

Photo by Jim Roberts



## The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



McWane Science Center, Birmingham AL

### Notes from the President's Desk....June 2017

Welcome to summer! I find it rather ironic, that the first day of summer, the summer solstice, marks the turning point where the daylight hours start to get shorter as time goes on, seems like it should be the other way around. Still, there will be plenty of daylight in which to collect rocks, fossils or whatever outdoor adventures you pursue. Just remember to dress in light colors, wear a hat, use sunscreen and drink plenty of water when out in the heat.

Speaking of heat, it must have been the hottest weekend of June when we set up our booth at the Tannehill show. It was hot and humid, with thunderstorms all around the area. Luckily we had an occasional breeze from the creek near us, and the storms passed over with just a few short sprinkles. Still, we had a great time and enjoyed visiting with all of the Alabama club members. They're a great group and have many talented, knowledgeable and artistic members. I was surprised to learn that quite a few of their members are teachers at William Holland, so the work that they exhibited was phenomenal. AMLS members were perfect hosts and made us feel very welcome. The Friday night BBQ was exceptional and the Saturday evening watermelon was most welcome after a hot day of selling.

I would like to thank Rebecca Vallarian, Nikki Kenney, Robert, Cheryle, and Victoria Langford, John and Ann Byzet, Paul Gunther, Jim Roberts, and Mike and Myra Soroczak for helping to sort, identify, price and pack all of the rocks that we took to the show to sell. Even though we didn't sell any of the old equipment, we still did a good bit of rock selling at Tannehill. Met some great people and had fun too!

On another note, as I was trying to put together a fall field trip itinerary, I asked an APS member about joining them on one of their coal mine trips in Alabama. Much to my chagrin, I learned that the Narley Mine, where we have collected for several years now with APS, has all been reclaimed and covered over. I was told that some very large lycopod casts ended up getting buried. Many of the fossils there were just too large to even think of removing from the site. Maybe, many eons from now, those same fossils will be exposed again and some other fossil collectors will find those treasures. Sigh. I was told that another mine site may open soon, so let's hope that we will have another chance at some Pennsylvanian fossil collecting in the future.

Not long ago, as part of a nationwide rock swap, I sent a box of Mississippi rocks and fossils to the Ventura, CA club. This swap was in conjunction with the AFMS 2017 convention held in Ventura a couple of weeks ago. I am pleased to report, that the show case put together by VGMS member Angela Brown, which displayed these swap boxes, took first place in the educational division. In exchange, NMGMS has received a swap box from Angela. It contains a beautiful collection of rocks and fossils representing the state of California. Congratulations and "Thank You" Angela!

Wishing everyone a safe and fun summer vacation, Nancy Roberts



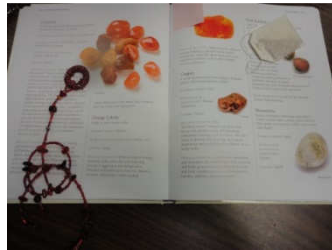
## Meeting Program Review: Chakra Gemstones

Photo by Alison Schuchs



The Chakra Gemstones program for our May meeting was given by NMGMS member Cathy Miller. Cathy is a certified hypnotherapist, certified in subtle energy work, and a Reiki master teacher. Cathy began her presentation by noting that many ancient cultures not only valued gemstones for their beauty, but they also believed that some gemstones had certain effects or powers over the mind and body. She went on to talk about a connection between the mind, body and spirit and how stress can have an impact on our health and wellbeing. Cathy explained each of the 7 chakras and its corresponding region

of the body. She talked about chakras, which are believed to be energy centers or wheels through which energy flows, as being open or closed. She then demonstrated how one can use a pendulum to determine if a chakra is opened or closed. Each chakra is represented by a color, and Cathy listed the different gemstones that can be used to represent each of the chakras when making jewelry or other chakra related items. Her discussion was very interesting and informative. So, whether you think that gemstone is just a pretty rock or does have some assertive force, just enjoy them, relax, and think positive...keep those chakras open! Nancy Roberts



Photos by Nancy Roberts

## NMGMS Field Trips: Robert Langford's Summer Schedule

Photo of ID Station by Jim Roberts



### Mark your Calendars for a Special 2017 Fossil Collecting Activity

Registered Professional Geologist, Robert Langford, will be present at the W. M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park located on Twenty Mile Creek at the Hwy 45 Bridge near Frankstown, in Prentiss County, Mississippi on a voluntary basis to help novice fossil collectors to identify their fossils and to promote the NMGMS by handing out NMGMS information fliers. Family groups and Home Schoolers are very welcome. Boy Scouts, are you working on a BSA Geology Merit Badge? BSA Geology Merit Badge

Forms are available. **Robert's 2017 summer Saturday schedule will be as follows: July 15th, and August 19<sup>th</sup>**

### List of Things to bring:

Families are in for a treat. This site is extremely wet; be prepared to get very wet. The creek bed is rocky and there is some glass and wire. So have the kids wear shoes that they can wear into the water and a swimsuit. They will also need to bring a change of clothes, towel, sun screen, lunch, and water to drink.

You will need sieving screens that can be made from window screening attached to a frame, but many people use kitchen colanders or the screens you get in summer beach sand toys, just something to let the sand and water through so you can sort through the coarse material to find the fossils. Bring a trowel or a scoop and a couple of small plastic bags or boxes (egg cartons or yogurt cups with lids will do) to keep your fossils safe.

If you need additional direction to the W. M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park, please contact Robert Langford at rlangford@cobbenv.com.

# Bead Soup: A place to talk “shop”!

## West Point Copper Brazing Workshop Review, by Nikki Kenney



Photo by Nancy Roberts

One of my favorite activities with my membership in NMGMS, is our yearly workshop for the West Point Arts Council. The project of this class was making a pendant using copper brazing. It featured work with torches, adding patina, and making unique designs with a variety of stones and druzy pieces. We enjoyed seeing the friends made at previous workshops and making new ones. As always, Kathy Dyes was a delightful hostess; welcoming us with coffee and treats. The Arts Council’s building is an excellent venue, complete with everything we could possibly need to make this workshop successful and pleasurable. Everyone completed at least one pendant, and most managed to make two or more. With Mother's Day soon upon us, many of the brazed copper pendants were made as gifts by the husbands and sons, who attended the class. Once again, the enthusiasm and creativity shown by the participants made this a most enjoyable experience for us, as well.



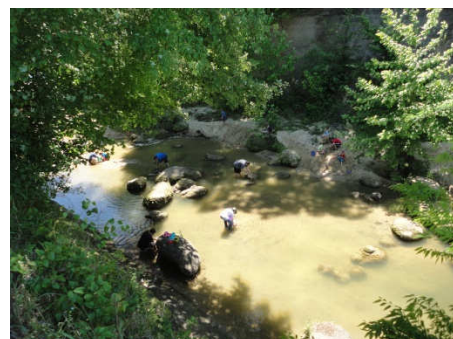
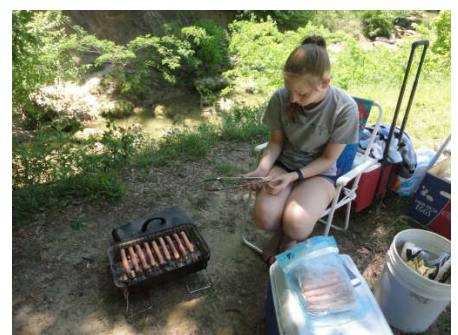
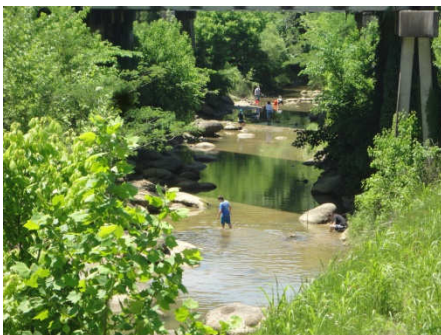
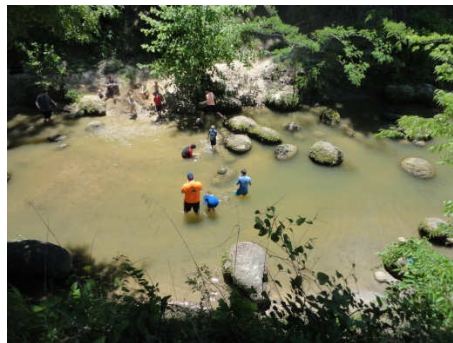
Photos by Nancy Roberts

## Field Trip Reviews: Twenty Mile Creek Field Trip and Hotdog Cookout



Our NMGMS May field trip and Rockheads' cookout at Twenty Mile Creek in Prentiss County was very well attended. Not only did we have a good showing of Rockheads and other club members, but we also had quite a few families, who had come by our NMGMS exhibit table at the Memphis show, come out and join us. Gained some new members too! We even had a Cub Scout group led by George Fondren join us for the day, and Robert Langford was on hand to do the identification for those collecting. We were surprised at how low the water level was, so it was pretty easy to navigate across and down the creek. Still, the collecting was good. The water was a little brisk at first, but you soon got accustomed to it, and as the day warmed up, it actually felt good. Some of the best collecting was done under the two Hwy 45 bridges and a little further downstream. By noon, everyone was more than ready for a nice hotdog lunch. Victoria Langford did the grilling, while I served. Thanks to Dana Armstrong, we also had lemonade and cookies on hand, as well as potato chips. So for a small donation, we all ate quite well. Nothing beats the taste of a hotdog cooked out of doors! Many attendees went back in the creek to do a little more collecting after lunch. Lots of nice shark teeth were found and all of the junior members had a great time. I know I did!

Nancy Roberts



All photos by Nancy Roberts

## NMGMS Lapidary Workshop: Using the Saws and Cab Machine



The NMGMS club workshop at the Link Center is up and running! We have two rock saws, a large and a medium one, plus a trim saw and a cab machine, all ready for members to use. On May 13, 2017, John Byzet, Paul Gunther, Robert Langford, Jennifer Eubank, Doris and Brian Visser, and myself, all spent several hours cutting slabs and making cabochons in our little lapidary shop at the Link Center. It was a lot of fun; we hope the room and equipment will get a lot of use.

Jim Roberts

Workshop photos by Jim Roberts

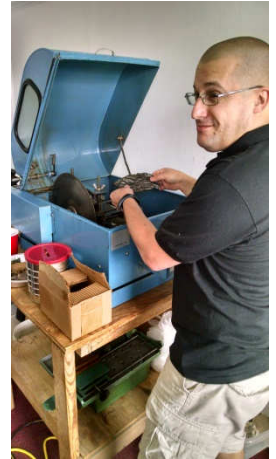


Photo by Jim Roberts

## Lapidary Words: Test Your Knowledge!

**Answers to May:** **Bezels** and **Bails** are metalsmithing terms referring to components that you would have on a pendant with a cabochon. The bezel is what holds the cabochon in place and the bail is what allows the pendant to hang from a chain, ribbon or chord.



Note the thin metal strip that was soldered to the base plate and is now surrounding the cabochon; that is the bezel. You can buy readymade bezel wire or make your own from thin gauge sheet metal or heavy gauge wires.

Photo by N Roberts

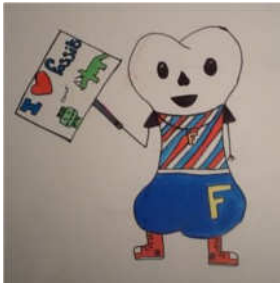


Note the triangular piece of copper that is riveted to the pendant; that is the bail. Bails can be anything from a simple jump ring to an intricate part of the wirework.

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Ed. note: for more information on bezel making, check out the videos by Riogrande and Art Jewelry Magazine. Also, there are numerous instructions available online and in jewelry magazines for making a wide variety of bails.

Coming up: **Alloys** and **Argentium**, find out in the next issue.



# Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins



# June 2017

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

## Rockhead Officers:

- President,** Konrad Armstrong
- Vice President,** James Carr
- Secretary,** Marion Carr

**Adult Youth Advisor:** Jim Roberts  
latergator2003@yahoo.com

## Rockheads May 20, 2017 Meeting:

In attendance were, Mr. Jim, Cheryle Langford, Alison Schuchs, Liam and Victoria Langford, Sophie Gunther, Julia and Levi Williamson, Marion, Jake, and Alice Carr, and Hunter Watson. The Rockheads continued to work on the Stone Age Tools and Art badge. Clay pots were made and painted, and some "cave art" on flat rocks was also created. After a break for refreshments, the Rockheads had a discussion on igneous rocks, and each member made and painted a clay volcano. Making the volcano was fun and a big "blast"!

Photos by Jim Roberts and Alison Schuchs





## SFMS Federation News

The SFMS scholarship fund raffle tickets were handed out at our April meeting, in the hopes that members would be able to sell them to family and friends. About 30 tickets have already been sold.

**Please bring all sold ticket stubs and any unsold tickets to the Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. \*\*Remember that we have to return any unsold tickets and all monies received to the federation by October 1<sup>st</sup>.** So let's see how many of these tickets we can sell, and maybe we'll be able to send a club member to William Holland on a Southeast Federation scholarship! Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Prizes can be viewed on the website or in the Lodestar. While you're at it, please check out the SFMS workshops that are being offered this summer at William Holland and Wild Acres.

<http://sfmsworkshops.com/> [http://sfmsworkshops.com/?page\\_id=20](http://sfmsworkshops.com/?page_id=20) The SFMS weeks at Wildacres are, July 23-29, 2017 and August 21-27, 2017

The SFMS 2017 annual meeting is being held in Knoxville, TN on October 20-21<sup>st</sup> and the 2018 annual meeting will be held in Raleigh, NC April 6-8, 2018.

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/>



## Tannehill Show:

Photos by Jim and Nancy Roberts







## NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20, 2017

Liam Langford, Sophie Gunther and Hunter Watson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
Diana Watson from Jackson, TN introduced as new members

**The April 29, 2017 meeting minutes as printed in the May 2017 Nugget approved**

**Treasurer's Report:** Closing Balance as of 5/20/2017 was given.

### Chairpersons' Reports:

**Field Trips:** There is a DMC field trip, hosted by Miss. Gem and Mineral Society, to a gravel facility near Jackson, MS on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Registration is required by June 5<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in going, let me know and I will send you the details. This trip is limited to members 8 yrs or older. DMC field trips are for club members only. Robert Langford will be at Twenty Mile Creek June 17.

**Publicity:** (John Byzet) Those of you who live outside of Tupelo, please consider placing a few of our club brochures at your local library, place of work, or other public meeting place in your town.

**Membership:** John Byzet has compiled the NMGMS 2017 membership roster. **There are 163 members on the 2017 NMGMS roster, so far. If you need a copy of the roster please contact John so he can email it to you. More NMGMS patches were ordered and they are in. If you need not receive one with your new member packet please let John know otherwise they are \$2 each.**

### **Hospitality:**

Refreshments: There is no June, July or August meeting. Volunteers for Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>: Jennifer Eubank and Mike Schuchs. Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome!

**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](http://www.nmgms.org) **Please submit any photos of NMGMS events to John for the website.**

**Newsletter:** (Nancy Roberts) Please consider writing a review for a field trip, workshop or club meeting that you have attended. 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. There will be no newsletter for the months of July and August. Please send pictures of what you do over the summer to Nancy Roberts.

Email anything for The Nugget to: [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)

**Youth Members:** (Jim Roberts) If you are interested in joining Mike Schuchs for any junior field trips over the summer, be sure that he has your email address and phone number.

**Historian:** (Cheryle Langford) **Start saving your 2017 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. **Please turn in any 2017 club memorabilia to Cheryle Langford.** Brenda Manning has volunteered to help as assistant historian. Cheryle requested we open the lapidary room for a couple hours after our monthly meetings for time to work on the club yearbook.

**Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show:** (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) If we continue to hold this event on the second Saturday of April, it will be on April 14<sup>th</sup> in 2018. Try to make sure this date is not the same as the Railroad Festival.

**Safety:** (Mike Schuchs) Need some safety topics and articles for the newsletter.

**NMGMS May 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes continued on pg 10....**

**NMGMS Meeting Minutes, cont'd:**Date: May 20, 2017**Old Business:**

1. The display cases at the Oren Dunn Museum have been taken down. A big "thank you" goes to everyone who helped and to those who loaned specimens for the cases.
2. We have the large pavilion at Ballard Park reserved for our annual picnic and rock swap on Saturday October 28, 2017 from 1 to 4p.m. Krista Williamson is going to look into having a large sign made. Name the event "Rocktoberfest". Possibly advertise it as an auction and put up a visitor welcome sign to bring more people in. Also see about putting a couple tables outside the pavilion.
3. Our May 13<sup>th</sup> copper brazing class for The West Point Arts Council went very well, and we had 12 students.
4. **Reminder:** The **New Albany Fossil Road Show** is on Saturday **June 10th, from 10 until 2, at the Union County Heritage Museum in New Albany.** Robert Langford and Jennifer Eubank will be representing NMGMS.
5. Robert Langford will have his fossil ID station set up at the Twenty Mile Creek collecting site on Saturday, June 17.
6. Are there any raffle ticket studs and money to be turned in? Anyone still need tickets? Does any member have any unsold tickets that they don't need? **Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.** Prizes can be viewed on the website or in the Lodestar. **We have return all sold and unsold tickets, as well as the money collected, to the federation by October 1st! The September meeting will be the last chance to purchase or to turn in tickets. Raffle drawing will be held at the annual meeting in Knoxville, TN this coming October.**

**New Business:**

1. The rent on our Link Centre room for the next 6 months will be due August 1<sup>st</sup>. It should be \$1110 like last time.
2. NMGMS will have a booth this year at the Tannehill show, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Set up is on Friday, June 2, 2017. We will be selling rocks and some of the equipment that we aren't using. We have rented one of the spaces inside a shed. Plan to make the show, if you can. Come and join the fun and lend us a hand.
3. The September NMGMS meeting will be on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017 from 1 to 3 at the Tupelo library. Mike Schuchs will be presiding in my absence. Program to be announced.
4. If you are interested in any jewelry workshops over the summer, please let Nikki Kenney know, so she can put you on the list for notices. Also, if you would like to work in the room on the lapidary equipment, let Mike Schuchs and John Byzet know.
5. The regional clubs are trying to figure out a place to setup a gathering. Alabama has been suggested as a possible place.
6. Have John Byzet look at harbor freight for paint suits to use in our lapidary room.

**Adjourned at 1:45pm submitted by Paul Gunther****NMGMS May 20, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes: submitted by Paul Gunther**

1. We had 12 students in our West Point class and received \$420 from the Arts Council. We also sold a few kits and supplies, so made another \$22. \$15 came in from the lapidary workshop also.
2. The rent on the room \$1110 will need to be paid by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Nikki will have to do that this summer.
3. The lapidary workshop needs a dop pot and some templates. The little crockpot I got from Goodwill doesn't appear to get hot enough. Nancy Robert has been letting the club use hers. A dop pot costs \$30. Mike is going to donate some plastic templates for cabochons.
4. Nikki will handle any jewelry workshops over the summer. Mike will try to have cabochon/saw workshops over the summer. Mike will be working with the Rockheads on mineral identification in the Fulton area as well as other summer activities.
5. Big blue tumbler, spools for opal polishing, 10 inch saw are all equipment we wish to sell at Tannehill show. 6. Mike will arrange September 16<sup>th</sup> program.
7. Nikki needs to collect remaining money and raffle tickets at the Sept. meeting. All money and tickets need to be sent back to federation by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Attending: Nikki Kenney, Mike Schuchs, Nancy Roberts, Paul Gunther, John and Ann Byzet Adjourned at 1:00pm

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NMGMS meets the third Saturday of the month (except June, July and August) from 1 to 3p.m. at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo, MS. Any changes will be posted on the website [www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org), or in *The Nugget*.

Annual Dues: \$12, single and \$20 family.

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was established in 2001 as a non-profit organization dedicated to education and the collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils. NMGMS is affiliated with the American and Southeast Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Our organization promotes the educational, scientific, and recreational aspects of the hobby in the subjects of mineralogy, geology, paleontology, the lapidary arts, and other areas related to the earth sciences. Through our meeting programs, workshops, field trips and other club activities, we strive to increase the knowledge and skills of our members in these subjects. We not only share knowledge within our club, but we have participated in activities throughout the community.