badge classes; etc.

Renting the space at the Link Center was discussed further. Some concerns were brought before the board such as who would do the reciprocal work to offset the rent; responsibility for the keys; involvement during the summer months; who would teach/help with classes; etc... Some in support of the lease would be to have all of the club items in one place; great space for workshops; community exposure; the possibility of a future gem & rock show. It was decided to put the discussion before the members for a vote.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

NMGMS 2016 Officers:

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

