



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Getting more cab machines online!



Photo by
Nancy
Roberts

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

Happy Holidays! Another great year for NMGMS is coming to a close. In looking back through last year's newsletters, I see we have made great strides with our lapidary room at the Link Centre. Last December we had our workshop room set up and had three saws in working order, one 12 inch slab saw, a 10 inch slab saw and a 6 inch trim saw. As of this December, we have added another 6 inch trim saw, a 14 inch slab saw, and one more 10 inch saw. We also have the Genie cabochon machine running, as well as two other cabochon machines with their own water cooling system online and running. We purchased some lights for the cabochon machines and a stand for the donated Flex Shaft. After holding several slab saw and cabochon workshops in the room, NMGMS now has a few members who are gaining confidence and getting more proficient at cutting and polishing their stones. I would like to encourage more of our fellow members to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Speaking of taking advantage, NMGMS has enjoyed the use of the upstairs conference room at the Link Centre for jewelry workshops. So while the cab machines and slab saws are humming along downstairs, the upstairs halls are ringing with the merry sounds of hammers banging away on copper. Club members learned a variety of metalsmithing techniques this past year, from using copper brazing rods, to soldering, riveting, dapping, and using a disk cutter. Join us next month for a great class on the art of etching copper.

Another area where NMGMS has made great strides over the past year is with our junior group, the Rockheads. Last December Jim Roberts awarded 5 junior members with the badges that they had earned through the American Federation's FRA badge program. This December he will be awarding badges to 15 of our junior members. Wow, that's a BIG change. One more Rockhead will appear on the AFMS honor roll as having earned the Rockhound badge. Check out who they are at, http://amfed.org/fra/honor_roll.htm. Way to go Rockheads! I am hoping that the Rockheads will continue their good work, and maybe one, or several of them, will earn the title of "Rock Star" by getting all 20 of the FRA badges from the American Federation. NMGMS has seen tremendous growth in the number of family memberships that we have, so I encourage all junior members to come to the meetings and take advantage of the FRA badge program. It's a great learning opportunity, as well as a lot of fun.

Over the past year, NMGMS has had some fantastic programs and field trips too. In looking at this month's schedule, I see a trip to Richardson Landing and Dr. Jennifer Gifford's January program on plate tectonics lined up, so I know we will continue to have very interesting activities coming up. So, even though we are closing out a fantastic 2017 for our organization, I am looking forward to another great year of fun and learning. NMGMS already has 28 new members listed on the 2018 roster, so 2018 may be the best year yet!

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! The Holidays are coming!



The NMGMS annual Christmas party and potluck luncheon will be on **Saturday December 9, 2017 from 11a.m. until 3p.m., upstairs at the Lee County Public Library in Tupelo, MS.**

The club will provide a ham for the luncheon, and members attending are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. We will also have a gift exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a gift (\$10 max) and label it either as a man, woman, or child's gift. We are also asking members to please bring a few canned goods or other nonperishable food items for our club's contribution

to a local food pantry. We will also participate in the "Toys for Tots" program, so please bring a new toy to donate. The toys will be dropped off at the Oren Dunn Museum after the party.

We will be doing the "Night before Christmas" ornament exchange. If you would like to participate in the game and ornament exchange, just bring an ornament. They can be handmade or store bought. Everyone that brings an ornament will go home with one. Hope to see everyone there to help NMGMS celebrate another great year. **Remember, this is when NMGMS passes out badges, awards and certificates to members for their accomplishments.**

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

December 16, 2017: NMGMS field trip to Richardson Landing. (See page 3 for details)

January 13, 2018: NMGMS Lapidary Workshop and Copper Workshop at the Link Centre (See page 7 for details)

January 20, 2018: NMGMS January meeting from 1 - 3pm at the Tupelo Library. Program will be on plate tectonics, given by University of Mississippi Professor, Dr. Jennifer Gifford

January 27, 2018: NMGMS field trip to Alabama for Mississippian fossils. (See page 3 for details)

February 10, 2018: NMGMS February meeting from 1 - 3pm at the Tupelo Library. Program: Fossil Corals

Note! February meeting date is changed due to the library being closed on the third weekend of that month.

Show Dates:

December 1-3, 2017

47th Annual Montgomery Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show, December 1-3, 2017

Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Drive, Montgomery, Alabama

Friday, December 1, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday, December 2, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.,

Sunday, December 3, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission: Adults \$2.00 daily, or \$3.00 for a weekend pass, 18 and under free with student ID and one paid adult ticket.

For more Information, go to <http://www.montgomerygemandmineralsociety.com/mgms/index.php/annual-gem-show>.

December 9-10, 2017

Franklin, TN Mid Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society's 37th Annual Earth Treasures Show
Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale

Saturday, December 9, 9am to 6pm Sunday, December 10, 10am to 5pm.

Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, TN 37064

Admission: \$5(2 day pass, \$7), students (18 and under) \$1, children 12 and under free with an adult Scout Youth in Uniform are free

For more information, go to <http://www.mtgms.org/show.htm>.

Up Coming NMGMS Field Trip: December 16, 2017

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The December field trip will be to Richardson Landing which is located about 20 miles north of Memphis, TN and 10 miles north of Millington. **We will assemble in the Popeye's parking lot at 9:00 am Central Standard Time on Saturday, December 16th and then caravan to the collecting site.**

Assembly Time: 9:00 am (CST) at the Popeye's located in front of Walmart, 8845 U.S. 51, Millington, TN.

NMGMS field trip leaders are Mike Schuchs and Nancy Roberts. Please notify Nancy if you are planning to attend, so that we will be sure we have everyone before we head out to the site.

Nancy: therockhoundlady@yahoo.com.

Collecting will be on the gravel bars. Material will be agate, jasper, chert in multiple colors and banding, fossil chert, and petrified wood. Rare finds include Lake Superior Agates, Ice Age fossils such as horse and bison, and mastodon has also been found in the area. Material is excellent for tumbling and lapidary work.

Wear boots or water proof shoes, or bring a change of shoes and socks. A walking stick is helpful, or a stick with a metal point, which is good for checking for petrified wood, as it will sound like glass when poked. No digging is required. Also recommend a backpack, fanny packs, and/or plastic buckets. . Be sure to pack a lunch, hat, sunscreen and drinking water. We will be doing a lot of walking!

NMGMS Field Trip: January 27, 2018 to Alabama

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The first NMGMS field trip for 2018 will be on **Saturday, January 27th** to collect Mississippian fossils from the Bangor Formation. We will be collecting fossils such as bryozoans, blastoids, brachiopods, and corals. We will meet at the gas station/convenience store in Belgreen, AL on Hwy 24 and 187, approximately 17 miles east of Red Bay, AL. at **9:00 a.m.**

Bring small containers, cardboard flats, and a bucket for carrying your fossils and gear. Newspapers, paper towels, or aluminum foil are recommended for wrapping up those

that are fragile. A rock hammer, chisel, and something to pry with are also handy to have. Wear boots or shoes that can get wet or muddy, and bring a hat, water, sunscreen, safety glasses, etc. A backpack or extra bucket is good to have, since we will be walking and carrying our gear with us. Watch your email for directions and more details.

Please let me know if you plan to attend. Nancy Roberts, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com H: 731-689-5336

NMGMS Members Take Note!

2018 is fast approaching, 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

To continue to be eligible for our club field trips and workshops, and be covered by our insurance, please renew your membership. You don't want to miss out on any of the fun and adventures!

November Meeting Program Review: by Nikki Kenney

Photo by Nancy Roberts



At our last NMGMS meeting on Saturday, November 18th, the program was a hands-on class in polymer clay. I had looked forward to this, as I liked the idea of making beads out of clay to enhance specific jewelry designs, and also as a possible way to become familiar with the mechanics of working with precious metal clay. I was not disappointed. In addition to being able to work with the clay and form it into shapes, I enjoyed the experience, while learning a few techniques and tips. It was also nice to learn that there was no urgency in working with the clay before it hardened, or having to bake it within a certain time frame. I realized that I had ample time to later tweak my designs, or even to change my mind and make something entirely different. I can't wait to buy some clay and put some of these new skills into practice. I have been thinking of alternatives to the tools needed, few though they are, and some I already possess. What fun! I can't seem to get enough of learning new ways to make beautiful jewelry. But, that's why I joined NMGMS.



Photos by Nancy Roberts

November 11th Lapidary Workshop: Using the Saws and Cab Machines

Photo by Jim Roberts



I have to admit that this was my first time in a lapidary workshop, and it was awesome! I really am having trouble deciding what was more impressive, the equipment at our disposal and what can be created, or the out pouring of help and information from club members. Hunter and I are definitely hooked on the lapidary arts now. We are already planning a return trip with our rocks glued to boards and ready to cut! Thanks again to everyone in the club who has made us feel so welcome. Diana and Hunter Watson

Photos by Jim Roberts



November 11th Copper Disk Cutting Workshop Reviews:



Learned "bunches" at this workshop. Working with the disc cutter was interesting. Most of all, I had fun! Jane Coryell



I had a great time at the Copper Bracelet Workshop, as we turned sheets of metal into unique bracelets! As an intermediate jewelry maker, I found the class very educational and helpful. I learned many different techniques and how to use various tools that I may never have gotten to put a hand on. Wynn Howell

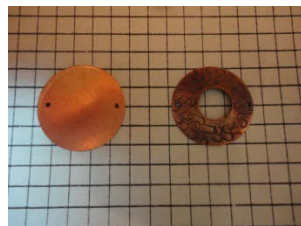


It did take a lot of time just to make the one bracelet. Perhaps blanks could have been made ahead of time, and then each person could make the smaller holes in the pieces the way they wanted to. Cheryle Langford

Workshop photos by Nancy Roberts

Bead Soup: A place to talk "shop"! By Nancy Roberts

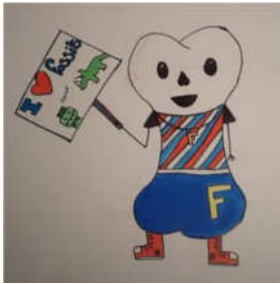
Here's a trick we learned while working on the copper disk bracelets: When you are punching the outer holes in your disks so that you can connect them with jump rings, you want those holes to line up with each other and be across the center of your disk. First, place the disks on lined paper or graph paper using the outer edges of the disks and the lines on the paper to gauge the center of your disk. Then, mark one side for a hole and following that same line across, mark the other side. This method worked very well.



Photos by Nancy Roberts



Photo by Nancy Roberts



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins

Rockhead Officers:

President, Konrad Armstrong

Vice President, James Carr

Secretary, Marion Carr

Rockhead Officers for 2018:

President, Hunter Watson

Vice President, Liam Langford

Secretary, Sydney Thornton

Rockheads' November 18, 2017 Meeting:

In attendance were: Mr. Jim, Amelia, Sydney, Levi, Julia, Liam, Hunter, Maya, Alex, Daniel, and Benjamin.

We learned about sedimentary rocks. We made rocks out of clay.

Submitted by Sydney Thornton

Pictured below is one of the Rockhead's fossiliferous sedimentary "rocks".

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Notice: Mr. Jim requests that all Rockheads please wear their vests (if you have one) to the December meeting.

December 2017



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts

latergator2003@yahoo.com

Adult Youth Advisors for 2018:

Diana Watson, jodyanddiana@hotmail.com

Krista Williamson, kristawilliamson2008@yahoo.com

More Upcoming NMGMS Events: Club Workshops

Copper Etching Class, January 13, 2018

Photo by Nancy Roberts



If you would like to learn how to etch designs in copper metal for making jewelry pieces, this is the class for you. Come to the Link Centre in Tupelo on **Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018**, upstairs in the conference room from **10a.m. until 4p.m.** Etching is a really fun process, and the results are very exciting and make unique components to include in your jewelry creations. We will be working with a variety of copper "blanks" and also some wire, so you should be able to complete a pair of earrings and a pendant or bracelet. We will also be doing some stamping, texturing, and shaping of some copper washers and wire for making links and other components for these projects. It'll be loads of fun!! Because

we will be working with chemicals, please wear old clothes or bring an apron. Bring a brown bag lunch. There is a refrigerator available. The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. The **\$30** class fee includes all materials, chemicals, and use of the tools.

Email therockhoundlady@yahoo.com, if you plan to attend. Unless otherwise stated, workshops are for ages 12 and up.

Lapidary Workshop, January 13, 2018

Photo by Jim Roberts



Our NMGMS lapidary room #136 at the Link Center in Tupelo will be open on **Saturday, January 13, 2018** at **10a.m.** for those members interested. **There are two large slab saws and two 10 inch saws available, as well as two trim saws and three cab machines.** Bring some stones that you would like to slab. We have a box of slabs that you can "play" with, if you don't have any of your own.

The **cabochon machines** are available for those members certified to use them. Mike Schuchs and Jim Roberts will be on hand to help with the saws and to get

members certified to use the equipment.

The room is small, so workshop is limited to 6-8 members at any one time.

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

Bring a brown bag lunch. Please email: therockhoundlady@yahoo.com, latergator2003@yahoo.com, or mike.schuchs@gmail.com, if you plan to attend.



Club News:

The following slate of officers for 2018 will be presented for election by the membership at the Dec. 9th meeting: President, Nancy Roberts, Vice President, Mike Schuchs, Treasurer, Nikki Kenney, and Secretary, Paul Gunther.

The January NMGMS meeting will be on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Tupelo library from 1-3pm. Program will be on plate tectonics, given by Mississippi University Professor, Dr. Jennifer Gifford. Refreshments are courtesy of Cassandra Carr and Cheryle Langford.

Lapidary Words: Test Your Knowledge! By Nancy Roberts

Answers to November's words, **Enameling** and **Etching**:

Photo of Clarice's enameled pieces by Nancy Roberts



The art of enameling has been around for centuries. The enameling that we would be doing in our copper jewelry workshops is fusing powdered glass onto copper metal using very high heat. This fusing process can be done with a torch or in a kiln. Upon heating, the powdered glass melts and flows, forming a vitreous coating that hardens when cooled. The powdered glass comes in a wide variety of colors, as well as opaque and translucent finishes. There are many different techniques that you can do with enamels, like layering, stenciling, sgraffito, cloisonné, etc. Enameling allows the jewelry artist to add color and texture to their pieces, making it unique and one of a kind.

For more information, check out: <http://www.firemountaingems.com/resources/jewelry-making-articles/d92e>
<https://www.interweave.com/article/jewelry/jewelry-enameled-5-kinds-enamelwork/>

For videos on how to do enameling with a torch check out: Beaducation.com, Riogrande.com, On Line Jewelry Academy, CoolTools.com, and many more.

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Etching metal is also a very old technique. Acid is used to cut or "bite" away exposed places on a piece of metal. A "resist" is used to protect those parts that will not be etched. In our workshops, we use ferric chloride as the acid to etch copper or brass. You can also make your own etchant using one part commercial grade Muriatic acid (dilute hydrochloric acid from the hardware store) and two parts hydrogen peroxide (like you buy at the drug store). We have used Sharpie markers and StazOn ink as resist with great success. The design to be etched can be applied to the metal freehand with a Sharpie marker, or stamped on with rubber stamps using the StazOn ink. Designs can also be applied to your metal using PnP (Press and Peel) transfer paper. The design to be used is preprinted onto the paper with a laser printer. You can also etch metal with electricity and an electrolyte solution like salt water, silver nitrate, or copper sulfate.

For more information, check out: <https://www.ganoksin.com/article/easy-etching-step-by-step/>
<https://feltmagnet.com/crafts/How-to-Acid-Etch-Etching-Copper-and-Brass>
<http://blog.rings-things.com/2011/12/28/diy-copper-etching-tutorial/>
<http://riograndeblog.com/chemical-electrical-use-etching-create-detailed-patterns-jewelry-designs/>



SFMS Federation News by Nancy Roberts

Workshop Scholarship Committee, from the Dec. 1, 2017 special issue of the Lodestar

The First SFMS Scholarship drawing was held at the annual meeting in Knoxville, TN this past October. Prizes that are to be mailed have not yet been sent out. Some prizes were collected at the meeting by those attending. The drawing for the scholarships to be awarded to the SFMS clubs was held. The certificates will not be mailed to the winning clubs until all of the prizes are sent out, and the Education Committee sets the rate for the workshop weeks for 2018. We will not know until those 2 things happen, if we will be awarding 7 or 8 scholarships to the 2018 SFMS workshops at William Holland and Wildacres. The winning clubs for scholarships are: North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society, Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society, Columbia Gem & Mineral Society, Georgia Mineral Society, Columbia Gem & Mineral Society, Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society, and North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

The SFMS Newsletter, the Lodestar, is available for all members to read on line. <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>



The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' 2018 Annual Meeting will be held April 6-8th in Raleigh, NC.

The AFMS Newsletter is available for all members to read on line

For more AFMS Federation news, please check out their website: <http://www.amfed.org/>

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: November. 18, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Rebecca Vallarian.

New members introduced were: Gene Thornton, Justin and Beth Thornton, and Erica Bottger.

Motion to approve the Sept.16, 2017 meeting minutes as printed in the October 2017 Nugget was made and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of Oct. 31, 2017 was given by Nikki Kenney.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be to Richardson Landing, Millington, TN, on Dec. 16th. The meeting site and time to be determined by Mike Schuchs. This is a large Mississippi River gravel bar. We will be collecting agates, petrified wood, jaspers, chert fossils, and maybe even some Pleistocene fossils. (See email or Nugget for details) The Jan. field trip will be Jan. 27, 2018 to Alabama for Mississippian fossils.

Publicity: (John Byzet) We are getting very low on club brochures. We need to find a printer that can do them for about what we paid last time. 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. **Also, it is time to consider renewing your NMGMS member ship for 2017.**

Dues are \$12 for individual and \$20 for family. Ann would like someone else to take over as Membership chair. Beth Thornton volunteered to take over as Membership chair.

Hospitality: Refreshments: Need a volunteer to do the ham for the Christmas party pot- luck luncheon, Dec. 9th. **Robert Langford** volunteered. All members attending the luncheon are asked to bring a casserole, salad or dessert.

Need two volunteers for Jan. 20th: **Cassandra Carr and Cheryle Langford**

Rebecca Vallarian mentioned that the club provides all of the paper products, etc. for the refreshments.

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 wrapping up his tenure as Youth Leader when he hands out the FRA badges at the Dec. meeting. Diana Watson and Krista Williamson have very graciously and enthusiastically agreed to assume those duties for 2018.

Minutes cont'd on page 10

NMGMS Meeting Minutes: cont'd**Date: November 18, 2017**

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) **Please turn in any 2017 club memorabilia to Cheryle Langford.** Need a volunteer to help as assistant historian. Ann Byzet volunteered to help.

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 the last week of March.**

Safety: (Mike Schuchs) NMGMS bought a mat to go in front of the workshop door, so hopefully no one trips over the drop cloths. Looked into inexpensive "lab coats" or aprons and they are too flimsy or not really water proof. Tyvek suits are too costly. **Members working on the cab machines were asked to bring an apron or wear old clothes.**

Old Business: There was no old business at this time.

New Business: 1. NMGMS will have a jewelry sales table at the Link Centre on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11am until 5pm. We will need a few club members volunteer to help assist the Link Center with this event. Volunteers will either man the food sales tables or help where needed. **Volunteers: Nikki Kenney and Cheryle Langford will man the NMGMS jewelry sales table. Elizabeth Hill and Nancy Roberts will help the Link Centre.**

2. The lapidary workshop will be open on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, so if you are interested, come by. The cab machines and slab saws will be available. Shop the Holiday Market downstairs too!

3. The December meeting will be the Christmas Party/ luncheon on **Dec. 9th at the library from 11 to 3p.m.** We will have a short meeting and then eat at noon. (We actually have the room starting at 10:30.) The club will provide a ham, and members are asked to bring a potluck dish. We will have a gift exchange (\$10 max.); everyone who wants to participate brings a gift either for a man, woman or child. We will be collecting foodstuffs for a local charity, a "toy for tots" and holding the "Night before Christmas" ornament exchange.

4. Nominations made for the 2018 NMGMS officers were: President, **Nancy Roberts**, Vice President, **Mike Schuchs**, Treasurer, **Nikki Kenney**, and Secretary, **Paul Gunther**. We will be electing these officers next month. Committee chairpersons will continue to serve in their present capacity.

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

Submitted by Burnice Burkeen

December 2, 2017 Workshop:

Photos by Jim Roberts

Robert Langford was diligently working on the microscopes that were donated to NMGMS last year. He may have two of them in working order. Hopefully we can hold a micro crystal and fossil program. Sometimes the very tiny are the most perfect!



While Robert was working on the scopes, several members were busy at the cab machine. As you can see, we have expanded out into the hallway! The roller carts that Mike Schuchs built are working out perfectly.

NMGMS 2017 Officers:**President/Field Trip Chair:**

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

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.

The Society's newsletter, *The Nugget*, is mailed to members electronically and posted on the website.