



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Photo by Alison Schuchs



Nancy's Birthday Party Hat!

Notes from the President's Desk....April 2018

Photo by Jim Roberts



I am very excited; the last two lapidary workshops that were held at the Link Centre had a great turnout. It looks like we are finally getting some use out of the lapidary equipment and our little workshop room. At our last workshop, all of the slab saws were running, and I saw some fabulous pieces of the Summerville agate being sliced. Wow, the reddish brown agates exhibited some really nice patterns and should yield a variety of beautiful cabochons. Speaking of cabochons, NMGMS

received two scholarship certificates from our Southeast Federation, so I am hoping that we can send another club member, along with Paul Gunther, to the SFMS June cabochon class at William Holland. These two members would in turn teach and share their newly learned skills with other club members at our lapidary workshop sessions.

On another note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those members who helped with the display cases that NMGMS has setup at the Oren Dunn City Museum in Tupelo. We have quite a variety of displays this year, with several brand new themes. Also, a big thank you goes to those members who placed some of their choice specimens on loan, so that we could make a good showing. If you get a chance, make the effort to get over to the museum and check out the display. It will run until May 16, 2018.

On Saturday, April 14th, NMGMS held its 5th Fossil Road Show and Geology Fest. Despite the storms and rain, we had a fantastic turnout and a great show. All of the club members who came out to man the activities did a wonderful job, and everything ran smoothly. We were very fortunate to be able to set up all of the activities inside of the museum. The Rockheads did a very good job of helping out too. I think all of the attendees enjoyed the displays, games, vendors, and kept our guest professionals busy with specimen identifications. It takes a lot of time and effort to put on a good show, and I think we showed the community that we are a strong organization with a lot of friendly, helpful, knowledgeable, and committed members. A thank you also goes to George Phillips, Dr. Julie Retrum, and Robert Langford, for their professional services at this event. We couldn't do it without their expertise in the fields of Geology and Paleontology. I also extend the club's most sincere thanks to Rae Mathis Guess and all of the Oren Dunn City Museum staff for their assistance and support throughout the whole process. It was a fun day for all and nice to share our knowledge and interests with others. We meet a lot of great people, make some new friends, and get to spread the word about the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society at this event.

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS April 21, 2018 Meeting



Photo by Nancy Roberts

The April meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the Tupelo library from 1-3pm. Program: "Capture that Stone with Wire". Come and learn how to wire wrap a polished stone. Bring your favorite tumbled stone, a marble, a piece of sea glass, or other found object and have fun making it into a pendant for a necklace or keychain. The refreshments are "pot luck" this time, so everyone is asked to bring something. Also, since April has "April Fool's Day", let's display rocks that "fool" you and look like something else (or at least may be shaped like something different or interesting).

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

May 5, 2018: NMGMS Twenty Mile Creek field trip and Rockheads' cookout (See page 4 for details)

May 19, 2018: NMGMS May meeting from 1 to 3 at the Tupelo library. Program will be on Volcanoes, given by University of Mississippi Professor, Dr. Jennifer Gifford.

June 16, 2017: Collecting at Twenty Mile Creek, Robert Langford's summer schedule (See page 4 for details)

Other Upcoming Events:

April 28th and 29th, 2018: "The Earth Wide Open", MAGS rock and gem show at the Agricenter in Memphis, TN. NMGMS will set up as an exhibitor. (See page 2 for details)

June 9, 2018: Fossil Road Show, 10am to 2pm at the Union County Heritage Museum, New Albany, MS

Show Dates:

April 28-29, 2018

Photo of the 2018 Grand Door Prize



Memphis, TN Memphis Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show

"The Earth Wide Open" by the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

Location: Memphis International Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN

Saturday, April 28th, 9am-6:00pm, and Sunday, April 29th, 10am-5pm.

Admission: Adults \$5.00, 2 day pass \$8.00, Children 12 and under \$2.00, and Scouts in uniform are free.

Additional information: www.theearthwideopen.com

June 2-3, 2018

The Tannehill Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show, June 2-3, 2018

The AMLS outdoor show is held at the Tannehill Furnace State Historical Park, 12632 Confederate Parkway, McCalla, AL 35111. The show is Saturday June 2nd Sunday June 3rd, from 9am to 5pm. Admission to the park is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children; there is no additional entrance fee for the show.

Meeting Program Review: NMGMS March 17th Birthday!



Photo by Bernice Burkeen

At the March 17, 2018 meeting, NMGMS celebrated its 17th birthday. Members brought in items from their collections or lapidary endeavors to show what the club had accomplished over the past year. Specimens from past field trips, as well as some lapidary and jewelry items from club workshops were presented for viewing. We also held our annual Brown Bag auction, and excitement ran high as members tried to guess what might be inside of the unmarked bags. There were lots of very pleasant surprises to be found when the auction bags were opened. To top the festivities off, Cassandra Carr made the most fabulous (as well as delicious!) birthday cake that a rock club could

ever have, a "stratified" layer cake resembling a road cut, complete with inclusions like eatable rocks and even a geode! Thank you Cassandra!



Photos by Bernice Burkeen, Alison Schuchs, and Nancy Roberts

Club News: Dues Rate Change

At the NMGMS March 17, 2018 meeting, the members present voted unanimously to change the club dues to the following rate: \$15 for a single membership, \$25 for a couple, and \$4 for each child. This change will be added to the club bylaws and will take effect starting with 2019 renewals and new memberships.

Nancy Roberts, NMGMS President

Upcoming NMGMS Field Trip:

May 5, 2018 Twenty Mile Creek field trip and Rockheads' cookout



Photo of ID Station by Jim Roberts

Put on your water shoes, grab your sieves and buckets, and let's get out there for those shark teeth and have a splash of a good time too!

On **Saturday May 5, 2018**, the NMGMS Rockheads will sponsor a field trip to the famous Frankstown "Shark Tooth" site (the W. M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park), which is located on Twenty Mile Creek in Prentiss County, Mississippi. We will meet at the Site at **10:00 a.m.** Parking is on the eastern side of US Highway 45 in the flat grassy area just

off of the side road and includes under the bridge. We will be sifting through the creek's sand and gravel for shark teeth and other small Cretaceous fossils. Be prepared to get wet and take precautions to limit sun exposure! You will be down in the creek, so you need to be able to go down the bank and get in the water. There is a somewhat steep, sandy path leading down the bank on both sides of the bridge, so wear shoes that can get wet, and a walking stick is a good idea. Bring a screening device, like a colander, sieve, or homemade screen made out of hardware cloth and a wooden frame, or fiber screening put into a large plastic embroidery hoop. Also, you will need a small garden trowel or scoop, plus small plastic jars with tight fitting lids, Ziploc bags, or pill bottles, to use as storage containers for the fossils. There are no facilities here. Be sure to bring plenty of drinking water, a hat, sunscreen, a towel, and dry clothes to change into. This is a wild site, so watch for poison ivy on the banks and snakes at all times. You will find many different kinds of teeth here, shark, ray, bony fish, Mosasaurs, and crocodile; also some vertebrae, turtle bone, scoots, petrified wood, and lots more. Many of the teeth are good sized, but most are very small, so be sure to check out anything that is black and shiny!

This will be lots of fun for all ages. If you plan to go on this field trip, please notify:

Nancy Roberts, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com, 731-689-5336.

Lunch: The Rockheads will be cooking hot dogs. There will also be chips, cookies, and lemonade, all for the small donation of \$2. What a deal! Please bring your own chair. So come on out to support our Rockheads, and have a great time too!

Additionally: Robert Langford will kick off his 20-Mile Creek Summer 2018 Program, and NMGMS will be joined by several Scout groups for this field trip. The identification station will be set up on top of the creek bank. Robert will have fossil identification books, fossil labels, and will assist you in identifying and logging your best finds.

Robert's summer Saturday schedule at Twenty Mile Creek will be as follows:

May 5, 2018, June 16, 2018, July 21, 2018, and August 18, 2018

Safety: Be Prepared! By Nancy Roberts

The Scout adage of "Be Prepared" is something that we Rockhounds should take note of. If you are an avid collector and attend many club field trips, I recommend that you keep a bin in your vehicle with an assortment of tools, clothes, first aid articles, etc. You never know what kinds of conditions you'll run into, either weather wise, or site environment. Here is a list of things that I would suggest, but I am sure you'll think of others to add based on your own personal experience.

Clothes: Water proof boots, gloves, hat, windbreaker or light weight jacket, heavy weight socks, a change of clothes, bandanna, beach towel, sweat pants or wind pants, sweat shirt, rain poncho, and a small lap blanket.

Tools: Besides the usual rock collecting equipment like buckets, hammers, chisels, and safety glasses, a pocket knife, screw driver, rope, kneeling pad or knee pads, walking stick, small containers, cardboard flats, plastic bags for wet clothes or boots, paper towels, hand wipes, hand warmer packets, backpack or fanny pack, and toilet paper.

Continued on page 6....

Field Trip Reviews: NMGMS Field Trip to Cathedral Caverns State Park



Photos by Nancy Roberts

The size of the Cathedral Caverns was breathtaking. Huge stalagmite forests and streams running through the cave made the trip worthwhile. The tour guide was very knowledgeable and had many stories to tell along the path, making the trip fun and educational. Submitted by Paul Gunther

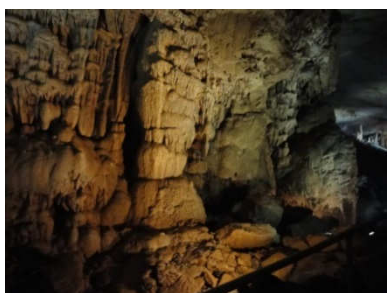
My family really enjoyed the Cave walk; it was our first time experiencing a cave. To get to see something that was so naturally beautiful is something you will carry with you always. It was a great learning experience for any age group. Submitted by Raffieal Wallace



Photos by Nancy Roberts

Absolutely amazing; a must see! I would definitely go again. The "rooms" were big, and the formations really spectacular. Our guide even talked about the different geologic layers found in the cave, such as the Bangor limestone and Hartselle sandstone. There was even a fossil shark

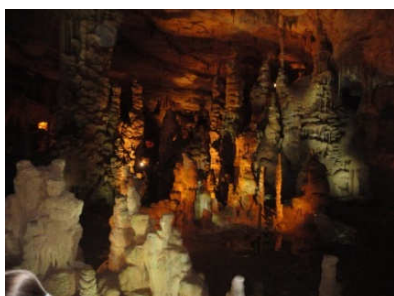
tooth embedded in the ceiling of one of the rooms! Submitted by Nancy Roberts



I really had lots of fun on the cave tour. I liked the gem flume a lot because I got a bunch of cool rocks to add to my collection. My favorite was the pretty piece of quartz I got. In the cave we saw a little bat. My favorite part was at the end of the tour when the lights were turned out and we saw the glowing stuff on the walls of the cave. Submitted by Amelia Thornton

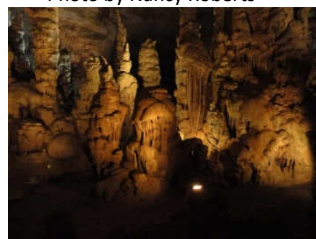


Photos by Nancy Roberts



I liked the stalactites and stalagmites inside the cave. My favorite was the stalactite formations that looked like they formed a city. I named it stalactite city. I thought the shark tooth in the ceiling was pretty cool. I had fun at the gem flume getting lots of new rocks. My favorite was the shark tooth that I got. It was great trip, and everyone should go check out this cave. Submitted by Sydney Thornton

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Field Trip Reviews: NMGMS Field Trip to Summerville, GA by Nancy Roberts

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Well, the weatherman isn't always right, and I'm glad he erred on the forecast for our Summerville, GA trip. After a wonderful cave tour at Cathedral Caverns State Park in Alabama, we headed over to Scottsboro for a nice dinner out and our overnight accommodations. It had rained nearly all day, and the forecast for Sunday was more rain. Still, we were determined to collect some of that Georgia agate for cabbing. So after our

Sunday morning "continental" breakfast, we gathered for our convoy over the mountains into Georgia. We only had an hour drive distance wise, but with the time change to Daylight Savings Time and the locale being in the Eastern Time zone, we had to leave at 7:30am in order to make our 10:30am rendezvous with Charles Carter, our field trip guide. The day was



cloudy, but we had a really nice scenic drive over. Perfect temps too, not too hot and not too cold. After a safety talk and signing the waiver, we drove a short distance to piles of assorted sizes of the chert/agate rocks. You could literally fill a bucket in just a few minutes. There was banded chert with grey tones, oolitic pieces, some with drusy, some purplish, and some with agate that was a rich chestnut brown with grey and white layers mixed in. There were a few muddy spots, but the piles made the collecting easy. We had more fun looking for just the right pieces; those that would slab nicely, or those that could be used "as is" in organic jewelry projects. The clouds were a constant reminder that the weather could turn, but it never did rain. However, by 2 o'clock, our buckets and cars were loaded, so we called it a day and prepared for the long drive home. Jim and I were only about 25 miles from home when it started to rain, so we were glad that the weatherman missed his forecast that time. All photos by Nancy Roberts



Safety: Be Prepared! By Nancy Roberts

Continued from page 4:

First Aid: Small first aid kit, extra Band-aides, antibiotic ointment, hydrocortisone cream, sterile gauze, adhesive tape, small scissors, tweezers, sunscreen, Ace bandage, water, and Kleenex.

This may sound like you need to pack a moving van for a trip, especially if you have a family, but even if you pack just a few extra things, you'll be better prepared for whatever conditions you find. Remember to layer, layer, layer; you can always take it off, but can't put it on if you don't have it. Be prepared!

Check online for recommended first aid kit items, if you plan to make up your own kit. As a Girl Scout growing up, I was taught to always carry a bandanna. It has so many practical uses!

<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/anatomy-of-a-first-aid-kit>

Oren Dunn City Museum Display: “Stones and Bones”

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The NMGMS display at the Oren Dunn Museum in Tupelo is finished and open to the public. Club members worked for three days at the museum getting the displays organized, installed in the cases, labeled, and all signs and information up. It's hard work, but lots of fun too for everyone who helps out. You learn a lot when you help unpack the specimens and label them. This year, we are featuring a collection of fossil turtle bones and a fun “gravel bed” display. The Rockheads put together a very nice display case showing what they do as a group, and there is also a display case of jewelry items made at our workshops. So be sure and make a trip out to the museum to check out our display and enjoy the diverse collection. I guarantee you will learn something!

Submitted by Nancy Roberts



Photos by Bernice Burkeen and Nancy Roberts

My Visit with Dr. Michael Gibson

By Hunter Watson



Photos by Diana Watson

On Wednesday, March 28, I visited Dr. Gibson, a geologist at the University of Tennessee at Martin. I was excited to meet Dr. Gibson, since he was responsible for getting *Pterotrigonia* named as the state fossil of Tennessee. He gave me a private tour of the school's over 2 million specimen collection of rocks, minerals and fossils. I was able to hold the bottom left jaw of a Hadrosaur! I was also able to see a boat load of other fossils including many *Pterotrigonia*'s. I also learned that Dr. Gibson's daughter was on Shark Week last year. The time I spent with Dr. Gibson was amazing, fun, and informative. I can't wait to go back!



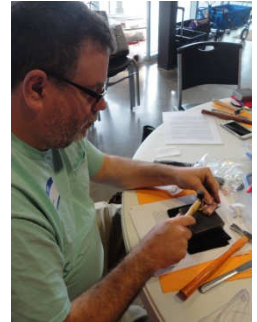
Workshop Review: West Point Copper Fold Forming Class

Photos by Nancy Roberts



The March fold forming class in West Point was excellent! The class started with a brief, but informative overview of torch use, safety reminders, and the fold forming process; then students were given free rein to create. There was a great student/teacher ratio that kept the class moving. Teachers were at the annealing and chemical work stations to ensure safety and provide instruction as needed, while others moved around the room to answer questions. Somehow a teacher always seemed to be near when I had a question.

Our first piece of the day was a cuff bracelet. After lunch, we worked on leaves and stopped throughout the afternoon to learn other techniques. It was so much fun to see what each person created because no two pieces were alike. I've wanted to take a NMGMS metal class, and the March fold forming class did not disappoint. Submitted by Rosina Echols



Our NMGMS March Fold Forming class was one of our best yet. Those taking the class took to the process like ducks to water. They were a delight to work with, and the class was fun for students and teachers alike. Everything went smoothly from setup to take down and all in between. I am always amazed at how creative our participants are, and the results of this class were fantastic. Everyone enjoyed applying texture and patina to their pieces. I hope they will continue working with metals and enjoy the process.

Submitted by Nancy Roberts



Thanks so much for inviting us up. I really enjoyed it. I have now bought several tools and cannot wait until they come in, so I can start trying things out. Submitted by Vonda Echols



Photos by Nancy Roberts



Photos by Nancy Roberts

Workshop Review: Lapidary Workshop, March 31, 2018

Photo by Nancy Roberts

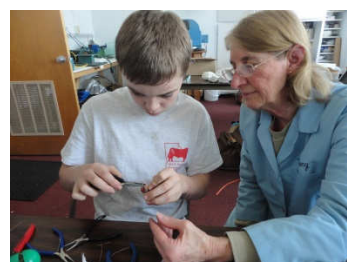


Our little NMGMS lapidary room was certainly busy and well occupied at our March 31st workshop. All of the saws were humming and several cab machines were spinning. Lots of nice agate slices appeared and several cabs were processed. Paul, Hunter, and Johnny worked at cabbing while they waited on the saws to finish cutting some new slabs. Robert did some chainmaille, and Krista slabbed some of her Summerville agate finds. Sophie made some beaded bracelets, and Julia made a gem tree. Nancy

showed Hunter some wire wrapping techniques, and he managed to make a nice pendant. All in all, it was a productive and fun day. Submitted by Nancy Roberts



Photos by Nancy Roberts



SFMS Federation News:



William Holland SFMS Federation Week June 10, 2018

Just a few short months until our annual Federation week at William Holland, and classes are filling up quickly! We will be opening up classes to the public on May 1st, so make sure to sign up before then to insure a seat in your favorite class!

For a full description of the classes and class sample pictures please visit our website or FB page, the links are provided below...

<https://www.facebook.com/Southeast-Federation-of-Mineralogical-Societies-317959434999844/>

<http://sfmsworkshops.com>

Registration Form:

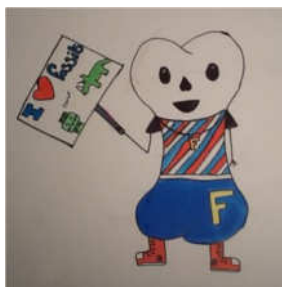
<http://sfmsworkshops.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2018-Registration-Form.pdf>

List of Instructors

CLASS	TEACHER	LAB FEE	EST COST
Cabochon I	Dave Bergquist	\$25	\$0-\$60
Jr Wire/Chainmaille	Sandi Bergquist	\$95	\$0-\$40
Wire 2 Bracelets	Gene Sheridan	\$40	\$0-\$60
Beading	Gail Delucca	\$90	\$0-\$100
Faceting	Linda Searcy	\$50	\$0
Intarsia	Bill Boggs	\$15	\$20-\$40
Silver 2 Rings	Vickie Prillaman	\$120	\$150
Inlay	Chuck Bruce	\$150	\$300
Immersion Enamel	Debora Mauser	\$185	\$11
Silver I	Patie Appleby	\$65	\$100
Spoon Jewelry	Jan/Keith Stephens	\$195	\$0

Federation Week Events

Sunday	3pm - 6pm	Check in
Monday	6:30pm	Ice Cream Social, Class Demos
Tuesday	6:30pm	Auction Night Wine/Cheese
Wednesday	6:30pm	Leather Demonstrations
Thursday	6:30pm	Tailgating
Friday		Show & Tell



Mascot by Remy Collins

Rockheads:

March 2018


www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Rockhead Officers for 2018:

President, Hunter Watson

Vice President, Liam Langford

Secretary, Sydney Thornton

Adult Youth Advisors for 2018:

Diana Watson, jodyanddiana@hotmail.com

Krista Williamson, kristawilliamson2008@yahoo.com

Rockheads March 17, 2018 Meeting:

Photo by Krista Williamson



"At the last meeting of the Rockheads, we had a birthday party of the club. We participated in an auction that was lots of fun. Everyone got lots of cool new rocks and other things. We worked on getting ready for the Fossil Road Show. We brought some of our favorite fossils and projects to put on display. Everyone helped make a banner to display at the museum. We ended the meeting with a tasty cake!" Submitted by Sydney Thornton

Next Rockhead Meeting: April 21, 2018 "662 Rocks"

Photo from the 662 Rocks-Tupelo Facebook page



At the next meeting, Rockheads will be designing and painting rocks to use as part of the "662 Rocks" program. For information about 662 Rocks check out:

<https://www.facebook.com/662rockstupeloms/members>

For information on how to participate, guidelines for the rocks, etc., check:

<http://www.justalittlecreativity.com/2017/06/painted-rocks-creative-project-thats-taking-world-storm.html>

If you have a few smooth, clean rocks that you would like to use, please bring them, otherwise rocks will be provided.

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Show and Tell!

Since you didn't get a chance to do the "show and tell" at the March meeting, all Rockheads are asked to bring one favorite item from their collection to the April meeting and be prepared to tell a little bit about it.



Note to Parents: Since many of the Rockheads' projects involve working with substances like food, clay, or paints, NMGMS asks that you please advise the youth leaders, either Diana Watson or Krista Williamson, of any allergies your child may have.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: March 17, 2018

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by the Rockheads

Guests and new members: John and Jackie Clemons were introduced.

Motion was made to approve the February 10, 2018 meeting minutes as printed in the March 2018 Nugget; approved and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of **March 10, 2018** was given by Nikki Kenney

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be April 7, 2018 to Trebloc Lime Pit, weather permitting. Meet at the quarry at 9a.m. (See email notice for details) Rebecca is checking out the condition of the site.

The Rockheads' Twenty Mile Creek field trip and hotdog cookout will be on Saturday May 5, 2018.

Publicity: (John Byzet) The posters for our April 14th Fossil Road Show and Geology Fest are available. Please take a few and post them at your local library, church, office, school, etc. Spread the word! Posters were passed out.

Membership: (Beth Thornton) **Last call to renew your dues, if you want to remain on the club's mailing list and eligible for field trips and workshops.** We have 132 members on the 2018 roster right now. There are still some members who have not yet renewed, so if you know of someone who has been in the club, please encourage them to rejoin. Dues are \$12 for individual and \$20 for family. We are asking everyone to fill out an application form and sign the waiver, so we can update our records for the new membership chairperson.

Anyone need a new member packet or a patch? Several packets were handed out.

Hospitality:

Refreshments: volunteers for April 21, 2018: Potluck, every member is asked to bring something.

Need two volunteers for May 19, 2018: members voted for refreshments to be potluck.

Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome.

Website: (John Byzet) Paul Gunther has agreed to assist John Byzet with the website. John posts issues of The Nugget 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. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the **second Friday** of the month. Email anything for The Nugget to: therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Youth Members: (Diana Watson and Krista Williamson) The Rockheads will be putting together a display case showing what their group does for their meetings and badge work. This will be a part of the ODCM display that NMGMS is setting up next month.

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) If you have taken pictures at one of our club events, meetings, or field trips, please print out a few of your favorites for our club yearbook. Turn in any 2017 club memorabilia to Cheryle Langford. Ann Byzet will help as assistant historian.

Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show: (Nancy Roberts, John Byzet, and Rebecca Vallarian) We will begin setting up the display cases at the museum on March 27th. Volunteers to help with museum displays: Rebecca, Bernice, Nikki, Kellie, and Cheryle. Setup for the Geology Fest will be on Friday, April 13th. **All members who are working at the museum on April 14th need to be there no later than 9a.m. that Saturday. Come earlier, if you can, to help with any final setups. Museum opens at 8a.m.**

Safety & Lapidary Workshop Chairman: (Mike Schuchs) If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions about the room or equipment, see Mike. Need some safety articles for the newsletter.

Minutes continued on page 12.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes, continued:**Date: March 17, 2018****Old Business:**

1. Are there any specimens to be turned in for the museum displays? Pass out museum loan sheets. Remember to use blue painters tape and place your initials on the bottom of any specimen that you are loaning NMGMS for a display case. Several members brought specimens to loan.

2. The following members are signed up to man these Geology Fest activities:

Gem Trees: Nikki, Maya, and Hope

Lunches: Rebecca, Debra

Fluorescent room: Mike (fluorescent box)

Ticket /grab bag sales: Cheryl, Linda, Ann

Spin and Win: Kellie, Walter, Diana

Bean Bag Toss: Krista, Levi, Julia

Fishing Game: Justin, Beth, Sydney, and Amelia

Fossil Dig: Jim, Hunter, Liam

NMGMS Rock Sales Table: Matthew, Carol

Other members willing to help are Alison, Nancy, Robin, Cassandra, Racheal, Reece, and Laney

3. We have twelve students signed up for our March 24th fold forming workshop in West Point. The class is full!

4. NMGMS will set up as an exhibitor at the Memphis rock and gem show the weekend of April 28th and 29th. This is a good opportunity for us to promote the club, to demonstrate some of our jewelry making skills, and to sell some of our donated jewelry items. Volunteers to work at the club table are: Robert & Cheryl Langford, Linda Blackmon, Jim and Nancy Roberts, and Nikki Kenney. Anyone else? Jane Coryell

There was no other old business.

New Business:

1. The lapidary workshop room will be open at 10a.m. on Saturday, March 24, 2018 and March 31, 2018. Jim Roberts will be available to run the slab saws, so bring a rock that you would like to cut. We have three cab machines on line also. Junior members are invited, if accompanied by a parent.

2. The April 21, 2018 meeting will be at the Tupelo library from 1 to 3p.m. We will be doing a couple of wire wrapping projects, so please bring a tumble polished stone or a marble. Kids will do a glue-on bail.

3. The proposed change to our annual club dues is as follows: \$15 for a single membership, \$25 for a couple, and \$4 for each child.

Change needs to be approved by 2/3 of the members present at the March meeting. If passed, this change will apply to the dues starting with 2019. Do I have a motion to vote on this change? **Motion was made, seconded, and a vote by the membership present was unanimous.**

4. We will be serving lunch to the club members, our vendors, and museum personnel who are working the Geology Fest. Need some members to bring cookies that Saturday, and monetary donations for sandwich fixings would be appreciated.

5. Is there any member who is willing to represent NMGMS at the AFMS convention in Raleigh, NC April 7-8, 2018? No volunteers.

No other new business at this time.

Nancy read the minutes from the March 17, 2001 meeting of the newly formed North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society.

Motion was made to adjourn. Minutes submitted by Bernice Burkeen

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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.