

Photo by Alison Schuchs



Nancy fossil hunting!

Notes From the President's Desk...February 2017

Happy Valentine's Day NMGMS! Conundrum: should I ask for a pound of chocolate, a pound of rocks, or a pound of chocolate rocks?

Wow, with two field trips, two workshops, and a club meeting already completed, NMGMS is certainly having an active and fun start to this calendar year. I would like to thank Dr. Jennifer Gifford for her exceptional presentation at our Jan. 28th meeting. We all enjoyed her geology lesson, so we can now "read the rocks" in a road cut and know something about the geologic forces that acted upon the formations. She drew a record crowd too! Thank you Dr. Gifford!

Sixteen club members attended the copper brazing workshop on Jan. 14th and had a very enjoyable day. Everyone picked up the technique quickly and some fabulous pieces were created. They now have a skill that they can use to create original pieces with some of those rocks they have collected! The slab saw and cabochon workshop was a success, too. Mike Schuchs gave lessons on the use of the 12 inch slab saw, as well as the 6 inch trim saw, and Andy Hight demonstrated how to make a cabochon, from start to finish, using the Genie machine. I was told that he does a really great job and is a fast worker! NMGMS now has several club members who are "certified" to run the lapidary equipment, so we should start to see more activity in our lapidary work shop. There are still several cabochon machines that could be set up and the suggestion was made to remove some of the shelving and to build one more counter. That way, we could have at least three people doing cab work in the room at the same time. Awesome idea! Load the saw to cut a slab and then work on a cab, while you wait for the cut to be completed!

NMGMS is doing very well on its membership renewals for 2017. There are 93 members on the roster so far for this year, which is 17 more than we had last year at this time. We've gained some new junior members too. I know the Rockheads have some really fun activities lined up for this year, as they work on earning the FRA badges through the AFMS program. I love to see how enthusiastic the junior members are, as they learn about all kinds of interesting things related to rocks, minerals, fossils, etc. It's refreshing to see kids enjoying activities other than video games. Rock collecting is a great family activity, and it gets them out of doors!

Looking ahead to spring, the Mt. Ida spring break field trip that is set for March 10th- 12th, is shaping up to be a really good one. There are 23 club members planning to attend so far, so we should get a good group rate at the two mines we'll be visiting. Also, our club's April 8th Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the Oren Dunn Museum will be coming up fast.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of our members to participate in the setup of our museum display. Please look thru your rock collections, jewelry, fossils, etc. for specimens that you would be willing to loan the club for this event. Gather up what you are planning to loan NMGMS for the display cases and bring them to the February or March meeting, so that we can start making up the identification labels. See the Jan. meeting minutes 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. Also, be sure to put your initials on a piece of painters tape and place it on the bottom of each specimen. Rocks, minerals and fossils are all welcome! We will also be show casing jewelry pieces that were created at our club workshops, so please include a few of those for the display. The museum patrons love to see what we create! So take a few moments on these chilly days of winter to go thru your collection and pull out a few of these needed items. Don't forget to mark your calendars for two upcoming events, the MGMS rock and gem show, Feb. 25 and 26th in Jackson, MS at the fairgrounds, and the Fossil Road Show the following Saturday, March 4th at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, also in Jackson, MS. Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar!

Our **February 18, 2017** NMGMS meeting will be at the Link Center, 1800 Main Street, upstairs in the conference room from 1 to 3p.m. The program will be a mixed media resin project. We will be using Ice Resin and setting a variety of small, interesting objects into a bezel pendant. Project is for all ages! Bring some little treasures to add to your piece or use what the club will have on hand. Park on the east side of the building and enter through the doors that are under the carport. Refreshments to be provided by Rebecca Vallarian and Nancy Roberts

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

March 11-12th, 2017: Spring break field trip to Mt. Ida, AR for quartz crystals (see pg 6 for details)

March 18, 2017: NMGMS March meeting from 1 to 3p.m. at the Tupelo Library. 16th Birthday party!

March 29th-31st, 2017: Oren Dunn City Museum (ODCM) display setup.

April 8, 2017: Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show, 10-4p.m. at the ODCM in Tupelo

Other Upcoming Events:

Feb. 25-26th, 2017: MGMS rock and gem show at the Fairgrounds in Jackson, MS (see pg 2 for details)

March 4, 2017: MMNS 14th Annual Fossil Road Show, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Miss. Museum of Natural Science, Jackson, MS (see pg 3 for details)

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

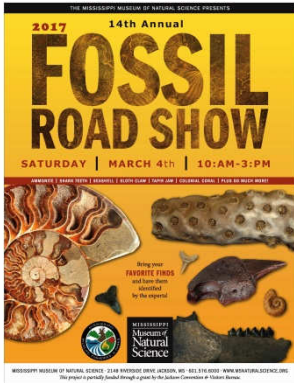
2017 is here and it is time to renew your NMGMS membership. Our club treasurer will be available to collect your dues at our meetings, or you can make checks payable to NMGMS (\$12 single, \$20 family) and mail them along with an application form to: NMGMS, P.O. Box 1445, Tupelo, MS 38802.

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

Our club has a lot to offer, so please consider renewing in order to remain on the club roster and eligible for our field trips. Each and every member is important to our organization and we would hate to lose even one of you!

Show Dates: **Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society**

February 25-26, 2017, Jackson, MS 58th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show
Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (MGMS) Saturday, February 25, 2017 – 9 am to 6 pm
Sunday, February 26, 2017 – 10 am to 5 pm Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, Jackson, MS
Admission: Adults \$6.00; Students; \$3.00; Scouts & Leaders in Uniform - \$2.00; Children 5 and under – free
The show features museum displays, hands-on activities for children and a shopping bonanza of fossils, gems, minerals, geodes, beads, cabs, slabs, specimens, carvings, books and lapidary tools. Fine jewelry and custom made pieces are available, along with beads and jewelry elements. Twenty-seven vendors from around the country will sell at the show. They range from the Petrified Forest from Flora to the Geode Gallery of Davenport, Iowa.



Show Dates: **MMNS 14th Annual Fossil Road Show**

Saturday, March 04, 2017 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, 2148 Riverside Dr. Jackson, MS

Pack up your fossils and hit the road! Bring your fossil discoveries and get expert opinions about their ages and identities from our team of scientists. In addition to the Museum's fossil collection, there will be collector displays and institutional exhibitors. Enjoy hands-on activities, "fossil digs", and a scavenger hunt. There is no fee, other than regular Museum admission, to attend the event and reservations are not required.

Meeting Program Review: NMGMS January Meeting Program



Photo by Nancy Roberts

On January 28, 2017, the North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society hosted Dr. Jennifer Gifford. Her presentation was entitled "Wait! Slow down! What was that again?" (Or Identifying rock structures as you drive).

Dr. Gifford discussed Faulting (Normal, Reverse, and Thrust Faults) and Folding (Anticline, Syncline, Plunging, Dome, and Basin Structures) in detail. She presented figures and demonstrations of the forces and resultant structures.

Dr. Gifford presented photos of road cuts and the rock strata. We saw horizontal, dipping, and faulted strata. Based upon her discussion, the members were asked to describe what they observed in the photos.

Additionally, Dr. Gifford presented a picture of folded rock strata in Yemen. The thrust portion of the photo was of a formation call Ophiolite and consisted of very heavy green mafic rock thrust from deep in the crust and its age is on the order of 3.5 billion years. She had a sample of this rock for the members to inspect and heft its weight, or mass. This rock will be the subject of a multi-discipline study and a graduate student's thesis paper.

The conclusion that true Rockhounds should make and carry forward from her presentation is that, Rockhounds should move past the landscape painting and see into the depth of the geologic strata, structural stresses, and by inference, into time itself. The presentation was well received by the NMGMS members. Robert A. Langford, RPG



Photos by Nancy Roberts



Lapidary Enthusiasts Throng to Prong-Setting Workshop

by Clarice Turner

Photo by Beverly P Kraft

Tupelo's Link Center was the setting for the January 14th prong-setting class, which was attended by a throng of club members from, not only the Tupelo area, but also from Starkville, Mathiston, Tuscaloosa, Fulton, Memphis, Jackson, Ackerman, Ecrú and Counce. All attending were excited to learn ways to set rocks, gemstones, fossils, cabochons, or just about anything, using copper wire, a torch, and copper brazing rods.

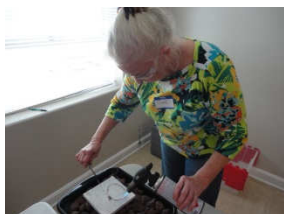
Nancy Roberts, our club president, explained the basic tools that would be used, the basic steps involved, and safety tips when using the torch, the acid pickle, which is used for cleaning off fire scale, and the Liver of Sulfur (LOS) solution, which is used for putting a patina on the metal. Nancy reviewed wire gauges and the first steps to preparing the wire design that would hold each stone. In the adjoining room, where individual torch stations were setup, consisting of a fire proof surface (such as a ceramic tile), a soldering board, a pair of cross lock tweezers for holding the wire, and a bowl of water for quenching the hot metal, lights were dimmed for the demonstration of using the butane torch to ball the ends of copper wire. Finished examples of prong-set stones, cabochons, and fossils were on display and passed around to give everyone ideas of ways to "branch out" from the basic design. Loretta Hettler, Nikki Kenney, Nancy Roberts, and I had prepared these example pendants ahead of time, and we were all on hand to assist at the various work stations during the workshop.

Prong setting is an ideal way to set unusually shaped stones or fossils. Copper, silver, or brass wire can be used. Three different gauges of bare copper wire were used for this workshop and were placed at each person's work space, along with a copper brazing rod and a club tool box containing basic pliers, cutters, files, etc. which were used to complete the projects. Making the prong setting for the stones involved the following steps:

1. Cutting and placing the wire, along with the stone, to determine the design.
2. Balling the ends of the wires to be used for the prongs.
3. Braze the prong wires to the base or frame wires, using the butane torch and a copper brazing rod.
4. Use the pickle solution to clean the fire scale off of the copper wires that were brazed together and then rinse.
5. File any rough edges and then patina the piece using the LOS solution.
6. Use fine (0000) steel wool to remove some of the patina and to give the metal a soft antique look.
7. The last step is to place the stone atop of the wire setting and to carefully pull the prongs over the stone, thus securing it.

Another advantage of using the prong method of stone setting is that the prongs can be pulled back and repositioned if necessary, or curled over the stone to give a different look, if the prong length allows. There was a lot of excitement during the workshop, as the stones were put in place. Pictures were taken, and oohs and aahs could be heard around the room, as the finished pieces were admired. Many members kept working right through lunch, in order to start a second project. Before ending the workshop, Nancy demonstrated how to make a simple stack ring using heavy gauge copper wire. At the end of the workshop, everyone left with several finished pendant pieces, as well as a new creative lapidary skill. Now they know how to use all of those wonderful field trip "finds" by prong- setting them into some very unique, one of a kind, pieces of jewelry.

Photos by Beverly P Kraft and Nancy Roberts



Old Bones: all about collecting! NMGMS goes to Alabama by Taylor Weathers



The Alabama trip was my first field trip with NMGMS. I was able to meet some very interesting people with similar interests, and we all worked together as a group to find the numerous fossils within the Mississippian Bangor formation of Western Alabama. Fossils found included, numerous bryozoans, large corals, crinoids, Archimedes, brachiopods, a gastropod, and even fragments of a shark tooth and of a trilobite. The material was a dark grey limestone with some glauconitic shale and sandstone. Burrows and tracks were readily noticeable. We searched for fossils from 9 am - 4 pm. Overall, I had a great time and I look

forward to future trips with the group!

Photos by Nancy Roberts



Safety First!

A **HEAVY** SAFETY TIP By Mike Schuchs



It seems like we invent new ways to hurt ourselves by focusing on the prize rather than the process.

How many times have you come home from a field trip all stove up and with large rocks in the vehicle that are, magically, much heavier than they were in the field? It seems that endorphins counteract gravity.

Here are a few simple things to help bring your prize home safely and keep you out of rehab/physical therapy.

Carry a small tape measure or a 12 inch ruler on your field trips. Not only are they good for showing scale in a photo, but you can get a close estimate on the volume of the rock in question.

You have to be able to make an educated guess as to what part of a 12 x 12 x 12 inch cube is your rock. Is it half, a quarter or 3 cubic feet? A cubic foot of: sandstone weighs 150lbs, limestone 162lbs, basalt 190lbs.

So, a basalt chunk fitting into an imaginary 6 x 6 x 6 inch box has a maximum weight of _____?

“A man has to know his limitations.” The average safe lifting weight is 50lbs, obviously, that doesn’t apply to all of us. Some people are built like a rock and some people sit in a chair and rock. You need to know where you fit.

Once you have sized your prize and you know it is within your range, make sure you lift it correctly.

Bend down with your knees, never bend over. Cradle the rock close to your center of gravity or belly button. Stand up and carry the rock with both hands. Avoid twisting and reverse the order to place the rock in the vehicle.

A lot of little rocks in a bucket can take a greater toll than that one big rock, so make frequent trips and carry smaller loads.

FYI, the basalt would have a maximum weight of 23.75lbs. Happy hunting!

Photo of Jim’s slabs by Nancy Roberts

Up Coming NMGMS Field Trip: Mt. Ida, AR



The 2017 Spring break field trip will be to Mt. Ida, AR for quartz crystals, March 11th and 12th. Rooms have been reserved for Friday thru Saturday night, for those attending, at the Crystal Inn Motel and Restaurant on Hwy 270, approx. 6 miles east of Mt. Ida **(870) 867-2643. If you want the room for Sunday night also, please let Nancy know.**

therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

We will be collecting at the Twin Creek Mines, Collier Springs Rd, on Saturday, March 11th. Group 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 10 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., Saturday March 11th** before we go to the mine.

Sunday March 12th, we will be collecting at the Ron Coleman Mine. It's about an hour from Mt. Ida off of Hwy 7, north of Hot Springs Village. Group fee is \$10 per person. We will try to get there around **10a.m.** 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. If you are interested in either the mine tour, or the new zip line, each activity is an extra \$5. For more information, check out their FB page.

https://www.facebook.com/RonColemanMining/?ref=br_tf

Slab Saw and Cabochon Workshop:

On Saturday, Jan. 14th, several NMGMS members gathered in the club's lapidary room #136 at the Link Center for a lesson in using the slab saw, trim saw, and making a cabochon. On hand to give these lessons were, Mike Schuchs, Andy Hight and Roger Lambert. Looks like they had an enjoyable afternoon, and after working with the equipment, they had some really good suggestions on layout and what to get up and running next.

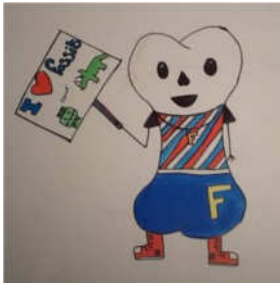


Photos by Nancy Roberts

Lapidary Words: Test Your Knowledge!

Carborundum and Corundum: What are they and what are they used for?

Find out next month!



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins



Feb. 2017

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 28, 2017 Meeting:

In attendance were, Mr. Jim, Alison, James, Alice, Marion, Mea, Jon, Liam, Abigail, and Zac.

We are trying to earn the map badge. There are certain types of maps. There are maps for boats, hiking on mountains, and driving. We all drew maps.

Submitted by Marion Carr

Photos by Alison Schuchs



Rockhead earns Award



Rockhead Konrad Armstrong was awarded the NMGMS "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award, which he earned for 2016. Kudos Konrad for a great year!

Photo by Jim Roberts



AFMS Code of Ethics

Reprinted from the AFMS website

I will respect both private and public property, and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of Rockhounds everywhere.

The SFMS Newsletter, the Lodestar, and the AFMS Newsletter are 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/>



Bead Soup: A place to talk "shop"!

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



Medicine organizers, with sections for the days of the week, are great for storing ear wires and other small findings. (Editor: great for storing snippets of wire or sheet solder too!)

It is a good idea to have a pair or two of white cotton gloves for handling wire or sheet metal that must be kept absolutely clean and free of skin oils prior to procedures such as etching, enameling, or soldering.

NMGMS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**Date: January 28, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was held on Saturday, January 28, 2017 from 12:35 to 1:05pm @ 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, Paul Gunther, John and Ann Byzet, Cheryle Langford, and Mike Schuchs. Discussion:

NMGMS is being offered a free card reader in conjunction with the new PayPal account. Could be useful at craft sales and other outside venues and fund raisers. There is a 2.7% charge per swipe. Mike Schuchs recommended that it would be useful and Nancy Roberts will get back to PayPal about it.

A price was still needed to be set for the 10 inch slab saw that the board had voted to sell. Board decided to sell it "as is" and to check online for prices of similar used saws.

Nancy stated that the Link Center had set the club's next 6 months' rental fee for the room at \$185 per month. NMGMS accounts show that the club earned \$1033 dollars over the last 6 months from workshops, auctions and craft sales. Motion was made to pay the next 6 months rent. Motion seconded and all approved.

The board discussed having the lapidary room open at least once a month for either, a jewelry workshop, or a lapidary session. Nancy said she could do a weekday and would try to announce it at least a month before in The Nugget. Mike Schuchs thought he could possibly do a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. Nancy could also do a Sunday afternoon. Shop fees were discussed, and it was decided to ask a few of the area rock clubs with lapidary shops about what kinds of fees they charge and whether they are hourly, or by the cut or slice.

Nikki asked that NMGMS have a certificate made up for those members who are qualified to run the lapidary equipment. Board decided to post a chart on the wall of the lapidary room with the names of the certified members

Mike Schuchs volunteered to set up at the Tannehill Rock Show in June to sell a lot of the rocks that NMGMS acquired this summer. Rental fee would be \$100 for a 12x12 foot space in a shed or \$110 with electricity. Fee is \$90 for a 20x 20 foot open air space. Table rental is \$18 per table. Motion was made to approve a space with electricity and no tables. Motion seconded and approved.

The third Saturday in April is on Easter weekend, so a motion was made to hold the club's April meeting on April 29th. Motion seconded and approved. Nancy will see if the room at the library is available.

Motion was made to purchase a copy of David Dockery's The Geology of Mississippi and donate said copy to the Lee County Library as a "thank you" for the use of the meeting room. Motion was seconded and approved.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm. Submitted by Paul Gunther

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NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: Jan. 28, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by: Jake, Marion and Alice Carr, Konrad Armstrong and Mia Arnold

New members: Jane Coryell, John and Mea Arnold, also Isla and James Carr were introduced....

Motion to approve the Dec. 10, 2016 meeting minutes as printed in the Jan. 2017 Nugget was inadvertently missed, so will have to be done at the Feb. meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of the end of 2016 was \$4939.98. Present balance:\$5664.40

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The Parsons TN field trip is rescheduled for Feb. 4, 2017. We will meet at the quarry office at 7a.m. There is a DMC field trip scheduled for Feb. 18th to an old gravel quarry in Brookwood, AL. DMC trips are open to members only. Nine members will attend. The NMGMS spring break field trip is March 11th and 12th. Decided to go back to Mt. Ida for quartz, since our MO field trip guide is no longer taking groups out for drusy.

Publicity: (John Byzet) We need to start spreading the word about our April 8th Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the ODCM. The museum will be making up a publicity poster for the event.

Membership: (Ann Byzet) Members were reminded to renew their membership for 2017 and new member packets were handed out to those who had not yet received one. Dues are still \$12 for an individual, and \$20 for a family.

Hospitality: Refreshments: for Feb. 18th: Rebecca Vallarian and Nancy Roberts Volunteers for March 18th:

Linda Blackmon, Mike Schuchs. Ann Byzet will get the birthday cake. Some monetary donations were received to help out with the refreshments.

Website: (John Byzet) If you happened to miss an issue of our newsletter, previous issues of The Nugget are posted on the NMGMS website. Check us out at www.nmgms.org John would like some photos for the website.

Newsletter: (Nancy Roberts) The 2016 SFMS Bulletin Competition entries have been submitted.

Nancy asked that members who attend a field trip or workshop, please consider writing a review for the newsletter. We would all like to hear what our members think of our club events. 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 are currently working on the FRA Maps badge.

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) It's time to wrap up 2016, so that the club yearbook can be put together. Please turn in any 2016 club memorabilia to Cheryle Langford. Brenda Manning has volunteered to help as assistant historian.

Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) We will begin setting up the display cases at the museum on March 29th. The ODCM has picked the title of **Stones and Bones** for this year's exhibit. It will run until the middle of May. We can sell hotdogs again at the Geology Fest.

Safety: (David Loyd) Need some safety articles for the newsletter.

Old Business: Members were asked if anyone would like to do one of the plexiglass cases with their own collection in it at the March museum display setup. If the Rockheads do a case, that would fulfill one of the requirements of the FRA showmanship badge. Other displays to be setup are: a meteorite display, a case showing different agates, different types of petrified wood, the three rock groups and minerals. Will be setting up more rock and mineral cases this time, since we did a lot of fossils last year. Rebecca will be revamping the "rocks like food" display, so if you have new pieces, please give them to her. Our SFMS membership renewal and insurance fees for 2017 have been paid. The Link Center has set our next rental rate at \$185 per month and I think that will be for a whole year. Motion was made to pay the next 6 months. **Motion seconded and approved.** There are still openings for the two Kim St. Jean mixed metals classes at the Link Center's conference room the weekend of Feb 11th and 12th. The classes will be from 9 to 5p.m. The class project on the 11th will be a toggle clasp for a wrapped leather bracelet; cost \$125, and the class project for Sunday Feb. 12th, is the Stone Hinge pendant; cost \$125. Classes are limited to 15. Nancy asked for specimens for the box of MS rocks and fossils that NMGMS will be sending to the Venture CA club for their 2017 AFMS annual meeting display. The specimens need to fit into a 2x1 1/2inch space. If you have any interesting pieces that you would like to donate for this, please bring them to the Feb., or March meeting. Labels need to have specimen id and at least the county where it was collected. We will receive a box of CA rocks in return. AFMS meeting is in June. No further old business at this time.

New Business: We will be setting up the fluorescent room, the fishing game, the sandbox dig, leather and bead lapidary project, and the spin and win and a bean bag toss this year. May set up a cabochon demo, if at all possible. 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. The following members signed up to man some of the activities: Lapidary: Nikki Kenney and Cheryle Langford, Food sales: Dana and Larry Armstrong, Fluorescent room: Mike Schuchs and Jake Carr, Ticket and grab bag sales: Ann and John Byzet, Spin and Win, Marion Carr, and Fossil dig: Konrad Armstrong. NMGMS has again been invited to set up an exhibit table at the 2017 Fossil Road Show at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson on March 4th. NMGMS has been invited again to set up an exhibit table at the MAGS show, April 22nd and April 23rd. We will sell cookies again and our handcrafted jewelry. The board recommended that the club purchase a copy of The Geology of Mississippi by David Dockery and donate it to the Lee County Library as a thank you for using the room. **All approved.** The February 18, 2017 NMGMS meeting will be at the Link Center, upstairs in the conference room from 1 to 3p.m. The program will be a mixed media resin project. We will be using Ice Resin and setting a variety of small, interesting objects into a bezel pendant. Project is for all ages! Rebecca announced that there were 40 members in attendance. No further new business at this time. Meeting adjourned. Submitted by Dana Armstrong