



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Warren Cascades on the Mad River in Vermont



Photo by Nancy Roberts

Notes from the President's Desk...Oct. 2017

Welcome to fall! It seems like I just got back from summer vacation, and now it's nearly time to wrap up another fantastic year of events for NMGMS. With the picnic coming up, the Nov. meeting, a field trip, and two workshops, we'll be busy right up to our annual Christmas party on Dec. 9th. I'm really looking forward to our "Rocktoberfest" picnic on the 28th. I can already smell the peppers, onions, and brats cooking! I hope all of our members will plan to attend, as this will be a great time for the old and new members to get together. We will be having members from some of the other area clubs join us, too. The silent auction, as well as our NMGMS rock sale, should be really good and hold some nice surprises this year, since many of the rocks taken to Tannehill will be on hand for purchase. I'll bet everyone will find that special one to add to their collection.

I would like to thank our very capable vice president, Mike Schuchs, for stepping in and officiating at the Sept. 16th meeting in my absence. I heard he presented a very informative program about the different rocks that we find in the gravels of our area. NMGMS gained some new members, too. I encourage all members to attend our club meetings. We work hard to provide a variety of programs covering the many different topics of the earth sciences and lapidary arts. So hopefully, you will find them all interesting, informative, and fun. You also get to spend the afternoon with a great group of people!

Our 2018 schedule of events is starting to shape up too, and we're excited to be able to have Dr. Jennifer Gifford again for our January meeting program. She will be covering plate tectonics. In February, we'll discuss fossil coral or "Petoskey" stones and learn how to polish them. Everyone will take one home too!

If you have any interest in learning to work with wire, metal, beads, and stones, I encourage you to take advantage of our club workshops. NMGMS has many talented members who share their time and expertise with us for these workshops. The projects are fun, and everyone goes home with a completed piece. Mike Schuchs has gotten the other big slab saw setup, so as soon as we get it filled with coolant, we will have 4 slab saws operational. Be sure to check out the notices on page 4 for our upcoming workshops. Not all clubs are able to offer jewelry making or lapidary workshops, so please take advantage of these opportunities.

On another note, I would like to thank Alison Schuchs for maintaining the NMGMS Facebook page. She recently posted a "giveaway" and we've gotten a lot of response from that post. One reminder, not everyone uses Facebook or has a smartphone, so please be patient if you post something or send a message through Messenger. Alison or another club member will try to get back to you as soon as they can. Email, or a direct text message to the person you need to contact, is probably still the best bet. I'm a dinosaur; my phone only makes calls or sends texts!

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! "Rocktober Fest"

NMGMS 8th Annual Rock Swap Picnic **October 28, 2017** 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. Invite your family and friends too! There is no charge to attend or to set up. 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, or just come by to join the picnic, look around, and visit. The picnic/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!). Lots of new items will be included. NMGMS will have hot dogs, kielbasa, sausage or brats, chips and drinks. **Members are asked to bring a dessert and folding chairs. The fishing game will be on hand for the kids! This is right before Halloween, so don your best rockhounding "outfit" and join in the fun!**

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

November 4, 2017: NMGMS field trip to the Trebloc Lime Pit (see pg 4 for details)

November 11, 2017: NMGMS copper workshop, 10 to 4 at the Link Centre (see pg 4 for details)

November 11, 2017: NMGMS Lapidary workshop, 10 to 4 at the Link Centre (see pg 4 for details)

November 18, 2017: NMGMS November meeting from 1 to 3 at the Tupelo library. Program: Working with Polymer Clay, a "hands on" activity. Fun for all ages!

December 9, 2017: NMGMS annual Christmas party and luncheon from 11 to 3 at the Tupelo library.

Other Upcoming Events:

October 21, 2017: Oren Dunn City Museum Dogtrot Rockabilly Festival. NMGMS will set up the club's sandbox rock and fossil dig, as well as the Spin and Win, at this event. Several club members have volunteered to man these activities.

Show Dates:

November 10 - 12, 2017

The 28th Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society http://www.mgcgms.org/gem_show.html

Fri. November 10, 10- 6pm Sat. November 11, 10 - 6pm Sun. November 12, 10 - 5pm.

Jackson County Fairgrounds, 2902 Shortcut Rd., Pascagoula, MS

November 24 - 26, 2017

Mobile, AL Mobile Rock and Gem Society Show

Friday, November 24: 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM Saturday, November 25: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sunday November 26: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Admission: \$4 Children 12 & under FREE with Adult

Friday & Saturday FREE admission after 5PM

ABBA Shrine Center, 7701 Hitt Rd, Mobile, AL <http://www.mobilerockandgem.com/show-summary>

September Meeting Program Review:

Photo by Alison Schuchs



Who Knew Gravel Could Be So Interesting!

By Diana Watson

Mike Schuchs’s presentation on the different types of rocks and their locations was intriguing and inspiring. In fact, I think I now have a permanent “crick” in my neck from looking down to inspect rocks everywhere I go! It was amazing to think of all the types of rock and formations found in our area, and how some of them came to be here millions of years ago, some even being pushed or dragged along by glaciers. His talk makes me realize that we don’t have to travel far to find great specimens for our collections. My favorite part of the whole talk has to be the discussion amongst members of wishing for (and sometimes receiving!) dump truck loads of gravel as gifts, purely for the purpose of searching for new rock treasures.

Field Trip Reviews: Field Trip to the Blue Springs Crab Site By Hunter Watson

Hunter collecting Photo by Nancy Roberts



The Blue Springs Crab Site was the best fossil field trip I had ever been on! It was packed with fossils; everywhere you step, you are on fossils. There were so many to pick from that it was just awe inspiring. It was loaded with shell, crab, lobster, and turtle fossils. There were so many, that I had to really think about which ones would be “keepers”. It was the place to be! It was hot, but with the breeze blowing it did cool it down a little. The people from the club were helpful, kind, and knowledgeable. I would highly advise anyone who gets the chance, to go. I would love to go back again soon!



Rockheads at the crab site.

Photos by Jim Roberts



New members gather for the field trip.

Photo by N Roberts

Up Coming NMGMS Field Trip: Nov. 4, 2017

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The next NMGMS field trip will be on Saturday **Nov. 4, 2017**

This trip will be to the old Trebloc, MS lime pit.

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.

More Upcoming NMGMS Events: Club Workshops

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Nov. 11, 2017 Copper Disk and Dapping Class

Want to learn to cut, texture, shape, rivet, and embellish copper disks? If you do, come to the Link Centre in Tupelo on **Saturday, Nov. 11th**; NMGMS will be having a jewelry making class, upstairs in the conference room from **10a.m. until 4p.m.** You will learn how to cut your metal sheet, texture it, shape it, apply a patina, etc., and form the disks into pendants, earrings, rings, or a bracelet. It's really a fun project, and the creative design possibilities are endless. You will learn some essential metalsmithing techniques, as well as work with a couple of new tools. The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up

early. The **\$20** class fee includes all materials and use of the tools.



Please bring a brown bag lunch. There is a refrigerator available. Email therockhoundlady@yahoo.com, if you plan to attend. Unless otherwise stated, workshops are for ages 12 and up.

Bracelet photo from Pinterest



Ring photo by Nancy Roberts

Lapidary workshop Nov. 11, 2017

Our NMGMS lapidary **room #136** at the Link Center in Tupelo will be open on **Saturday Nov. 11th**. Jim Roberts will be conducting a slab saw safety and operation workshop at **10a.m.** for those members interested. Bring some stones that you would like to slab. Be sure the rough material isn't too small or too large to be clamped into the saw's rock vise (5" x 6 1/2" capacity vise). The 12inch saw is running and also two 10 inch saws. One trim saw will also be in operation. We have a box of slabs that you can "play" with, if you don't have any of your own.

The **Genie cabochon machine** will also be available for those members certified to use it.

Unless otherwise stated, workshops are for ages 12 and up.

Lapidary fee: \$1 per cut with the 12 or 10 inch saws and \$2 an hour on the cab machine and trim saw.

Please bring a brown bag lunch. Email therockhoundlady@yahoo.com latergator2003@yahoo.com if you plan to attend.



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins

Rockhead Officers:

President, Konrad Armstrong

Vice President, James Carr

Secretary, Marion Carr

Oct. 2017



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts
latergator2003@yahoo.com

Next Rockhead Meeting: Nov. 18, 2017

The next Rockhead meeting will be on Saturday, Nov. 18th from 1 to 3p.m. at the Tupelo library. Rockheads will be working on completing whatever requirements they need for this year's FRA badges. They will also be learning about sedimentary rocks and working with clay.

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. Requirements for the NMGMS "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award 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 the Nov. meeting.



Photo by Nancy Roberts

After the October field trip, some of the Rockheads ventured over to the NMGMS Lapidary Room at the Link Centre and learned about shop safety.

Lapidary Words: Test Your Knowledge! By Nancy Roberts

Answers to Sept.: Facet and Freeform.

Photo from Firemountaingems.com



If you have ever looked at a cut gemstone or a diamond ring, you're probably familiar with the word "facet". It means, one side (surface, plane, face) of something many sided. Each polished plane or surface of a gemstone is a facet. These facets are cut at specific angles to create the design and to help the stone refract light, which gives it the colorful sparkle that we love to see. The lapidary art of cutting gemstones is called faceting.

I have come across another usage of the word facet recently in metalsmithing. Placing a hammered texture along the edge of a piece of sheet metal, to enhance its light reflecting abilities, is also called adding "facets" to the metal, or faceting the edge.

Photo from Wirejewelry.com



Many cabochons are made from a predetermined shape like an oval, which you trace onto your slab before you start to grind and polish the stone. "Freeform" (not conforming to a regular or formal structure or shape) means that you start your grinding without tracing a shape onto the slab and let the stone help you determine its final shape. Freeform cabbing is often done with opals and turquoise, where you want to preserve as much of the stone as possible. This method

is especially useful when you have a stone with an interesting inclusion, drusy, or other feature that you want to accentuate. Freeform cabbing is usually done without dopping the stone.

The word freeform is often used in metalsmithing. For example, a freeform pendant, or freeform wire wrapping, where the design doesn't have a specific shape, but is more "flowing" and "organic" in nature. It can often refer to a piece that is asymmetrical in design.

Coming up: **Gauge** and **Granulation**, find out in the next issue.

Bead Soup: A place to talk "shop"! By Nikki Kenney



If you should make a mistake while drawing or writing with a permanent marker on metal or plastic, just trace over the mistake with a dry erase marker (I use a different color so I can easily tell I am covering only the line I wish to remove), then wipe it carefully with a dry cotton swab and the unwanted line or mark will be removed without disturbing the rest of the design. For this purpose, it is a good idea to have both fine point and broad nib markers. I tried it on a metal piece to see if I could remove the Sharpie marker resist after the piece had been etched. The dry erase marker work fine, even in the etched area, and

did not leave a trace of either marker. It is not necessary to be that exact if you are cleaning an area with no nearby lines that need to be preserved and you can wipe the area clean with a paper towel (instead of the swab). Be sure to read and follow the package directions to ensure your markers will continue to perform as desired.

A sturdy, hard plastic card (credit card that has expired or plastic motel key) makes a great scraper to remove labels from glass jars. Simply hold the jar under warm running water, and scrape the label away with the edge of the card. I also draw shapes on the cards to be cut out and used as patterns to make my own copper blanks for jewelry.



SFMS Federation News

Our Mississippi State director is Buddy Shotts P.O. Box 427 Lucedale, MS 39452 (601) 466-0690

buddynrebashotts@bellsouth.net. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions that you would like to present to the Southeast Federation, please let Buddy know.

Editor's Note: I will be attending the 2017 SFMS annual meeting in Knoxville, Oct. 21st and 22nd, so if you have any thing that you would like brought up at the meeting, let me know.

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/>



"Code of Ethics"

- ◆ I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- ◆ I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or 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 such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- ◆ I will leave all gates as found.
- ◆ I will build fires only in designated or safe places 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 supplies.
- ◆ 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. (<http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>)

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: Sept. 16, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Levi Williamson
Guests were Beth, Amelia, Sydney, and Justin Thornton

The May 20, 2017 meeting minutes as printed in the June 2017 Nugget were approved

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of Sept. 16, 2017 was given.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be to the Blue Springs crab site in Union County, MS on Saturday October 14th. Meet at the site at 9a.m. It is on Hwy 9 just north of the I22 Blue Springs exit. (See email or Nugget for details)
There is a DMC field trip to Summerville, GA for lace agate, chert, and jasper on Oct. 1. Children are welcome. If you are interested in going, contact therockhoundlady@yahoo.com for details. DMC field trips are for club members only.

Publicity: (John Byzet) Pass the word around about our "Rocktober Fest" picnic coming up on Oct. 28th. 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: (Ann Byzet) If you would like a copy of the NMGMS 2017 membership roster, see John Byzet. He also has the club patches and new member packets.

Hospitality:

Refreshments: Volunteers for Nov. 18th: Nancy Roberts

**Members are asked to bring a salad, fruit or dessert for the October picnic.

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 If you have any photos of NMGMS events, please send a few on 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.

Email anything for The Nugget to: therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) Jim will be meeting with the Rockheads at the picnic to see what badges need to be completed before the Dec. awards. He will try to complete those at the Nov. meeting.

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) Please turn in any 2017 club memorabilia to Cheryle Langford. Brenda Manning has volunteered to help as assistant historian.

Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show: (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) We are scheduled to hold the next Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show at the ODCM on April 14, 2018. We will be setting up displays at the museum in conjunction with this event.

Safety: (Mike Schuchs) Need some inexpensive "lab coats" for the workshop. John Byzet was going to check Harbor Freight for paint suits. Suggested that we look at Tyvek Suits

NMGMS Sept. 16, 2017 Meeting Minutes continued on pg 9....

NMGMS Meeting Minutes, cont'd:Date: Sept. 16, 2017**Old Business:**

1. The rent on our Link Center room has been paid thru January 2018. 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. If you are willing to help out, give them a call. **Have Nancy please send link center emails to all club members so they can see their events.**
2. **Reminder:** We have the large pavilion at Ballard Park reserved for our annual picnic and rock swap on **Saturday October 28, 2017 from 1 to 5p.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, kielbasa, chips and drinks. Any other suggestions? **Members are asked to bring a salad, fruit, or dessert and folding chairs.**
3. NMGMS managed to make a small dent in our excess rocks at the Tannehill Show, but we were not able to sell any of the old equipment that we had taken over there. We will have some of the rocks and equipment available for sale at the picnic.
4. If you still have SFMS raffle tickets please mail them to NMGMS PO Box 1445 Tupelo, MS 38802 so that Nikki can get them in the mail to the federation by October 1st! **Please give all tickets and monies to Nikki and she will mail said to SFMS.**

Is there any other old business?**New Business:**

1. NMGMS will have a jewelry sales booth at the **Robins St. Art Stroll** on October 7th in Tupelo. The event is from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We have a 10ft space reserved, and the rental fee was only \$10, so we hope to be able to make some sales and earn a little towards our lapidary workshop. If you have any handcrafted items that you would like to donate for this event, or are willing to help man the booth, contact Nikki Kenney.
2. NMGMS will have a booth at the Oren Dunn City Museum's Dogtrot Rockabilly festival on Saturday October 21st. We need several club members to set up the sandbox dig and man the booth for this event. Set up at the museum starts at 8a.m. The sand and the box are already at the museum and the sieves and shovels, etc. are in our Link Centre room. Volunteers: **Paul Gunther will try to be there**
3. The November NMGMS meeting will be on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017 from 1 to 3 at the Tupelo library. Program will be a hands-on "working with polymer clay" project.
4. It is time to start thinking about our club's 2018 officers. We will be taking nominations at the Nov. meeting. We have been asking officers to serve a two year term. So be thinking about who you would like to have leading your organization next year. All present and previous officers are automatically on the nominating committee. **(Appoint the committee)** If you would like to serve on any of the committees, we'd love to have you!

Is there any other new business????

*****Reminder:** Don't forget the **HGMS Huntsville, AL rock and gem show October 13, 14, & 15, 2017** at the Jaycee Community Building, 2180 Airport Rd Huntsville, AL

Adjourned 1:40pm Submitted by Paul Gunther

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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, 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.