

Photo by Jim Roberts



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



Stowe VT

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

Welcome to fall, and the last quarter of the year. Hard to believe that another year of fun rockhounding activities is nearly behind us. Not to worry, there are still some neat events and meetings left before we close out 2016. NMGMS turned a few corners this year too, and I hope that our organization will continue to grow and move in this exciting, new lapidary direction. It looks like we have enough motors now to get some of the cabbing machines running. Still need to get them wired together and the cooling system rigged, but we should have a workshop going soon. I'm seriously considering an organizational "setup/cleanup" day at the NMGMS room in Link Center. Sounds like an "in house" field trip to me!

I would like to thank our very capable vice president, Mike Schuchs, for stepping in and officiating at the Sept. 17th meeting in my absence. The business meeting and the video presentations done by the program's featured speaker, Russell Ferrell, proceeded without a glitch. Whenever electronic equipment is involved, we always hold our breath and keep our fingers crossed that all goes well. Thanks Mike! Also, a big thank you goes to Alison Schuchs for taking charge of the Rockheads and setting up a program for their meeting. Looks like the Rockheads had fun, as they worked on the FRA Gemstone Lore and Legend badge. Watch out, if you decide to challenge one of the Rockheads to a game of TIC TAC TOE, it looks like they've had practice!

I want to remind everyone of our club's upcoming picnic and rock swap on Saturday October 22nd. It will again be held at the large pavilion in Ballard Park on W. Main St. in Tupelo. I'm really looking forward to being there, after our long summer vacation. I hope all of our members will plan to attend; I think the silent auction will be a really good one and hold some nice surprises this year. There will also be some rocks and jewelry for sale by NMGMS that have been donated to the club. I'm sure there will be plenty of interesting things for you to "shop". Maybe you'll find that "one of a kind" piece to add to your collection! Please bring a dessert to share, or something that will go with the hotdogs that NMGMS will be providing. Donations for the auction are also welcome!

I've been practicing a little soldering and copper brazing this past summer, so there should be some really good mixed metals workshops coming up for NMGMS. Lots of fun in store!! I've also contacted the owner of the old lime pit near Trebloc, and our club still has permission for a field trip there. Yeah! That will be coming up next month. I'm ready to get back out in the field, how about you? Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS Picnic & Rock Swap

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

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

Bring something to trade or just come by to join the picnic, look around and visit with fellow rock hounds. The Swap is from **1p.m. until 5 p.m.** (Set up to begin at 12:30p.m.) We will be having a club auction, as well as other donated items for sale, (donated items are most welcome!) NMGMS will have hot dogs, chips and drinks. **Members are asked to bring a dessert and folding chairs. The fishing game will be on hand for the kids!**

Photo by Nikki Kenney



Fold Formed Copper Cuff Workshop

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

Want to learn a metalsmithing technique called fold forming? In this workshop, you will learn how to fold and hammer a copper metal sheet to make interesting and unique patterns while you create a cuff bracelet and a pair of earrings. You will also be texturing and stamping your metal, as well as learning to anneal and apply several different patinas. This is really a fun project and the results will amaze you! The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. The \$40 class fee includes all materials, tools and the use of the torches. Please bring a brown bag lunch. There is a refrigerator and microwave oven available.

When: Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016

Where: Louise Campbell Center for the Arts, 235 Commerce St., West Point, MS

Time: 10 to 4 Class fee: \$40

Class is limited to 12, so please let us know if you plan to attend.

Contact Nancy Roberts, (therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)

or Kathy Dyess, (kathydyess@bellsouth.net) with questions, or to let us know that you want to join us.

Feel free to call Kathy at 494-5678

Again, we are asking that if you plan to come, please mail a check for \$40 to:

WP/CC Arts Council P.O. Box 105 West Point, MS 39773 so that we receive it before Friday, Oct 28th

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

Nov. 5th: NMGMS field trip to Trebloc Lime Pit. Details on page 7

Nov. 19th: NMGMS meeting, 1 to 3p.m. at the library. "Minerals We Use Every Day", this is a "hands on" program by Rebecca Vallarian and Konrad Armstrong. You won't want to miss participating in this fun mineral demonstration! For all ages!!

Dec. 10th: NMGMS annual Christmas party meeting and luncheon. 11:00am to 3pm at the Lee County Library. Details will be in the Nov. Nugget.

Dec. 17th: Field trip for Devonian fossils at the Vulcan Quarry in Parsons, TN Details will be in the Nov. Nugget.

Show Dates:

Nov 11 - 13, Pascagoula, MS The 27th Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show!

Fri. 10 - 6, Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 10 - 5. Jackson County Fairgrounds Civic Center, 2902 Shortcut Rd., Pascagoula, MS 39567
30 plus vendors. Admission is \$3.00 for adults, children 12 & under are free with adult. 3 day ticket available for \$5.00
For more information Contact Bill La Rue, (228) 229-8781, wildbill2736@gmail.com or Barbi Beatty, (228) 238 -9900
mgcgms@bellsouth.net www.mgcgms.org

The 46th Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show December 2-4, 2016

Garrett Coliseum 1555 Federal Drive Montgomery, Alabama Friday, December 2: 9 AM - 6 PM

Saturday, December 3: 10 AM - 6 PM Sunday, December 4: 11 AM - 5 PM

Admission: \$2/Adults or \$3 for weekend pass Free/18 & Under with student ID and 1 paid adult ticket.

<http://montgomerygemandmineralsociety.com/mgms/index.php/annual-gem-show>

September Field Trip Review:



The September 24th field trip to Blue Springs wasn't very well attended, but we did have a couple people there. Unfortunately, the site hasn't had a good washing in some time and has been really picked over. There wasn't a lot of decent material on the surface. One would need to really excavate to get to some decent fossil material. Roger Lambert (I would like to thank Roger for being the field trip leader for this event and also thank those who did manage to attend. Sounds like we need a gully washer at the site! Hope you were able to at least find a few things there that day. Nancy)

Photo of Roger at Blue Springs by Nancy Roberts

Meeting Program Review: INTRODUCING: ACROCANTHOSAURUS by Nikki Kenney

Photo by Alison Schuchs



Our first meeting on Sept. 17, 2016, after the summer hiatus, began with a fascinating program about dinosaurs. The speaker, Russell Ferrell, told about the discovery of Acrocanthosaurus, a predator dinosaur. Though smaller than T Rex who was primarily a scavenger dinosaur, Acrocanthosaurus had as its main diet the much larger herbivores such as Brontosaurus. Mr. Ferrell had two videos that showed these interesting creatures coming to life digitally, much like in the movie Jurassic Park. The movie was made before Acrocanthosaurus was discovered by Cephis Hall and Sid Love, two amateur rockhounds who discovered and excavated one of the most complete Acrocanthosaurus skeletons to date. These two men spent several years searching for an “important find” on property owned by Weyerhaeuser Lumber and Timber Company. There ensued a legal battle as to the ownership of this significant discovery. Hence the title of Mr. Ferrell’s book, “The Bone War of McCurtain County: A True Story of Two Ordinary Men’s Quest for Treasure and Their Epic Battle Against Extraordinary Odds.” Due to time constraints, we only got to see portions of the two videos. I wish we could have seen them in their entirety, and I wish I had bought a copy of Mr. Ferrell’s book.

If you wish to learn more about this intriguing story, follow the links below, and read the synopsis of Mr. Ferrell’s book on amazon.com.

[The Bone War of Mccurtain County: A True Story of Two Ordinary Men's Quest for Treasure and Their Epic Battle Against Extraordinary Odds](#)

[Acrocanthosaurus](#)

[Acrocanthosaurus - Discovery and Naming | Discovery Naming](#)



Bead Soup: A place to talk “shop”!

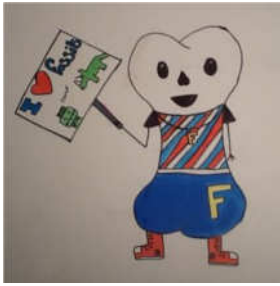
More tips from: **RECYCLE WITH A PURPOSE** By Nikki Kenney

Photo of Nikki’s enameled pieces by Nancy Roberts

When I am sifting powder enamel onto a copper blank, I need to be able to pick it up without disturbing the powder in order to place it into a kiln or onto a tripod to be fired with a torch. A plastic pop bottle top, or any cap from a small bottle, even the empty plastic spool from cellophane tape or thread would be great to place a copper blank upon before I sift powder enamel on it; then the piece can easily be picked up by its edges.

I never throw away small spray bottles. They are excellent when you need to be able to spray liquids on a project such as alcohol mixed with inks or patinas, liquid flux, etc.

When powder enamel gets mixed with other colors, I pour it into a small medicine bottle, and I can use it as a “counter” enamel on the back of a metal piece when the color is not important.



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins



Oct. 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 Meeting, Sept. 17, 2016

In attendance: James, Alice, Marion, Liam, Mrs. Alison

We're studying about stones and gems for the Gemstone Lore and Legend badge. We learned about anniversary stones and birthstones. We read where stones are mentioned in the Bible. Mrs. Alison brought stones from an island in Scotland. We made tic tac toe bags. We also made wooden dinosaurs. Submitted by Alice Carr

September 17, 2016
 James, Alice, Marion, Liam, Mrs. Alison

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Photos by Alison Schuchs

Note: The next Rockhead meeting will be on Nov. 19, 2016, 1pm. at the library in Tupelo. Plan to finish up the Gemstone Lore and Legend badge and then you will be making crystal structures out of some really "sweet" materials, i.e.: marshmallows and gumdrops!! You won't want to miss this one!



Photo by Jim Roberts



Photo by Isla Schuchs Carr

A Visit to the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History By Jake Carr

Over spring break my parents took me and my sisters, Marion and Alice, to Washington, D.C. where we visited the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History. I think it is my favorite out of all the museums I have been to. There were dinosaur bones, mummies, insects, prehistoric sea creature fossils, minerals and rocks. My favorite exhibit was the Sant Ocean Hall where they had the world's largest collection of ocean specimens.

The hall of fossils was closed for renovations while we were there, but they had some of the incomplete skeletons and fossils in the main lobby for people to see. The picture of the Tyrannosaurus Rex skull is a cast of a skull from a Tyrannosaurus Rex that died near a river Sixty-Six million years ago in what is now Montana. The skeleton was found by a rancher named Kathy Wankel because a tip of the arm bone was sticking up through the dirt. It took two years for the skeleton to be completely uncovered. The original skull and the rest of the bones will be inside the new Hall of Fossils exhibit when it reopens



Photos by Isla Schuchs Carr

Rockhead member, Konrad Armstrong, stays busy doing his mineral presentations throughout the community. Be sure to catch his Nov. 19th program at our NMGMS meeting!



Photos by Dana Armstrong

NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Award

If you have been working toward earning the "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award, but have not yet completed all of the necessary requirements, don't worry, there's still time before the December meeting. There are several Rockheads who have already completed the three requirements for the NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Award, which are:

1. Be a member in good standing
2. Write an article or review for The Nugget
3. Give a short presentation or set up a "show and tell" display at one of the meetings.

If you still need to get an article or review published in the newsletter, please send it to therockhoundlady@yahoo.com . It doesn't need to be long or complicated!

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

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Next NMGMS Field Trip: Nov. 5, 2016

The next NMGMS field trip will be on Saturday **Nov. 5, 2016**

This trip will be to the old Trebloc, MS (Robertson) lime pit. The owner has again graciously given us permission to collect here. Fossil crab pieces, turtle shell, sea urchin spines, shark teeth, Enchodus teeth, oysters of all kinds and even some mosasaur vertebrae can be collected at this locale. Lots of pretty marcasite too!

This is a Cretaceous deposit of the Demopolis Chalk

Meet at the quarry at **9:00 a.m.** Be sure to pack a lunch, hat, sunscreen and drinking water. You will need good sturdy shoes, a bucket or other container for your specimens and a screwdriver or pick for getting the fossils out of the clay. Most of the specimens are laying on the surface and are readily collected. Hope to see you all there!

Nancy Roberts, field trip chair NMGMS

RSVP Please! therockhoundlady@yahoo.com or call 731-689-5336

If you are planning to go, I will send you the directions.

The road into the quarry has become very overgrown. I plan to go down to see if I can clear it a bit (I have the owner's permission to do so), otherwise we will have to park out on the road and walk in.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes**Sept. 17, 2016**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Jake, Mari, and Ali Carr.

Introduce guests and new members...David Masters; Bill and JoAnn Wardlaw

The May 21, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as printed in the February 2016 Nugget.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of Aug. 31st \$3987.00

Review of Committees:

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016 to the Union County/Blue Springs crab site. Field trip guide will be Roger Lambert Meet at the site at 9:00a.m.

This site is an Upper Cretaceous Coon Creek deposit. There is a field trip hosted by MAGS on October 15th to a gravel quarry in Southaven, MS. This DMC trip is open to club members only. Children are welcome.

Publicity: (John Byzet) The club has been posting more announcements and photos on the NMGMS Facebook page and it has been receiving a fair amount of "traffic". Be sure to "like" us on FB!!

Membership: (Ann Byzet) Our total membership count, for 2016 is 142 members.

Hospitality:

Refreshments: Volunteers for Nov. 19th, Nancy Roberts and Belinda Loyd. Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome!

Website: (John Byzet) The website fee has been paid. The updated NMGMS constitution and bylaws is on the website, as well as previous issues of The Nugget. Check us out at 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.

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads will be building crystal shapes with toothpicks, gumdrops and mini marshmallows at the Nov. 19th meeting. If you didn't make the gold panning trip and need to finish up the FRA Gold Mining badge, please check out the FRA manual

http://www.amfed.org/fra/AFMS_FRA_Badge_Manual_Revised_2012.pdf [Badge #12](#) for the other activities.

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) Members were encouraged to begin saving their 2016 memorabilia for the club yearbook. 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) we are scheduled to hold another Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the ODCM on April 8, 2017. We will be setting up our displays at the museum in March and letting them run until mid-May of 2017.

Safety: (David Loyd) Safety articles for the Nugget are needed. If anyone has a suggestion for topics let David or Belinda know.

Old Business:

- ❖ We have the large pavilion at **Ballard Park** reserved for our club picnic on **October 22nd**. We moved the date back one week, because the October MAGS DMC field trip will be on October 15th. The picnic/rock swap is from 1p.m. until 5 p.m. (Set up to begin at 12:30p.m.) We will be having a club auction, as well as other donated items for sale, (donated items are most welcome!) NMGMS will have hot dogs, chips and drinks. Members are asked to bring a dessert and folding chairs.
- ❖ We have 3 saws that are working now at our Link Center room, and have received several motors. So hopefully, we can get some of the grinders up and running and start making cabs. Small submersible water pumps and some 5 gallon buckets are needed for the water cooling systems.
- ❖ The rent on our Link Center room has been paid thru January 2017. The Link Center would really like NMGMS to help out at their events, in exchange for keeping our rent low. They could use volunteers to help set up tables, take tickets or act as ushers, and also sometimes work the bar.

No further old business at this time. **A motion was made by M Schuchs to accept all old business as being finished.**

Motion Approved and Second.

Meeting minutes continued on page 9....

NMGMS Meeting Minutes, Sept. 17, 2016, continued:**New Business:**

1. NMGMS is scheduled to teach a copper fold forming class in West Point, MS on Saturday October 29, 2016, from 10 to 4p.m. The class is \$40 and is open to 12 students.
Location: Louise Campbell Center for the Arts, 235 Commerce St., West Point, MS
If you are interested, email therockhoundlady@yahoo.com for more information or to sign up for this class.
2. We are setting up a joint field trip with MAGS to the Parsons, TN Quarry on Dec. 17th.
3. NMGMS made about \$180 at the Mimosas and Masterpieces Aug. 6th art festival. Members were selling handcrafted jewelry items made and donated by fellow club members. A big **“thank you”** goes to those members who worked very hard to make the pieces and to those who weathered the hot day to sell them!
4. Is there a NMGMS member who would like to represent our organization at the SFMS annual meeting in Nov.? It is to be held on Nov. 18-20th in Marietta, GA. **Motion to table until next meeting. Approved and Second.**
5. The next regular club meeting will be Nov. 19th at the library from 1 to 3p.m. The program, “Minerals and Their Uses”, will be given by Rebecca Vallarian and Konrad Armstrong.
6. We are thinking about adding a bean bag toss activity to our Geology Fest, so this time, instead of more grab bags sewn, we will need bean bags! They can be filled with the new Poly Pellets by Fairfield.

Is there any other new business? M Schuchs informed the members present that there is a need to determine what to do with the extra equipment at the Link Center. Bring suggestions to the next meeting.

**Announcement: HGMS HUNTSVILLE, AL ROCK AND GEM SHOW OCTOBER 7, 8, & 9, 2016
AT THE JAYCEE COMMUNITY BUILDING, 2180 AIRPORT RD HUNTSVILLE, AL**

Motion to Adjourn.....**NMGMS 2016 Officers:**

President/Field Trip Chair:

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

Secretary:

Belinda Loyd
7834 Cherry Valley
Southaven, MS 38671
901-605-9772
bloyd_utlady@yahoo.com

Vice-President:

Mike Schuchs
1148 Lake Dr.
Fulton, MS 38843
(662)862-3160
mike.schuchs@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Nikki Kenney
PO Box 808
Tupelo, MS 38802
662-844-6142
nmgms@comcast.net

Committees:

Publicity Chair/Web Master

John Byzet
1209 Queensgate Dr
Tupelo, MS 38801
(662)844-9841
wa4iax@comcast.net

Hospitality:

Rebecca Vallarian
308 Meadowbrook Circle
Armory, MS 38821
(662)256-2040
janiegirl@vallarian.com

Membership:

Ann Byzet
1209 Queensgate Dr
Tupelo, MS 38801
(662)844-9841
annbyzet@comcast.com

Historian:

Cheryle Langford
121 Willow Creek Rd
Saltillo, MS 38866
662-869-2278
cherlang7@att.net



Federation News:

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

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

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



The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is a member of the Southeast Federation.

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. was organized in 1976 to bring about a closer association of Clubs and Societies devoted to the study of Earth Sciences and the practice of Lapidary Arts and Crafts in the Southeastern part of the United States. The Southeast Federation includes approximately 80+ clubs and societies mostly in the region east of the Mississippi River and South of a line following the northern borders of Tennessee and North Carolina. **There are a few clubs outside of this area due to historical affiliation. The Southeast Federation is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



Schist boulders Smugglers Notch, VT

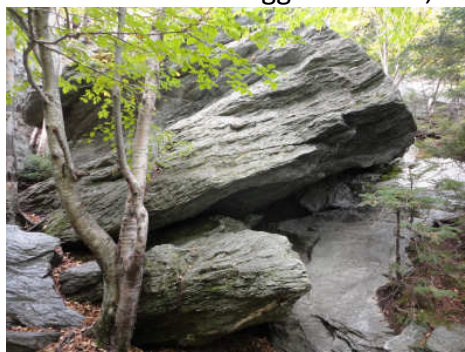


Photo by Nancy Roberts