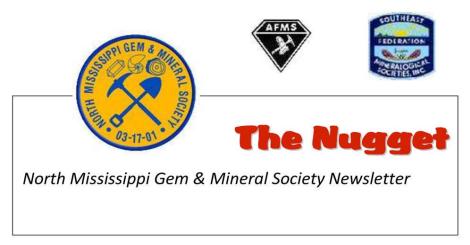
March 14, 2016





Painting counters, photo by Jim Roberts

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

Happy Birthday NMGMS! The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society has just completed its 15th year, and it was filled with all kinds of interesting things, like great meetings, exciting field trips, fun workshops and educational programs. Over these past 15 years, NMGMS has registered as a nonprofit corporation with the state of Mississippi, and built up a working rapport with many other clubs and organizations within the area, through joint field trips, participating as exhibitors at local events, giving talks and programs to schools and summer camps, working with local scout groups, teaching lapidary workshops and hosting a Geology Fest. And in so doing, NMGMS has managed to build a very valuable asset, its membership!

Our organization has grown from the handful of founding members to, on average, 100 members a year. NMGMS now has a well-established and very active junior members' group and has seen several of its college aged members graduate and go on to further studies in geology and related fields. We have several junior members who continue to excel and take honors with their science fair projects, and many juniors who successfully earn FRA badges issued through the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. We are very proud of our younger members!

Another valuable membership asset is, our very talented and creative members, who are expanding their skills in the lapidary and jewelry making arts. NMGMS, through workshops, classes and the William Holland scholarships that we have awarded, has managed to inspire and encourage its members to delve into the very satisfying and rewarding creative avenue of working with gemstones, beads, wire, metal, clay etc., and we are hoping to progress further with this endeavor through the setting up of our very own lapidary workshop space. As soon as we have a few pieces of the equipment up and running, we will have safety and certification classes taught by members who have taken a William Holland cabochon class or are certified with the Huntsville club. Eventually, a schedule of lab hours will be established, with certified club members available to teach and certify any member interested in learning how to use the saws, grinders, polishers, etc. and turn their rocks into beautiful cabochons. We also plan to hold wire wrapping classes, so that you can learn to make a finished piece of "wearable" art!

Hopefully this new lapidary workshop will help NMGMS to attract new members, as well as, offering our current membership an opportunity to cut and polish some of their rock collection. We will continue to offer all of the programs, field trips and other workshops that have been the core of our "rock solid" organization. We will try our very best to offer something for everyone and to be the best society that we can be. NMGMS is comprised of a fantastic group of individuals, who work very well together, and that's what makes NMGMS so great. NMGMS, I salute you! Here's to another 15 fantastic years! Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS March Meeting

The NMGMS March 19, 2016 meeting will be held at the Lee County Library from 1 to 3p.m. It's our 15th annual birthday party!

This is the time when we "show off" what we have been working on over the past year.

All members are asked to bring in something to display. It can be a part of your rock, mineral or fossil collection, your lapidary/ beading work or just something interesting that you may have picked up in your summer travels.

This is your chance to "shine" and share with everyone your interests, talents and expertise!

Attention all Rockheads!! Please bring your displays, too. Remember, doing a display at some point during the year, counts towards the "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award that NMGMS gives out at the Dec. meeting.

The Rockheads will be helping out by filling the fishing game cups, so if you have any small specimens or other items suitable for kids, that you are willing to donate, please bring them to the March meeting. Also, bring any specimens that you are loaning the ODCM for our display cases. Thanks

We will also hold our "Brown Bag" silent auction at this meeting. Members are asked to bring two items, each one packaged in its own brown paper bag. One item is to be a "nice" rock and gem related item (not absolute) and the other item can be silly, funny or cute, (kind of "white elephant") but no garbage, please! These bags will be set out on the table for silent bidding during the meeting. We have always had some really nice surprises and this is lots of fun, especially with the younger members!

Volunteers for the refreshments are: Debra Boone and Dana Armstrong. Ann Byzet is bringing the cake.

Come and celebrate; Happy Birthday NMGMS!

More Upcoming NMGMS Events: Club Workshop

Photo by N Roberts



April 16, 2016 Mixed Metals Class

Want to learn a metal technique called fold forming? If you do, come to the Link Center in Tupelo on Saturday, April 16th; NMGMS will be having a mixed metals class, upstairs in the conference room from 10a.m. until 4p.m. You will learn how to fold your metal sheet to make interesting and unique patterns while you create a cuff bracelet and a pair of earrings. It's really a fun project and the results will amaze you! The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. The \$25 class fee includes all materials, tools and the use of the torches. Please bring a brown bag lunch. There is a refrigerator and microwave oven available. Email therockhoundlady@yahoo.com, if you plan to attend.



Poster by Alison Schuchs

Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show

April 9, 2016 at the ODCM in Tupelo

Activities at this event include: our spin and win, the rock and fossil dig, the fishing game, a beading activity, and the fluorescent room. We will need NMGMS members to man each of these activities, as well as, the club information table. Ticket takers will also be needed and we hope that all of the Rockheads can participate and help out. We will need two volunteers per station (1 needs to be an adult) The NMGMS club table will be selling grab bags and tickets for the other activities. We will need a few members to be docents by the fossil cases and the rock and mineral case, to answer questions.

Volunteers need to be at the museum at 9a.m. on Saturday April 9th!

Club News: ODCM Display Setup

If you are bringing in a specimen to loan for the museum displays, be sure to label it with the county that it was found in and place a piece of painters tape with your initials onto the bottom of the specimen. The March 19th meeting is the latest that we could take any loaned specimens. We will start setting up the displays at the Oren Dunn Museum on March 17th and finish up the next week. If you are available to help with the setup, please let Nancy Roberts know. There will be lots to do! We would also like to showcase the lapidary and jewelry work that NMGMS members have been doing, so please consider loaning some of your creations for a display case at the museum. Display cases: Rocks that look like food, Rock types: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic, Minerals and their uses, Cabochon making and rock polishing, Miss. River gravel deposits, Stages of wood petrification, Petrified wood, Lapidary jewelry and Mississippi fossils. If you have any interesting, unusual or exciting finds, please consider loaning them for these displays.

Mark your calendar! Robert Langford will be teaching the Boy Scout Geology merit badge on Saturday April 30th for the New Albany scouts and the Rockheads will be hosting their Twenty Mile Creek field trip and hotdog cookout on April 30, 2016, starting at 10a.m. The scouts will be joining the Rockheads for lunch and the afternoon at the creek. Any member, who would like to meet at the crab site that morning to help the scouts with their collecting, is more than welcome.

Meeting Program Reviews:



A Step Back in Time....

photo by Nancy Roberts

At the Feb. 20th NMGMS meeting, the featured speaker, Mr. Julian Riley, drew quite an audience and held everyone's attention with his historical insights into the early history of this area. Members learned that the Tupelo area was an important center of travel and trade for the Chickasaw Indians and early settlers. The settlements here sat at an important crossroads between travel from Mobile to Memphis via the waterways, such as the Tombigbee River, Bear Creek and the Mississippi, and travel from Nashville to Natchez via the Trace. Julian talked about how the early settlements of this area consolidated into a large one called Big Town and how travelers used the creeks as a means of letting them know how far from Big Town they were, as they made their way toward this settlement. Thus, we now know how Twenty Mile Creek, where lots of shark teeth are found, got its name! He went on to explain how the Chickasaw Indians loved to trade hides for beads and he showed us many of the different trade beads that he had found over the years. He also had a display of fossil bones, artifacts and other interesting items, such as a meteorite, that comprise a portion of his vast collection. Members enjoyed talking with Julian Riley after his presentation and viewing the collection that he had on display. Thank you Mr. Riley!

Wire Wrapped Bangle Bracelet Workshop

The Feb. 13th NMGMS workshop at the Link Center was a big success. Members attending had fun learning how to take 8 feet of wire and create a really chic bangle bracelet that is so "in" right now. We also tackled making our own "Alex and Ani" style of adjustable bracelet and the workshop was topped off with learning to make a pair of heart shaped earrings out of wire. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all, thanks to our hospitality chair, Rebecca Vallarian. While the wrapping upstairs was feverishly going on, some of our club's handymen were down in room #136, building some counters on which to setup the lapidary equipment that we now have. It was really a good day for creativity!!



Photos by N Roberts

NMGMS Participates!

MGMS Show



If you didn't make it to Jackson for the MGMS rock and gem show, then you missed a good one. Jim and I went down on Friday, Feb. 26th and I set up my Pennsylvanian coal age fossil display. We always enjoy meeting all of our friends from MGMS, the vendors circle and the other organizations that are represented there at the show. The camaraderie at the Friday night dinner was delightful; we were even able to hob-knob with some of the SFMS officers, who were there, too. Jim and I attended the SFMS quarterly meeting Saturday morning, and then spent the afternoon viewing the show and visiting with a lot of NMGMS members who came down to see the show. You meet many great people at these shows, because everyone has similar interests. Lots of slabs, rough rock for cutting, cabochons, beads, jewelry, fossils and minerals were available for purchase, as well as many gift items and things for the kids. I volunteered to work at the MGMS jewelry making demo table and the wire wrapped bangle bracelet, like the one we did at our Feb. 13th workshop, was an instant hit. I was able to teach the technique to several of the MGMS club members, so now they can have a workshop of their own! Jim helped out with ticket sales, manned the "rocks like food" exhibit and was a "greeter" at the door when needed. The show is always a lot more fun if you are an active participant. It was a really fun weekend! Nancy Roberts

MMNS Fossil Road Show



Photos by Nancy Roberts



NMGMS Information TableMatthew's Science ProjectDave's Hadrosaur FossilThe North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was honored to be asked to participate in the MMNS FossilRoad Show again this year. We met lots of fellow fossil collectors and had a chance to glean informationabout our collections from the participating professional experts. A great learning experience all around!.

Volume 15 Issue 10

The Nugget



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins

Rockhead Officers: President Konrad Armstrong Vice President James Carr Secretary

Marion Carr

March 2016

www.amfed.org/fra/ fra_badge.htm Adult Youth Advisor: Jim Roberts

latergator2003@yahoo.com

Rockheads February 20, 2016 Meeting:

In attendance were: Alice, James and Marion Carr and Konrad Armstrong.



We talked about different kinds of metals. We are talking about other meetings in the future. Asked what is the difference between rocks and metal? Asked what metal do you make wire with? Then we read a sheet that said, "What is a Metal?" 1. Typically hard, opague, shiny. 2. Has a good electrical and thermal conductivity. 3. Generally malleable, that is they can be hammered or pressed permanently out of shape without breaking or cracking. 4. Fusible(able to be fused or melted). 5. Ductile(able to be drawn out into a thin wire). After that, Konrad talked and showed everybody the metal he had brought. Then Mr. Jim asked what two metals were used as money, gold and silver. After that, we talked about gold and electricity. He asked "Does anybody have questions about metal?" Submitted by Marion Carr

Photo of Rockheads meeting by Alison Schuchs

Attention all Rockheads!! Please bring something to display at the March meeting. Remember, doing a display at some point during the year, counts towards the "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award that NMGMS gives out at the Dec. meeting.

Note: The Rockheads will be helping NMGMS get ready for the Geology Fest by filling the fishing game cups at their March 19th meeting.



SFMS Federation News

The first quarterly meeting of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies was held in Jackson, MS on Feb. 27, 2016. Introductions were made, then SFMS members were welcomed to the area and the MGMS rock and gem show by Joy Rushing. Officer, Director and Chairperson reports were given, with MS State Director, Dave Hanes, giving a short report on NMGMS and its endeavors so far this year. All federation members were invited to attend the second quarterly meeting, which will be held on June 3rd and 4th in Marietta, GA and hosted by the Georgia Mineral Society. The annual SFMS meeting for 2016 will be in Atlanta Nov.18-20th and will be hosted by the Cobb County club.

It was noted that insurance rates for 2016-2017 had gone up to \$2 per member and that a mistake had been made on the federation's 2016 dues renewal form. Clubs were charged \$2 a member for dues and it should have been \$1.75, so those that overpaid will be getting a refund. (Ed note: NMGMS was one of the clubs that overpaid) A request was made by the MAGS representatives for the insurances forms to be out much sooner than they have been, as their April show venue requires them to show proof of insurance before the renewal date.

The federation is in the process of converting its program library to an all-digital format. The listing of programs that are available for clubs to use can be found in the SFMS directory. The federation has dropped the stamp program and intends to start up an endowment fund similar to the one that the American Federation has, with items being donated and raffle tickets being sold. There was some discussion as to how the scholarships from this fund would be awarded. Placing names in a hat based on the number of ticket sales was suggested. This is still open for further discussion. Tax exempt forms for a donation must be requested, if needed. Any item valued over \$5000 must be accompanied by a certified written appraisal.

SFMS members were encouraged to have more competitive display cases at club rock and gem shows. It was mentioned that William Holland Lapidary School has a display case building class. The SFMS treasurer stated that occasionally a bad check will be received and after the third offense, only cash or a money order from that party will be accepted. The board present voted to allow the treasurer to sign checks of \$350 or less with just one signature; all other checks will still require two signatures, as per the federation's by laws. It was also voted to set up a debit card for normal business, already budgeted, expenses. A motion was made to research bonding the treasurer and possibly the other officers. Reggie Bolton of the Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society volunteered to head this up.

The 2017 SFMS annual meeting will be held in Knoxville, TN the third weekend of October. Meeting was adjourned. Submitted by Nancy Roberts

By Mike Schuchs

Safety:

Work safely so you can do it again

Stereoscopic vision is a wonderful thing; it adds a great deal of depth to our world, and life would be kind of flat without it. It would be a terrible thing to waste this gift.

The silicon carbide wheels on some of our equipment can break and hurl large pieces around the room; because you are working in front of the wheel, you are the prime target. Never grind on the side of the wheel and keep them dressed flat.

The rubber expanding wheels should never be used without a sanding belt covering the rubber, as the rubber will continue to expand and break apart. You could get slapped.

The diamond wheels and polishing pads are inherently safe, but still present a missile hazard. The spinning grinding wheels and polishing pads can snatch the rock from the dop stick, or from your hand, and sling it back at you, or across the room. You may be very confident about your ability to dodge your own rocks, but remember that there will be others in the room, who might catch you unaware. We have chosen a craft that requires decent eyesight, natural or corrected.

I love Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder, and they were/are great musicians, but grinding and polishing rocks would not be easy for them. There are some items that we should use to protect ourselves, like gloves, where failure to do so would be a relatively minor setback. Safety glasses are not optional, they are a must, and failure to use them, could leave you learning to sing the blues. You can't see pretty rocks, if you can't see.



Photo by Beverly Kraft

Roger Lambert in his safety glasses!

NMGMS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: February 20, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society was held on Saturday, February 20, 2016 from 12:35 to 1:00pm @ the Lee County Library in Tupelo. The meeting was called to order by the president of the club, Nancy Roberts.

Members Present: Nancy Roberts, Belinda Loyd, John Byzet and Mike Schuchs. The motion was made to approve the January board meeting minutes as written. Motion Carried.

Treasurers Report: It was brought to the Boards attention that a correction was made to the 2015 profits amount, due to a double entry. Gross income is \$4257.87 - expenses \$3354.65 leaving an income for 2015 of \$903.22.

Discussion: The Club signed a 6 month contract for room #136 at the Link Center @\$120 per month and the full 6 month rent was paid. According to the contract, some insurance to cover the "contents" insurance will be needed. John Byzet has agreed to obtain a quote to cover the contents. Our SFMS insurance will be renewed by the end of March.

The Lee County Library has offered the loan of 3 tables for a donation of \$20 each; which will be used in the Link Center workshop. A motion was made to approve the donation for the table. Motion Carried.

West Point has picked April 16th for their spring workshop. The club picnic will be moved to either May 14th or the 21st. So, for April, we have scheduled: April 9th-ODCM, April 16th-West Point jewelry class, April 23rd and 24th-MAGS show, April 30th- Boy Scout merit badge class and the 20 Mile Creek cookout/field trip.

Board member, Mike Schuchs, will be holding a mini equipment safety workshop at the Link Center on April 16th for those who are interested.

There was discussion regarding who would be responsible for the keys to our room at the Link Center. It would have to be someone located close to the Link Center. The Board moved to discussing safety issues. It was agreed that 2 (two) people would be required to be there if equipment is being used. A sign in sheet will be required. Anyone using the equipment must be certified.

The Board agreed to file the NMGMS 990-N ecard in April as usual and continue as a 501©7 for now.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm.

Submitted by Belinda Loyd, Secretary

Show News: 2017 CFMS-AFMS Show

To enter the "Ventura Rocks the Nation" Poster Contest, to publicize the 2017 CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention taking place at the Ventura County Fairgrounds in June of 2017, Send your design as an electronic attachment to: Diane Cook at info@vgms.org Please include both a full poster design and a companion flyer design directly tied to the elements in your Larger poster (for crafting 3.25" x 4.5" postcard-sized fliers). The winner will receive 2 banquet tickets for the Awards Banquet at the 2017 CFMS-AFMS Show. DUE DATE: June 1, 2016



NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: February 20, 2016

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Mike and Alison Schuchs' grandchildren: Jake, Mari, and Ali Carr.

Introduce guests and new members...Linda Blackmon, Lynn Coleman, Mike McNeese, Elizabeth Hill, and Dr. Roma Taylor

The Jan. 2016 meeting minutes were approved as printed in the Feb. 2016 Nugget.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of 1/31/16 \$3430.05.

Review of Committees:

Field Trips: Our next NMGMS field trip will be on Saturday, March 12th and Sunday, March 13th to Mt. Ida for quartz crystals. We will collect at the Twin Creek Mines on Saturday and Miller Mountain on Sunday. Twin Creek Mine group rate is \$20 for 10-15 people, \$18 for 15-20 and \$15 for over 20. Children 12 and under are \$12.

Publicity: (John Byzet) Members were encouraged to spread the word about our next Geology Day on April 9th at the ODCM. The Geology Fest poster is posted to the club website and FB page.

Membership: (Ann Byzet) NMGMS member ship dues for 2016 should be paid as soon as possible. Dues are \$12 per person and \$20 per family. Our total membership count for 2015 was 98 members. Currently the club has 76 members that have paid for 2016.

Hospitality: Refreshments: Volunteers for March 19th: Deborah Boone & Larry/Dana Armstrong. The club birthday cake will be provided by John Byzet. Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are always welcomed!

Website: (John Byzet) The updated NMGMS constitution and bylaws have been posted to the website. Check us out at www.nmgms.org

Newsletter: (Dana Jones) The deadline for newsletter submissions is the **second Friday** of the month. Email anything for The Nugget to: therockhoundlady@yahoo.com. Any articles on field trips, workshops, or other club events are always needed.

Youth Members: (Jim Roberts) The Rockheads are planning a gold mining field trip to Alabama sometime in May to the ALABAMA GOLD CAMP, 1398 Co. Rd. 5, Lineville AL 36266 256-396-0389

http://www.alabamagoldcamp.com They will be hosting their 20 Mile Creek field trip and hotdog cookout on April 30th.

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) Cheryle Langford plans to start working on the 2015 yearbook. If you have anything that you would like to put in the yearbook, please give it to Cheryle. This would include any fliers or brochures from the events, museums or other points of interest that you attend. If you see any newspaper or magazine article featuring one of our club members, save those too, even if it is not anything club related. Geology/Kids Day: (Roger Lambert, John Byzet and Robert Langford) The club will start setting up the displays at the Oren Dunn Museum on March 16th and finish up the 21st. The March 19th meeting is the latest we could take any loaned specimens.

Safety: (David Loyd) Mike Schuchs is doing safety write ups for the Nugget.

Old Business:

- The club will be setting up the fossil displays at the Oren Dunn Museum by Mississippi counties. Be sure to label your specimens with the county that it was found in. Museum loan sheets were distributed.
- The geology day is on April 9th, club members were asked to bring something for the "hands-on" table. * There will be a signup sheet at the March 19th meeting, so think about what activity you want to work at. Some members volunteered for the ticket/info table, the fluorescent room, fishing game, sandbox dig, lapidary project, spin and win, and the hands on table.

NMGMS Feb. 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes cont'd:

We have contracted to rent room #136 at the Link Center for 6 months, for \$120 a month. If we help out with maintenance and renovation projects there at the Center, they will take a little off of the rent each month. The requested expense spreadsheet by Dave Hanes was reviewed with the group. Members assembled a couple of work table in the room, moved in a desk and we'll be taking over some tables from the library this evening. Several of the slab saws that we received from HGMS are in the room and should be set up soon. The Board voted on some safety issues in the earlier meeting. It was agreed that 2(two) people would be required to be there if equipment is being used. A sign in sheet will be required. Anyone using the equipment must be certified. A project spreadsheet will be prepared.

- The SFMS February 1st quarterly meeting will be hosted by the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (MGMS) on February 26 and 27, 2016 in conjunction with their annual MGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show held on February 27 and 28 in Jackson, Mississippi.
- NMGMS will set up an exhibit table at the MAGS show, April 23rd and 24th

No further old business at this time.

New Business:

- > The SFMS 2016 dues have been paid and the notice for renewal of the SFMS insurance will be in soon. The rate is \$2 per member.
- The March 19, 2016 meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. The Club will be celebrating our 15th birthday. All members are asked to bring in something to display, showing what they have collected or accomplished over the past year in any related field. There will be a "Brown Bag" silent auction. Members are asked to bring two items, each one packaged in its own brown paper bag. One item is to be a "nice" rock and gem related item (not absolute) and the other item can be silly, funny or cute, (kind of "white elephant") but no garbage, please!
- NMGMS has been invited by George Phillips to set up at the MS Museum of Natural Science Fossil Road \geq Show on March 5. The club table will be set up with Twenty Mile Creek fossils and Dave Hanes will be displaying his hadrosaur fossils. Matthew Lambert will be displaying his science fair project based on Blue Springs fossils. You can bring any fossils for identification by a professional.
- \triangleright A workshop is scheduled for the West Point Arts Council to teach Copper Fold forming. When: Saturday, April 16, 2016 Where: Louise Campbell Center for the Arts, 235 Commerce St., West Point, MS Time: 10 to 4 Class fee: \$40 Bring a brown bag lunch! Class is limited to 12, so please let us know if you plan to attend.
- > The Rockheads will be filling the fishing cups at their March 19th meeting. Club members were asked if they had any grab bags.
- Robert Langford will be teaching the Boy Scout Geology merit badge on Saturday April 30th for the New Albany scouts and the Rockheads will be hosting their Twenty Mile Creek field trip and hotdog cookout on April 30th. The scouts will be collecting at Blue Springs for a bit in the morning and then moving to the creek for the afternoon. Any member, who would like to meet at the crab site that morning to help the scouts with their collecting, is more than welcome. Watch your emails and the newsletter for more details.

Is there any other new business???? It was announced that Konrad Armstrong won 3rd place in the Science Fair at his school. Meeting Adjourned......

NMGMS 2016 Officers:

President/Field Trip Chair: Nancy Roberts 25 Amber Lane Counce, TN 38326 (731)689-5336 therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

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

Secretary: Belinda Loyd 7834 Cherry Valley Southaven, MS 38671 901-605-9772 bloyd utlady@yahoo.com

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

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





Photos by Alison Schuchs



NMGMS "handy men" building new counters for the lapidary workshop!