



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Monkeying Around!



Photo by Belinda Loyd

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

Happy New Year! I'd like to raise a toast to NMGMS; here's to another great year for our organization! I would also like to raise a toast to the Rockheads; they worked hard last year and earned many of the FRA badges, also a record number of them earned our NMGMS "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award. Kudos Rockheads!

Last month, I spoke about the lapidary equipment that the Huntsville club was donating to NMGMS. Since then, the grinding and polishing machines from HGMS were procured, and they are now being housed in Mike Schuchs' basement. The saws will be acquired sometime this month. Mike is currently assessing the condition of each donated piece and what will be needed to get them in good running order. We understood from the beginning, that the Huntsville club was going to continue to use the motors, so we will need to find some for our own use. If anyone has any old appliances, etc. that still have working motors, please let Mike know.

Several NMGMS members met with Melanie Deas and Jacque Brill at the Link Center before Christmas. We were taken on a tour of the facilities and shown several available rooms which we could rent. There also is a large conference room which has a small kitchenette and a smaller conference room attached. We would have access to these rooms, if we were to become a part of the Link Center. First of all, let me say that those two ladies are extremely pleasant to work with. They go out of their way to be of service and helpful wherever they can. They will certainly work with us, as we strive toward getting a lapidary workshop set up. Several other positive notes about being at the Link Center are, that we would have a place to set up some permanent displays, a place to store all of the clubs tools, beads, and other jewelry making materials, a venue for holding our own classes, lapidary art shows and sales, and at some point, a small rock and gem show of our own. At the Link Center, we would be right in the "heart" of the local artistic community.

If NMGMS decides to locate at the Link Center, we will still continue to serve and support the community through our involvement with the Oren Dunn Museum, the Lee County Library, and the West Point Arts Council. We will still work with the area scouts and strive to expand our involvement with other community groups throughout north Mississippi. Remember, education is our top priority. All of this will take a lot of hard work on the part of our NMGMS members, but it will open up new opportunities for our club and its members. It will help NMGMS to grow in a new direction over the coming years, while continuing all of the programs and activities that have made NMGMS such a fantastic organization.

Needless to say, the momentous decision to take on the rental and upkeep of a facility will not be taken without the input and support of all of NMGMS, so please come to the January meeting and make your voice heard. Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! The January meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be from **2 to 4p.m.** at the Lee County Library on **Saturday January 9, 2016**. The program, which follows the business meeting, will be "Earthquakes: Natural and Manmade", presented by Dr. Terry Panhorst from the Univ. of Mississippi's Dept. of Geology. Refreshments will be served. Come and join us for a very earth shaking program!! **We will also be voting on whether or not to start renting a room of our own at the Link Center.**

Up Coming NMGMS Field Trips:

The first NMGMS field trip for 2016 will be on **Saturday Jan. 30th** 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, approximately 17 miles east of Red Bay, AL. at **9:00 a.m.** Watch your email for more details. Hopefully all of this flooding will be over by then!

NMGMS Members Take Note!

2016 is here and it is time to renew your NMGMS membership. Our club treasurer will be available to collect your dues at our meetings, or you can make checks payable to NMGMS (\$12 single, \$20 family) and mail them along with an application form to:

NMGMS, P.O. Box 1445, Tupelo, MS 38802.

An application form is located on our club website: www.nmgms.org

Looking Ahead: Our February 20, 2016 club meeting will be a "working" meeting, where we will be filling grab bags, cataloging loaned items, and filling fishing game cups, etc. Please bring to that meeting any items that you are loaning NMGMS for the museum display cases, plus those specimens that you have for the grab bags, fishing cups or fossil dig. Bring any cloth grab bags that you have made and don't forget those rocks that look like food. Work can be fun!

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>

NMGMS “Special” Workshop!

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is very excited to announce their upcoming Kim St. Jean, Cold Connections and Mixed Metals class to be held at the Women First Center, 215 N. Gloster, Tupelo on Saturday, **Jan. 23, 2016 from 9a.m. to 5p.m.** The project that Kim will be teaching for this class is called the “**Hip to be Square**” pendant (**see photo below**) and all materials used to make this pendant are included in the class fee of **\$100** per student. All tools and equipment needed are also provided for use in the class. Seating is limited to 15 students, max., so be sure and get your class fee in early to hold your seat! We will be serving lunch at the Center.

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

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

WOW! What an opportunity, to have such a well-known and well like jewelry artist come to us! Kim, and her husband Norm, will be stopping to teach this class for us, as they make their way to Tucson for the huge international show being held there. Kim will be teaching classes there too! This saves us a long drive to go elsewhere, plus the class fee is way less than what I have seen at Bead Fest or Tucson.

Any questions email me at therockhoundlady@yahoo.com or call 731-689-5336

Drop me a line to let me know that you are registering, thanks. This is going to be lots of fun and a great class!

You'll use fire, files, hammers, and fancy sawing to create a piece to showcase your stone. We'll use a leading edge heavy gauge square wire and offset prongs to pressure set the stone. Choice of metals, wire, and cabochon makes each piece unique.

Kit includes: Copper sheet, brass sheet, nickel sheet, copper wire, brass wire, and a cabochon

Technique: Brazing, Cold Connections, Design, Metalsmithing, Metalwork, Riveting, Soldering, Stone Setting - Cabochon, Texturing, Wire Work



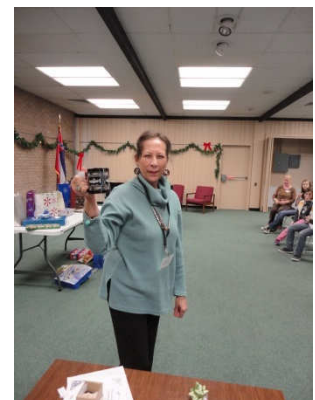
Hip to be Square, photo by Kim St. Jean

Holiday Fun! NMGMS celebrates at the Dec. meeting



Ornament Exchange

Photos by Nancy Roberts



Club News:

The following are the results of the 2015 SFMS Bulletin Editor's Contest as announced at the Nov. 8, 2015 SFMS Editor's Breakfast in Melbourne, Florida in conjunction with the Annual Meeting:

SMALL BULLETINS: Second Place – Dana Jones: *The Nugget* – North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society.

ORIGINAL ADULT ARTICLES: Second Place – Nancy Roberts: Food for Thought About Geotagging – *The Nugget*. North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

Seventh Place – Nikki Kenney: Hello Again – *The Nugget*. North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

WRITTEN FEATURES: First Place – Nancy Roberts: Notes from the President's Desk – *The Nugget*. North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

Second Place – Nikki Kenney: Nikki's Story – *The Nugget*. North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

Fourth Place – Souzen Deavers Steelhammer: March Madness NMGMS Style: Etching Workshop – *The Nugget*. North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

Seventh Place – Brenda Manning: Kim St. Jean Workshop – *The Nugget*. North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

Eighth Place – Belinda Loyd: Etching Workshop – *The Nugget*. North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

Ninth Place – Rebecca Vallarian: NMGMS Helps Out at the ODCM Summer Camp – *The Nugget*. North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

Honorable Mention – Roger Lambert: Learning a New Skill at William Holland – *The Nugget*. North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

Reprinted from the December 2015 *Lodestar*

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

For Federation news, please check out these websites:

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

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



Mississippi River Gravels photo by Nancy Roberts



Do it safely so you can live to do it again.

Just because it is pretty, does not mean it is tasty. Some people have a habit of licking rocks to wet them in order for the details and contrast to show. This practice might be fine in some places, but it highlights an issue that needs to be addressed in lapidary work. Some rocks are poisonous by degrees.

Detroit agates, such as Fordite, are made from layers of over-sprayed paint on automotive assembly lines. The older layers or chunks could at the least contain lead, but all layers contain chemicals that should be handled carefully.

Unlike the gravels and river rocks in our area, some of the rocks from the western US can contain selenium, mercury, arsenic, and even radioactive heavy metals. That does not mean our gravel is hazard free, it just means that different levels of safety practices need to be observed.

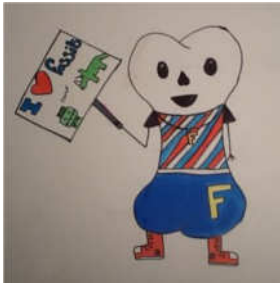
We have acquired lapidary equipment that we hope to phase into our club's program this year. It is important that any material brought in for sawing and grinding be properly identified and handled safely, for your health and the health of others. Make sure that enough water is on the work to eliminate all of the dust. Whoever draws the short straw for cleaning out the mud trap on the drainage system needs to keep in mind that the mud is far more dangerous than the rock. Wash up afterwards and don't lick anything. Be safe and have fun! Submitted by Mike Schuchs



Mud trap photo by Nancy Roberts

Show Dates!

The 2016 MGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show will be held at the Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds in Jackson, Mississippi on **Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016 9:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 28th 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.** **Admission:** Adults – \$6.00 Students – \$3.00 Scouts and Leaders in uniform – \$2.00 Children 5 and under – Free



Rockheads:

January 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

At the Dec. 12, 2015 meeting our NMGMS junior member advisor, Jim Roberts, awarded the Rockheads, Konrad Armstrong, Victoria Langford, James Carr, Marion Carr, and Alice Carr with the FRA badges that they had earned over the course of the year. Congratulations for a job well done!



Also at the Dec. meeting, 5 of the Rockheads were awarded the NMGMS "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award. Kudos to the Rockheads for a great year!

Note: At the January 9, 2016 meeting, the Rockheads will be working on earthquakes, fault lines and mountain building, so if you have any colored clay or playdough, please bring it!

Bead Soup.....By Nikki Kenney



Photo by Nancy Roberts

If you are cutting copper tubing into small pieces, first smooth the cut end, so that you will have only one end to finish. To make the new cut end easier to smooth, find a wooden dowel or chopstick that fits the tube, if it is graduated, so much the better. Slip the cut copper tube onto the dowel with the freshly cut end nearest the pointed end of the dowel. Then roll the dowel along the edge of a salon (sponge) nail board, twirling back and forth, with the cut edge of the tubing riding along the edge of the salon board. Use the coarser side of the board first, then turn it over and use the finer side. You will feel the end of the tubing becoming smoother, when you check by rubbing your finger along it.

Minutes for NMGMS Board of Directors Meeting

November 21, 2015

Time and Place

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was held on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015 from 12:30 to 1:10p.m. at 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, John Byzet, Robert Langford, Brenda Manning, and Mike Schuchs.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer presented a balance of \$2,780.62

Old Business: New Albany Heritage Museum wants our club to teach a workshop; date to be discussed later.

New Business: John Byzet told us the cost of a small storage unit, where he has one, would run \$29 per month for a 5ftx5ft unit outside and \$48 for a 5ftx10ft unit.

Board members discussed all that NMGMS we would have to do about becoming a 501(c)3 and how it would benefit the club. Mike Schuchs, who ran a 501©3 for 10 years, provided insight on how the board would have to handle the club money and bank account as a 501©3. Possibly getting a debit card was discussed. John Byzet had the IRS 1023 and 1023EZ forms and he gave these to Nancy to look over.

Nancy explained the equipment donation from the Huntsville club. Particulars, such as, when do we pick it up, where we will store it, and how much it might cost to get it up and running, were covered. The board moved to approve accepting the donation of the equipment. **Motion was approved.**

Mike Schuchs agreed to store the equipment in his basement over the winter.

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Minutes for Nov. 21, 2015 NMGMS Board of Directors Meeting..cont'd

Several different options for locating a building for the equipment, as well as a place to hold classes, meetings and workshops were discussed. Mike and John volunteered to check around the area.

Nancy stated that the Oren Dunn Museum plans to charge a \$2 admission fee to our Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show on April 9th, 2016. Also, a New Albany Boy Scout troop would like NMGMS to teach a Boy Scout Geology merit badge class and Robert Langford agreed to teach it. Date is yet to be set.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:10p.m.

Minutes submitted by Brenda Manning

December Meeting Minutes:**NMGMS Meeting Minutes**

Date: December 12, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by the Rockheads and new member Dan Winfield was introduced.

A motion to approve the Nov. meeting minutes as printed in the Dec. Nugget was made, seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance \$3508.62

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: Our next NMGMS field trip will be to AL for Mississippian fossils January 30, 2016. The Mt. Ida spring break trip for quartz crystals will be Fri. March 11th thru Sunday March 13th. I will book rooms thru Monday the 14th for those who wish to stay over.

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

Membership: (Ann Byzet) Members were reminded that 2016 dues were now due to be paid. **Dues are \$12 for individual and \$20 for family.**

Hospitality: Refreshments: Volunteers for Jan.: Dana Armstrong and Nancy Roberts

Volunteers for Feb. 20th: Robert Langford and Ann Byzet Monetary donations for refreshments are welcome!

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

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) Results of the AFMS Bulletin Competition are: The Nugget took an honorable mention, Nancy Roberts took an 8th place for her article "Food for thought about Geotagging", and some of our club members, who write for other newsletters, also took some awards, Joy Rushing, WC McDaniel and Matthew Lybanon.

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads have completed several FRA badges and we have 5 of them who have earned the club's Junior Rockhound of the Year award! **(Handout the awards and badges)**

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) Please turn in anything that you have for the 2015 yearbook to Cheryle.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) **Rae has us scheduled to start setting up our display cases the week of March 21st thru the 25th. We can start a few days earlier, if spring break week works out better. So we will probably use the February meeting for filling grab bags, etc.**

Safety: (David Loyd) Mike Schuchs is doing safety write ups for the Nugget.

Old Business: A motion to elect the following slate of officers for 2016 was made, seconded and approved:

President, Nancy Roberts, Vice President, Mike Schuchs, Treasurer, Nikki Kenney, and Secretary, Belinda Loyd. Mike Schuchs, Jim Roberts and Nancy Roberts will be picking up the Huntsville equipment on Saturday Dec. 19th. Mike will store it in his basement over the winter.

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 old business.

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NMGMS Dec. 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes ...cont'd

New Business: Mike Schuchs has been investigating a few possible places in Tupelo for NMGMS to set up a lapidary workshop. The Link Center looks like a good possibility. Mike described the availability of space in the Link Center, the possible cost to rent said rooms, and the merits of setting up shop there. Rental costs and what NMGMS could afford, as well as, a discussion of the merits of being a federally recognized charity and whether 501c3 or another classification is a good fit ensued. We have the 501©3 forms and are looking them over. Kim St. Jean has agreed to stop and teach another metals class for us at the Women's Center on January 23rd. The project and class fee notice coming out soon. Class is limited to 15.

Rebecca Vallarian was recognized for her years of service. Jim Roberts awarded the Rockheads with their FRA badges and Nancy Roberts handed out the Junior Rockhound of the Year Awards.

There was no other new business. Motion was made to adjourn.

NMGMS 2016 Officers:

President/Field Trip Chair:

Nancy Roberts
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Counce, TN 38326
(731)689-5336
therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Secretary:

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bloyd_utlady@yahoo.com

Vice-President:

Mike Schuchs
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mike.schuchs@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Nikki Kenney
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662-844-6142
ofkbk@comcast.net

HGMS lapidary saws, some to be donated to NMGMS..



Photo by Nancy Roberts