

Photo by Jim Roberts



Can't have too many rocks!



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

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

Welcome to the electronic age! Going paperless is fine until your computer crashes. Mine did exactly that after the latest Windows update. I was left staring at a blank screen with no desktop, just a mouse arrow showing. Zip, nada, nothing! I felt lost at sea, like my whole past had been wiped out. Ah, but I have nearly everything backed up on my external hard drive, right? Well, I'll just plug that into Jim's computer and work on the June issue of *The Nugget*, no problem. What? Access denied; you're not the administrator? OMG, what now?

Jim showed me how to go through the security settings for a file and change the "owner" so I could get access, but it appeared that there were some strange unknowns lurking in there. Unfortunately, I had left my external hard drive plugged into my laptop when Avast and Windows were doing their updates. It appeared that Avast was the problem, and according to posts on the forums, hundreds of Avast users had similar issues.

I did manage to gain access to enough of my files on the external hard drive to commence work on the newsletter, but having to change settings on over 16,000 files was not going to be much fun. Now I know why I am paranoid about deleting things. Thankfully, I have most of my photos on SD cards, and I have all of my club and other important emails still in my Yahoo account. (Hope they never break down!)

After checking the Internet for a couple of weeks, Avast and Microsoft finally posted several possible "fixes". Jim spent a whole afternoon working diligently at my laptop, and after a couple of tries, he was able to restore my computer. Yeah! All of my folders, files, and programs were still there. Needless to say, I immediately created a new backup folder on an external hard drive and put everything in it. I think I'll even do a backup of my backup! It's good to be back in business!

Our next NMGMS meeting won't be until September, but Nikki Kenney hopes to hold a few jewelry making workshops and Paul Gunther will probably have the lapidary room open a few Saturdays throughout the summer, so watch your emails for notices. If you are interested, drop them a line so they can put you on an email list. (Their emails are listed on the last page of this newsletter.)

Don't forget that Robert Langford will be setting up his fossil ID and information station at Twenty Mile Creek again during the summer, so be sure to mark those weekends on your calendar. If you are looking for another "close to home" excursion, check out the Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve in Colbert County Alabama, <http://alabamaneewscenter.com/2016/05/23/cane-creek-canyon-nature-preserve-hidden-gem-northwest-alabama/>. These activities are a good way to help our NMGMS junior members continue their work on the FRA badge requirements over the summer.

Hopefully everyone has some great summer collecting trips or exciting adventures to new places planned, so be sure and take pictures. Send a few to me for the newsletters; we all enjoy reading about what our fellow Rockhounds are doing. A short write up about your summer activities would be great too!

As always, be safe. Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS September 15, 2018 Meeting

The September meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be on Saturday, September 15, 2018 at the Tupelo library from 1-3pm. The program will be "Mineral Identification", given by University of Mississippi Professor, Dr. Julie Retrum. You will learn how to identify minerals based on a variety of properties, like streak, hardness, specific gravity, etc. This promises to be a fun "hands-on" learning experience for all ages. Refreshments are "pot luck", so everyone is asked to bring something.

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

June 16, 2018: Collecting at Twenty Mile Creek, Robert Langford's summer schedule. (See page 3 for details)

June 23, 2018: LinkFest at the Link Centre in Tupelo. NMGMS will be hosting mini jewelry "make and take" workshops. Workshops will be: 10:15am to 11am and 12:00pm to 12:45pm. (See page 2 for details)

October 20, 2018: NMGMS Picnic and Rock Swap from noon until 4 at Ballard Park in Tupelo

November 17, 2018: NMGMS November meeting from 1 to 3 at the Tupelo library. Program will be given by George Phillips, paleontologist with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.

December 15, 2018: NMGMS annual Christmas party and luncheon from 11 to 3 at the Tupelo library.

Other Upcoming Events:

July 21, 2018: Collecting at Twenty Mile Creek, Robert Langford's summer schedule (See page 3 for details)

Show Dates:

August 25-26, 2018 August 25-26, 2018—MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS: Annual show; Ozark Earth Science Club; Baxter County Fairgrounds, 1507 Fairgrounds Drive; Saturday, 9am-6pm, Sunday, 9am-4pm; adults \$2, children 12 and under free; vendors selling beautiful gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, and more, games, geode cracking, speakers, demonstrations, displays, presentations, free hourly door prizes, grand prize drawing; contact Sharon Waddell, 6463 US Hwy. 63, West Plains, MO 65775, (417) 274-8712

LinkFest at the Link Centre: A celebration of local food, arts, and music.

NMGMS will be participating in the Saturday Day Cube Workshops portion of the first annual LinkFest on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at the Link Centre in Tupelo. Our "make and take" jewelry workshops will be held in the Word Play Studio room, which is on the first floor across from the stairs as you go through the double glass doors. It is very close to our lapidary room #136. The lapidary room will be open that day also, and Paul Gunther will be the "tour guide" for anyone interested in seeing our setup.

Saturday Day Cube Workshops:



Photo by Nikki Kenney

The morning workshop from 10:15am to 11:00am, "You will be making a pair of heart-shaped, spiral, wire earrings. You will also learn how to make a pair of ear wires so that you can wear your finished creation home, or give it as a gift." The class is limited to 8 people, ages 8 years and up. As people finish their projects, and if time allows, more people can take their places. NMGMS will supply the materials and use of the tools to complete the projects.

The afternoon workshop from 12pm to 12:45pm, "You will be making a simple and easy pair of spiraled wire earrings. You will also learn how to make a pair of ear wires so that you can wear your finished creation home, or give it as a gift." The class is limited to 8 people, ages 8 years and up. As people finish their projects, and if time allows, more people can take their places. NMGMS will supply the materials and use of the tools to complete the projects.

Meeting Program Review: NMGMS May 19, 2018 Meeting, "Volcanoes"

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Did you know that there is more than one kind of volcano? At the NMGMS May meeting, Dr. Jennifer Gifford, geology professor at the University of Mississippi, explained that there are indeed several different types of volcanoes. Members learned about shield volcanoes, volcanic domes, cinder cones, and composite volcanoes. Dr. Gifford talked about where volcanoes tend to occur; the most active locations are mid ocean ridges, where the sea floor is spreading and molten lava is coming up from the mantle. These locations also have lots of earthquakes, as well as lots of lava, but go mostly unnoticed since this is occurring under miles of ocean water. She ran a short underwater video that actually showed this volcanic activity.

At the time of our meeting, Mt Kilauea on the island of Hawaii was erupting, so a discussion of the dangers that volcanoes pose ensued. It turned out that lava is one of the lesser dangers, since it tends to move very slowly. Ash, gases, pyroclastic flows and "lahars", a combination of ash and water that creates a mud slide, are much more dangerous effects of volcanic activity. Dr. Gifford also showed a time lapse video of activity taking place on Mt. Saint Helens, which indicates that this volcano is very much "alive". Lastly, she discussed the Volcanic Explosivity Index, or VEI. This index rates a volcano based on how much material there is and how high it would go during an explosion. With number 8 being the highest or most explosive rating, Yellowstone rates in the 7-8 range! That was quite a "hot spot" on which to end a very informative and excellent presentation. Thank you, Dr. Gifford!

NMGMS Field Trips: Robert Langford's Summer Schedule

Photo of ID Station by Jim Roberts



Mark your Calendars for a Special 2018 Fossil Collecting Activity

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

Geology Merit Badge? BSA Geology Merit Badge Forms are available.

Robert's 2018 summer Saturday schedule will be as follows: June 16th, July 21st, and August 18th

List of Things to bring:

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

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

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

Editor: Here is a very informative video about this locale: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntqiXfD3wBc>

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

Photo by Nancy Roberts

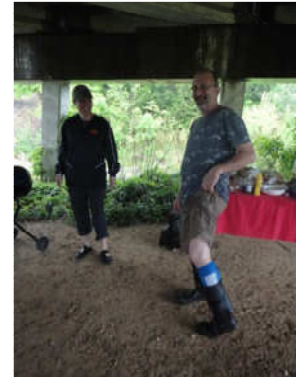


When you attend a shark tooth collecting field trip you intend to get wet, but on our May 5th field trip to Twenty Mile Creek we got a little more water than we bargained for. It was raining when Jim and I left home and headed down to the site, but the creek still looked fairly good for collecting, so we set up the easy-up and planned to hold the cookout. We had members come all the way from Memphis and Jackson, TN to join in, so we moved everything under one of the Highway 45 bridges. Mike

Schuchs set up the grill and started cooking the hotdogs. The

rest of our group commenced to dry off and eat a delicious hot cooked feast. If the traffic driving overhead had been able to see what was going on under that bridge, they probably would have thought we were holding a “strange” convention. Our wet attire and “creek outfits” would have added to the impression, I’m sure! We were able to collect until lunchtime, but even though the rain had stopped, the runoff from further up the creek was making the water muddy, and the level had risen too high for any further collecting. Still, we had some good finds, with a crocodile tooth being one of them. Despite the weather, I think everyone attending had fun and an enjoyable day spent with fellow members. Some of us went back to the creek the next day. It was sunny and warm then!

Nancy Roberts



Photos by Nancy Roberts



Club News:

New Website: Thanks to Paul Gunther, NMGMS has a newly updated website. We now have a PayPal button on the website, so you can pay your dues online. Check us out at: <http://nmgms.org> It’s looking good!

Field Trip Reviews: Home School Day at Trebloc by Nancy Roberts

Photo by Nancy Roberts



On Wednesday, May 2, 2018, Rebecca Vallarian, Jim Roberts, and I took our NMGMS home school families on a field trip to the old Trebloc lime pit. The day was hot and sunny, much nicer than the frigid weather we had on the April trip out there. Besides collecting the prolific *Exogyra* and *Pycnodont* shells, our “students” also found some nice marcasite specimens. A few mosasaur verts were collected, one mosasaur tooth, and a sawfish tooth. It seemed like everyone was finding *Squalicorax* teeth and *Enchodus* teeth this trip. Actually, now that I think about it, I

believe *Squalicorax* is the only shark tooth that I have ever seen out there. Even today, those teeth still have very sharp serrated edges, and if you are not careful, they can still “bite”!



Photos by Nancy Roberts



Club News: “Junior Achievement”

Each year, the NMGMS editor submits articles, features, and an issue of the club’s newsletter to the Federation’s Bulletin Competition. This year, items from our 2017 issues were submitted, and one of our junior members, Hunter Watson, placed, not only at the regional level, but his article “Tennessee State Fossil” also earned a seventh place certificate at the national level. Congratulations Hunter!



Photo by Paul Gunther

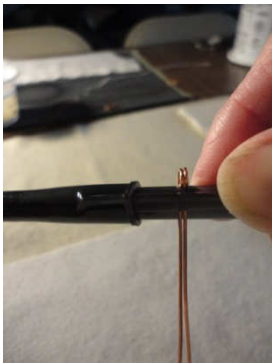
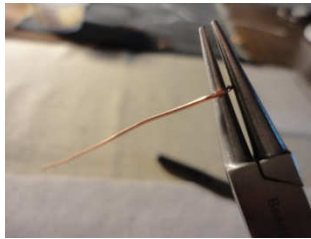
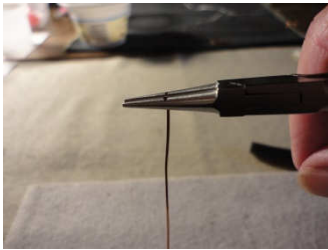
Editor’s Note: I encourage all members to submit articles, reviews, pictures, poems, whatever interests you, for *The Nugget*. It makes it a much more interesting and well-rounded newsletter. You never know, one of your submissions may surprise you and place in the next competition!

Bead Soup: Easy Peasy Ear Wires by Nikki Kenney

Editor: If you have taken any of our NMGMS workshops, you have probably made a pair of ear wires. We like to use our “trusty” ink pen as the mandrel around which to form the curved shape of the ear wire. Holding the wire against the pen in the proper position with your thumb can be a bit tricky, as the wire wants to turn and slip. Here is a handy tip from Nikki Kenney that helps to alleviate that problem and allows you to do two at a time, giving you a consistently matched pair of ear wires.

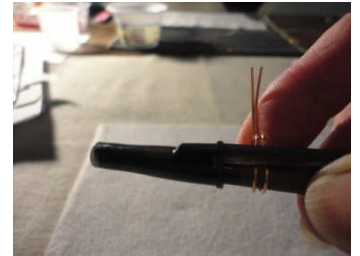


1. Straighten a length of 20 Gauge wire. Cut two, 2 ½ inch pieces of wire for each pair of ear wires that you plan to make. Flush cut both ends of each wire.
2. With a permanent marker, mark a spot on your round nose pliers to ensure that your loops are all the same size. Grasp one end of the wire with your round nose pliers at the mark you have made, making sure the end of the wire is not sticking above the jaws of the pliers. Form a loop by rotating the pliers away from you while you are guiding the wire around with your thumb until it touches, making sure that the loop is closed. The wire will look like the letter “P”. Repeat with the second wire.



3. When you have completed the “p” loops, place both wires side by side with the loops up and facing towards you under the pocket clip of the ink pen, making sure that the loops are even, snug against the clip, and the straight ends are not overlapping. Note: Be sure that you are using a round and smooth ink pen!

4. As you rotate the pen away from you, use the thumb of your other hand to push the straight ends of the wires down and around the barrel of the pen until they touch the loops at the top of the clip. While the ear wires are still on the barrel of the pen, flush cut the ends at the length of your choosing.

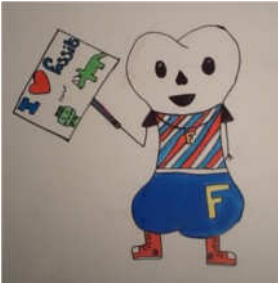


5. With your flat nose pliers, grasp the very ends of the wires, and while bracing them with your finger, make a small “kink” about ¼ inch from the end. Slide the wires off of the ink pen, and you now have two nicely matching “Shepard’s Hook” ear wires.

6. Using the bench block and a nylon hammer, lightly hammer the ear wires to work harden the wire so that they will hold their shape. You may also lightly flatten the top of the ear wires with the chasing hammer close to the loop for a designer look, which will also help to harden the wire. Smooth the ends of the ear wires with a medium/fine grit salon board.



Photos by Nancy Roberts and Nikki Kenney



Rockheads:

Mascot by Remy Collins



June 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 May 19, 2018 Meeting: "Minerals and Their Uses"



We had fun at the May Rockheads meeting. We had nine members in attendance. We had a special speaker come visit. Ms. Rebecca talked about the different things that are made from rocks. We played rock bingo, and each person got a pack of M&M's and some rocks to take home. We had tons of fun! Submitted by Sydney Thornton

Photos by Krista Williamson



Next Rockhead Meeting: September 15, 2018 Program: TBA

NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Award

If you have been working toward earning the NMGMS "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award, but have not yet completed all of the necessary requirements, don't worry, there's still time.

Requirements for the "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 any of the next few meetings.

SFMS Federation News:



There is still time to register for the August and September sessions at Wildacres.

For a full description of the classes offered by the federation, check the links that are provided below...

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

<http://sfmsworkshops.com>

Paul Gunther is at William Holland this week; here are a couple of pictures of the cabs he has made in the SFMS cabochon class. Aren't they fantastic!



Photos by Paul Gunther

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies will be holding their 2018 annual meeting and convention on September 21-23 in Jacksonville, FL.

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

AFMS Federation News:



In the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' newsletter, "Volume 71, Number 6 – May 2018", there was a link to an excellent You Tube video by Craig Hazelton of the Flatiron Minerals Society which was posted in the "Having Fun: Junior Activities" section by Jim Brace-Thompson, the AFMS Juniors Program Chair. This video covers a wire wrapping technique similar to one that NMGMS members learned at the April 21, 2018 meeting.

If you missed that meeting, or would like a refresher on the technique of using two wires to capture a polished stone, check out this video: "The Wiggle Wrap", <https://youtu.be/pqOzlsFyXvI>, or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqOzlsFyXvI&feature=youtu.be>. It's a good project for all ages!

Also in Jim's article, he mentions some lapidary projects that are suitable for junior members, such as: rock painting, making "rock critters," crafting light-catchers with tumble-polished agates, sand art, beading, crafting wind chimes, or polishing soft stones by hand with wet/dry sandpaper.

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

The AFMS Newsletter is 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/>



“North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society Members Contribute to the Study of Late Cretaceous Bony Fish Otoliths from the Blue Springs Site, Union County, Mississippi”

By Dr. Gary L. Stringer

For several years, Dr. Gary L. Stringer (Professor Emeritus of Geology, University of Louisiana at Monroe), George Phillips (Curator of Paleontology, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science), and Roger Lambert (North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society) have been studying the paleontology of the Blue Springs Site in Union County, MS. Dr. Stringer’s research specialty is the ear stones or otoliths of bony fishes. Obviously, the study of fossil fish otoliths is not common, and many people have never even heard of otoliths. However, numerous scientific studies have demonstrated the value and usefulness of otoliths in interpreting and determining fossil bony fish assemblages.

The Blue Springs Site is very unique in its excellent preservation of otoliths in the 71.5 – 72.0 million-year-old Coon Creek Member of the Ripley Formation. Fish otoliths are not always preserved, especially if there is extensive leaching or lithification (e.g., formation of limestone). However, several of the aragonitic layers in the Coon Creek Member at Blue Springs have well-preserved otoliths. The otoliths can be collected by the naked eye, but bulk sampling and microscopic examination are necessary to accurately determine the bony fish assemblage and interpret the paleoenvironment. Many of the otoliths are too small to be seen on the outcrop. Although the study, entitled “Diverse and Abundant Late Cretaceous (Maastrichtian) Fish Otoliths from northeast Mississippi and their Relationship to other North American Cretaceous Otolith Assemblages” is not complete, Dr. Stringer has examined over 3,300 otoliths from the Blue Springs Site. The otolith specimens have indicated the presence of 39 different taxa of bony fishes representing at least 22 families. The ear stones supplied essential information regarding the presence of bony fishes not available solely on the basis of osteological remains, and the Late Cretaceous bony fish assemblage at the site would be grossly underestimated and misinterpreted without the otoliths.

The incredible information provided by the fish otoliths would not have been possible without the assistance and contributions of several members of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society. Roger Lambert independently conducted exhaustive, systematic surface collecting at the Blue Springs Site for over six years. It should be noted that Matthew Lambert, Roger’s son, assisted him during this time interval. Roger and Matthew were meticulous and collected thousands of otoliths from the surface, which they have graciously shared with Dr. Stringer. Matthew became so interested that he did his high school science fair project on otoliths and placed at the Mississippi State Science Fair.

Another member of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society has also made major contributions to the study. Robert Langford collected and processed the largest bulk sample (approximately 296 kg or 650 lbs) from the Blue Springs Site. Robert’s bulk samples were from the aragonitic clay *Corbula* beds at the site. From these bulk samples, he obtained 236 otoliths. Robert allowed Dr. Stringer to examine all of his specimens and retain several to be photographed and included in the study. North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society President Nancy Roberts also provided Dr. Stringer access to her surface collection of otoliths from the site. Like Robert, she allowed Dr. Stringer to retain several specimens to be photographed for the plates for the study. All of the photographed specimens for the study will be permanently repositied in the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson.

The otoliths from the Blue Springs Site have also garnered international interest. Dr. Stringer shared some of his findings from the site with Dr. Werner W. Schwarzahns of the Natural History Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen. Dr. Schwarzahns is one of the most renowned experts on fossil otoliths in the world and has published almost 100 scientific articles and books on Recent and fossil otoliths. Dr. Schwarzahns was very impressed with the diversity and preservation of the otoliths and has become part of the study, which is anticipated to be completed this year. The Blue Springs study will be a major contribution to the study of Mesozoic bony fish based on otoliths in North America, and the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society members played a pivotal role in the research.

NMGMS May 19, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Paul Gunther

In attendance: Mike Schuchs, Nancy Roberts, Nikki Kenney, Paul Gunther, and John Byzet.

1. Nancy has submitted the dues amendment to our NMGMS By-Laws to Jeremy Martin at the Secretary of State office in Tupelo. He is sending them on to the state charities to be filed. We do not need to update our corporation papers until we have a few more major changes, like new officers and/or directors.
2. We now have a 1TB external hard drive on which to store all of our club documents, financial statements, records, etc. Nikki has it at present.
3. Treasury report: MAGS show jewelry and rock sales: \$397.50. Memberships: \$72. Rockheads' Cookout: \$39.
4. We have Nelda Bell registered for the Silver 1 class at Wildacres in August, and Paul is set for the cabochon class at William Holland in June.
5. We purchased a receipt book, but kept a list of sales and amounts at the MAGS show, since nearly everyone making a purchase did not want a receipt. Sales and monies balanced.
6. After some discussion about getting a club debit card and talking with the Secretary of State office about one for nonprofits, Nancy recommended that we do not get one at this time. Voted and passed that we would not obtain a debit card at this time. Also we should make available to any member who requests it, a statement showing monthly financial transactions.
7. We have George Phillips slated to be our program speaker at the Nov. 17th meeting. We hope to have Julie Retrum do a mineral ID program for the September meeting.
8. The Link Centre is hosting a festival on June 22-23, 2018. They would like NMGMS to participate on Saturday, June 23rd by holding some jewelry demos at several times during the day, with a possible "make and take" mini workshop. Nikki is willing to organize the workshop, but needs a couple of volunteers to help on that day.
9. We have been invited by Rae Mathis to participate in the ODCM's Rockabilly festival like we did last year. We can setup the fossil dig, the spin and win, or the bean bag toss. It is Saturday Oct. 13, 2018. Board decided to pass on this event due to low interest last year.
10. Approved buying a Collect Customer Input for PayPal WordPress Plugin that would allow members to specify who they were paying for when paying for memberships on our WordPress site rather than having to send extra email to Nikki. Cost is \$39.00
11. April Board Meeting Minutes approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:07pm.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:**Date: May 19, 2018**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Julia, Sophie, Hunter, Amelia, and Levi

Guest: Shelia Trollinger from Corinth, MS and program speaker, Dr. Jennifer Gifford introduced.

April 21, 2018 meeting minutes as printed in the May 2018 Nugget approved

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of 5/19/2018 was given by Treasurer Nikki Kenney.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be to Twenty Mile Creek on June 16, 2018, weather permitting. This trip is a part of Robert Langford's summer schedule for being at the creek with his ID station. This will be the last official club trip until fall.

Publicity: (John Byzet and Alison Schuchs) Check out our NMGMS Facebook page.

Membership: (Beth Thornton) We have 159 members on the 2018 roster right now. Dues for 2019 will be \$15 for a single, \$25 for a couple and \$4 per child. See Beth if you would like a copy of the club roster. No new membership packets were needed.

Minutes continued on page 11.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes, continued:**Date: May 19, 2018****Hospitality:**

Refreshments for the September 15, 2018 meeting will be pot luck, so every member is asked to bring something. Our October meeting will be the annual picnic/rock swap on Saturday October 20th at Ballard Park. Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome.

Website: (John Byzet) Paul Gunther has the new website running. It has been published to the old web address, www.nmgms.org. Old website can be found at <http://old.nmgms.org> Check us out at www.nmgms.org If you have any photos of NMGMS events, please send a few on to John or Paul 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 are working on the Earth Resources badge. If you are interested in joining in any junior field trips over the summer, be sure that Diana Watson has your email address and phone number.

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 2018 club memorabilia to Cheryle Langford. Ann Byzet will help as assistant historian. Copies of The Courier concerning Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show were given to Cheryle.

Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show: (Nancy Roberts, John Byzet, and Rebecca Vallarian) Next year the Fossil Road Show and Geology fest would be held on April 13, 2019, unless we decide to move it to February.

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.

Old Business:

1. The display cases at the Oren Dunn Museum have been taken down. A big "thank you" goes to everyone who helped, and to those who loaned specimens for the cases. The loaned specimens were returned.
2. **Reminder:** We have the large pavilion at Ballard Park reserved for our annual picnic and rock swap on Saturday October 20, 2018 from 1 to 4p.m.
3. **Reminder:** The **New Albany Fossil Road Show** is on Saturday **June 9th, from 10 until 2, at the Union County Heritage Museum in New Albany**. Mike and Alison Schuchs cannot make it. Robert Langford will set up his fossil ID station there. Cheryle Langford will go and sell grab bags. Jill Smith would like someone to do a jewelry making demo like we do at the MAGS show. Nikki Kenney will help with jewelry demonstrations. **There was no other old business.**

New Business:

1. The September NMGMS meeting will be on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 from 1 to 3 at the Tupelo library. Mike Schuchs will be presiding in my absence. Program hopefully will be mineral id by Julie Retrum.
2. The Link Centre is hosting a festival on June 22-23, 2018. They would like NMGMS to participate on Saturday, June 23rd by holding some jewelry demos at several times during the day, with a possible "make and take" mini workshop. Nikki will organize the workshop. Rachael Hill will help in the morning. Cheryle Langford will help and possibly Bernice Burkeen.
3. If you are interested in any jewelry workshops over the summer, please let Nikki Kenney know, so she can put you on the list for notices. Also, if you would like to work in the room on the lapidary equipment, let Mike Schuchs or Paul Gunther know.
4. We have been invited by Rae Mathis to participate in the ODCM's Rockabilly festival like we did last year. We can setup the fossil dig, the spin and win, or the bean bag toss. No volunteers to man our club activity for this event. It is Saturday Oct. 13, 2018.

Other new business: Paul Gunther requested that we update the photos on our website.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm

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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.