



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



Photo by Jim Roberts

Notes from the President's Desk...January 2019

Happy New Year NMGMS! The start of a new year is when we think about making resolutions. We resolve to make changes, improvements, try new things, finish projects, etc. Some resolutions are easier to keep than others, but it is always good to set goals. One resolution that I would like our organization to make is to get more members involved in our club activities. NMGMS has many talented, interesting, and informed individuals of various backgrounds. We all have something that we can share with the rest of the club. Even working "behind the scenes", by helping out at meetings and workshops with setting up and taking down, is very important to a smooth running organization. If just a few members keep doing the same tasks, what happens when they can no longer participate? Don't be shy; I ask every member to encourage a fellow member to take an active part. Volunteer to help out on a committee. If you see something that needs to be done or a better way to do it, let one of the officers or committee chairs know. NMGMS has some new officers and committee chairpersons this year, so we are looking forward to some fresh ideas and new input. All members are welcome to attend board meetings.

Another resolution is to have more "show and tell" at our club meetings. I'm sure everyone has something interesting in their collection. Hey, we all love to look at rocks and fossils! You probably have something from a place that many other members have not been to. We learn from each other, and this is a good way to share your interests and expertise. Even if you have something that you would like to have identified, bring it; you never know what you might learn! To start off, since the January meeting program is about flint knapping, how about bringing any artifacts that you have found, or any interesting pieces of agate, chert, or flint that you may have in your collection. We'd love to see it!

In looking back over the resolutions made at the beginning of 2018, sending a member to William Holland to learn how to cut and polish cabochons was accomplished. Paul Gunther took the cabochon class in June and has been cutting and polishing some fabulous cabs ever since. I encourage all members to come to one of the lapidary workshops and have Paul teach you this lapidary art. You'd be amazed at how beautiful some of those stones in your collection can turn out. The lapidary room will be open on Saturday, January 19th, so plan to come. Bring a rock that you would like to slab, and then try your hand at the cab machines. Juniors are welcome too, if accompanied by a parent or sponsor. Last year we had several junior members come to the room. They learned to use the trim saw and had a good time working at the Genie machine.

Lastly, I would like to make a resolution to get the lapidary room organized and in better working order. We have acquired a lot of donated tools and equipment that needs to be sorted through. We need to decide on what we will actually use and what to do with the rest. Our room is small, and we are running out of space. We want our lapidary workshop to be a fun and safe place to work. If you have any free time and/ or space available, and are willing to lend a hand, please let me know! Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS January 12, 2019 Meeting

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The January meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at the Tupelo library from 1-3pm. The program will be a flint knapping demonstration given by NMGMS member Randy Burleson. Flint knapping is an ancient lapidary art, so this program will be very exciting and informative. Come join us, and watch the chips fly! Refreshments are "pot luck", so members are asked to bring something.

NOTE: There will be a board meeting at 12:15pm before the regular meeting. 2018 and 2019 officers are asked to attend.

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

January 19, 2019: NMGMS enameling workshop for the West Point Arts Council in West Point, MS (See page 3 for details).

January 19, 2019: NMGMS Lapidary Workshop at the Link Centre. (See page 3 for details).

January 26, 2019: NMGMS field trip to Alabama for Mississippian fossils. (See page 3 for details)

February 9, 2019: NMGMS February meeting from 1-3pm at the Tupelo Library. Speaker: Dr. Julie Retrum. **

March 9-11, 2019: NMGMS spring break field trip to Mt. Ida for quartz crystals.

March 16, 2019: NMGMS March meeting from 1-3pm at the Tupelo Library, program: Happy birthday NMGMS!

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

Other Upcoming Events:

February 23-24, 2019: MGMS rock and gem show at the fairgrounds in Jackson, MS.

March 2, 2019: MMNS Fossil Road Show, 10am to 3pm, Jackson, MS

Show Dates:

February 23-24th, 2019

Jackson Mississippi, 60th Gem Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show, Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society
 Saturday, February 23 from 9 am to 6 pm, Sunday, February 24 from 10 am to 5 pm
 Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, 1200 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39202
 Admission: Adults \$6, Students \$3, Scouts & Leaders in Uniform \$2, and Children 5 & under—Free
 Additional information: rock2lanes[]gmail.com, Club website: www.missgems.org

March 2, 2019

MMNS Fossil Road Show Saturday, March 2, 2019, 10am to 3pm.
 Location: Mississippi Museum of Natural Science 2148 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202
 Admission: \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 3 and up, children under 3 are FREE.
 Museum Members are FREE. For more information, call: 601-576-6000, or visit
<http://mmnsfoundation.com/eventscalendar/>

NMGMS Field Trip: January 26, 2019 Trip to Alabama

Photo by Hope Spencer



The first NMGMS field trip for 2019 will be on **Saturday, January 26th** to collect Mississippian fossils from the Bangor Formation. We will be collecting fossils such as bryozoans, blastoids, brachiopods, and corals. We will meet at the gas station/convenience store in Belgreen, AL on Hwy 24 and 187, approximately 17 miles east of Red Bay, AL at **9:00 a.m.**

Bring small containers, cardboard flats, and a bucket for carrying your fossils and gear. Newspapers, paper towels, or aluminum foil are recommended for wrapping up those that are fragile. A rock hammer, chisel, and something to pry with are also handy to have. Wear boots or shoes that can get wet or muddy, and bring a hat, water, sunscreen, safety glasses, etc. A backpack or extra bucket is good to have, since we will be walking and carrying our gear with us. Watch your email for directions and more details. If you plan to attend, contact Nancy Roberts, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com H: 731-689-5336

More Upcoming NMGMS Events: Enameling Workshop January 19, 2019

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The West Point/Clay County Arts Council is hosting another wonderful day of jewelry design with the North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society, an Enameling on Copper Workshop!

If you would like to learn how to enamel designs with powdered glass onto copper metal for making jewelry pieces, this is the class for you. Enameling is a really fun process; the results are very exciting and make unique components to include in your jewelry creations. In this workshop, you will be torch firing a variety of colored enamels onto copper disks to create a pendant and a pair of earrings. The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. This is a beginner/intermediate level class. The \$45 class fee includes all materials plus the use of the torches and tools. This is really a

fun project and the results will amaze you! Please bring a brown bag lunch. There is a refrigerator and microwave oven available.

When: Saturday, January 19, 2019

Where: Louise Campbell Center for the Arts, 235 Commerce St., West Point, MS Time: 10am to 4pm Class fee: \$45

Class is limited to **12**, so please let us know if you plan to attend.

Contact Nancy Roberts, (therockhoundlady@yahoo.com), or Kathy Dyess, (kathydyess@bellsouth.net) with questions, or to let us know that you want to join us. Feel free to call Kathy at 662-494-5678

If you plan to come, please mail a check for \$45 to:

[WP/CC Arts Council, P.O. Box 105, West Point, MS 39773](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) so that we receive it before Friday, January 18, 2019

Lapidary Workshop, January 19, 2019

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Our NMGMS lapidary room #136 at the Link Centre in Tupelo will be open on **Saturday, January 19, 2019** at **10a.m.** for those members interested. **There are two large slab saws and a 10 inch saw available, as well as two trim saws and three cab machines.** Bring some stones that you would like to slab. We have a box of slabs that you can "play" with, if you don't have any of your own.

The cabochon machines are available for those members certified to use them. Beginners are welcome! Jim Roberts and/or Paul Gunther will be on hand to help with the saws and to get

members certified to use the equipment.

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

Bring a brown bag lunch. Please email therockhoundlady@yahoo.com, or latergator2003@yahoo.com, if you plan to attend. Junior members must be accompanied by a parent or sponsor.

Club News:



The following officers for 2019 were elected by the membership at the December 15, 2018 meeting: President, Nancy Roberts; Vice President, Paul Gunther; Treasurer, Rachael Hill; and Secretary, Krista Williamson.

NMGMS Members Take Note!

2019 is here, and it is time to renew your NMGMS membership. Our club treasurer (Rachael Hill) will be available to collect your dues at our meetings, or you can make checks payable to NMGMS (\$15 single, \$25 for a couple and \$4 for each child) and mail them along with an application form to: NMGMS, P.O. Box 1445, Tupelo, MS 38802. **You can also pay your dues with PayPal from our club website, or to nmgms2001@gmail.com.** The application form is located on the website: www.nmgms.org

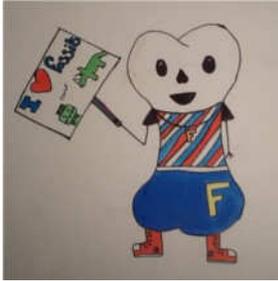
To continue to be eligible for our club field trips and workshops, and be covered by our insurance, please renew your membership. You don't want to miss out on any of the fun and adventures!

Meeting Program Review: NMGMS 2018 Christmas Party!



Lots of good food, fun, friendship, and a great turnout! Nancy Roberts

Photos by Nancy Roberts and Krista Williamson



Mascot by Remy Collins

NMGMS Junior Members

Rockheads

January 2019



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Rockhead Officers for 2019: TBA

Adult Youth Advisor for 2019:

Beth Thornton, bethunderwood78@hotmail.com

Attention Rockheads! 2019 Officers

At the next Rockhead meeting you will decide on who you would like to have as officers for 2019. Are you willing to serve? Who do you want to lead the Rockheads? Be thinking about this issue, and be prepared to vote on January 12th.
Nancy Roberts



At the December 15, 2018 meeting, our NMGMS junior member advisor, Diana Watson, awarded 7 Rockheads with the FRA badges that they had earned over the course of the year. Congratulations on a job well done! Nancy Roberts

Photos by Nancy Roberts



Also at the December meeting, 5 Rockheads were awarded the NMGMS "Junior Rockhound of the Year" award, which they had earned by doing an article for the newsletter and a display or presentation at one of our meetings. Congratulations to Sydney, Amelia, Sophie, Walter, and Hunter. Kudos to all of the Rockheads for a great year! Nancy Roberts

Photo by Jim Roberts



Photo by Nancy Roberts

Next Rockhead Meeting: January 12, 2019

At the January 12, 2019 meeting, the Rockheads will be finishing up the last few requirements for the field trip badge. Do you know proper field trip etiquette? You will be learning this and how to plan a successful field trip. For the list of the AFMS "Code of Ethics", go to, <http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. News:



The Federation's 2019 officers are: President, Reggie Bolton; 1st VP, Jesse Griffin; 2nd VP, Travis Paris; Secretary, Jeri Heer; Treasurer, Barbi Beatty; and Assistant Treasurer, David Liles.

Membership renewal for the Southeast Federation is due January 2019.

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

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News:



AFMS/MWF 2019 Annual Convention & Show
Cedar Rapids, IA

March 21-24, 2019 For more information on the show and convention:
<https://cedarvalleyrockclub.org/AFMSHome.html>

All Rockhounds should be aware of and comply with proper field trip etiquette. For the list of the AFMS "Code of Ethics", go to, <http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>

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.

Bead Soup: Enameling with Stencils by Nikki Kenney

Photo by Nikki Kenney



There are many tutorials on copper enameling on the internet. This article is to aid in using stencils over a base coat of enamel to design a piece and deliver it to be fired without mishap.

1. After counter enameling the back of a piece to be enameled, pickle and clean it, sift a base coat of enamel onto the front of the piece, then fire it.

2. Place the enameled piece on a credit card or a similar piece of plastic, then cover with the desired portion of a stencil. If a stencil has multiple small designs, it will be easier to handle if they can be cut and used individually.

and used individually.

Photo by Nikki Kenney

3. Sift the desired enamel powder over the stencil, making sure to fill the spaces in the design evenly. Be sure to clear any holes punched in the copper piece with a toothpick.

4. Without tilting or spilling any of the powdered enamel, carefully lift the stencil straight up off the piece then pour any enamel remaining on the stencil back into its container.



5. While keeping the credit card level, carry it to the firing apparatus. Gently slide the piece slightly past the edge of the card so you can lift it off without touching or disturbing the enamel powder on the design. Now carefully place your piece onto the trivet.

6. You can now proceed with firing your beautiful creation.

Photo by Nikki Kenney

Safety First by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chairman

Hammers used by rock hounds come in every size, type, and construction, and include rock hammers, bricklayer's or mason's hammers, blacksmith's or sledge hammers, machinist's peen hammers, jeweler's hammers, setting hammers, soft face hammers, lead or copper faced hammers, trimmer's and welder's hammer's, as well as a variety of mallets, such as rawhide, rubber, and tinner's. I have even seen napping hammers (a 3 pound high carbon steel hammer with tapering faces used for forming stones during road construction or similar stone work) and railroad track mauls (used for driving railroad spikes). As it is hard to anticipate what a rockhound's "favorite weapon" will be, I thought I would present a list of general hammer safety practices followed by the proper use of some of the more common hammer types.

1. Always select the proper type, size, and weight of hammer for the job.
2. Always wear eye protection.
3. Always strike a hammer blow squarely, avoiding glancing blows and over and under strikes. The hammer's striking face should be parallel with the surface being struck.
4. When striking a chisel, punch, or wedge, the striking face of the hammer should be 3/8" larger than the struck face of the tool. Both the striking hammer's face and the struck face of the tool should be free of oil.
5. Do not strike another hammer with a hammer.
6. Do not strike a harder surface with a hard surface hammer. (Editor's Note: this is why we use a brass mallet!)
7. Never use a hammer with dents, cracks, chips, mushrooming, or excessive wear. Replace the hammer-redressing is not recommended.
8. Replace worn or damaged handles. A qualified individual should replace hammer handles. Most hardware stores will replace hammer handles for a nominal fee. They can also provide a rubber sleeve for sledge hammers, which will prevent handle damage just above the head.

Bricklayer's or mason's hammers are designed for setting or splitting bricks, masonry tile, and concrete blocks. Never use them to strike metal or drive tools such as chisels. The blade of a bricklayer's hammer should be kept sharp by redressing at a 40 degree angle with a bench grinder. To protect the metal's tempering, keep the metal cool while grinding by quenching often in water.

Hand drilling hammers are used with chisels, star drills, punches, and hardened nails. Never use common nail (claw) hammers for striking metal, such as chisels, as they are designed for driving unhardened nails and their shape, depth of face, and balance make them unsuitable for this use.

Machinist's peen hammers (ball, cross, or straight) are designed for striking chisels and punches, for riveting, and straightening and shaping metal.

Blacksmith's or sledge hammers are designed for striking wood, metal, concrete, or stone, depending on size, weight, and shape.

When using a hammer, grip the handle near the end where it is designed for gripping and will give you the best control and impact with the least effort. Watch your hands, shins, and feet. It may be advisable to wear gloves, long sleeve shirts, and high lacing safety shoes to protect from flying debris and sharp shards if the situation warrants it.

When storing hammers for a period of time, lightly lubricate metal parts, but wipe any oil or grease from rubber mallets or rubber handle grips to prevent damage to the rubber.

So get out there and hammer up a storm, safely.

Reprinted from the AFMS Website: Newsletter, Volume 56, Number 4, March 2003.

http://www.amfed.org/news/n2003_03.htm#safety

Lapidary: Prices Reduced! For sale by North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society:

Photos by Nancy Roberts



Beacon Star 10 inch slab saw, gravity or hand feed Used, as is, **\$200**

Model: 20-1 Serial#: 1-2204

Has a notched diamond blade. Cover is damaged and mended with duct tape, but does the job. Needs a motor and drive belt.



Hexagonal Rotary Tumbler, 6lb capacity (?) Used, **\$100**, OBO

Slik Equipment, by S.E. Landon Co.

Motor: Dayton 1/40 HP, runs! Belt could stand to be replaced.



Blake's Compact Gem Polisher, Model: 6XL, Serial#: 3343 Used, **\$75** OBO

1/40HP 1500RPM 115volts Dayton, Motor Runs!

Included are some syringes of diamond compounds:

325 mesh equiv. - about 1 and 1/2 grams, 600 mesh equiv. - about 3/16 gram

1200 mesh equiv. - about 3/16 gram, 8000 mesh equiv. - about 1 gram

18,000 mesh equiv. - about 3/16 gram, 50,000 mesh equiv. - about 1/8 gram

100,000 mesh equiv. - about 3/4 gram, small buffing pad on a mandrel is included with the

100,000 compound, and about 1/4 of a bottle of Crystalube from Crystalite Products.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:



NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: December 15, 2018

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

Members present approved the November 17, 2018 meeting minutes as printed in the December 2018 Nugget.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of Nov. 30, 2018 was given by Nikki Kenney.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The January field trip will be January 26, 2019 to Lost Creek, Alabama for Mississippian fossils. This will be rescheduled for February if the weather is bad.

Publicity: (John Byzet and Alison Schuchs) We are having 100 club brochures printed. Justin Thornton has made the necessary changes reflecting our new dues rates. Cost to have the new brochures printed up is \$.25 a copy. Check out our NMGMS Facebook page.

Membership: (Beth Thornton) Diana Watson will be taking over the Membership Chair position.

Reminder! The time to renew your membership in NMGMS is fast approaching; 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. Anyone need a new member packet or a patch? ****Note:** Please just list on the club application form only those persons who are actually joining.

Minutes continued on page 9.

www.nmgms.org



NMGMS Meeting Minutes, continued:

Date: December 15, 2018

Hospitality:

Refreshments: We will continue with pot luck at each meeting next year. Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome.

Website: (John Byzet) Paul Gunther has the new website running. You can pay your dues via PayPal on the club website. Anyone else interested in helping with the website? Old website can be found at <http://old.nmgms.org> Check us out at www.nmgms.org

Newsletter: (Nancy Roberts) 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) Beth Thornton has volunteered to be the Youth Advisor for the Rockheads next year.

Historian: (Cheryle Langford) Rebecca Vallarian will be taking over the Historian Chair, so if you have any 2018 club memorabilia please give it to Rebecca.

Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show: (Nancy Roberts, John Byzet, and Rebecca Vallarian) We will be setting up displays at the museum early in March, so if you have any specimens from other states or countries that you can loan us for the displays, please bring them to either the January meeting or the February one at the latest.

Safety & Lapidary Workshop Chairman: (Mike Schuchs) Jim Roberts and Paul Gunther will be in charge of the lapidary workroom. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions about the room or equipment, see either of them. Need some safety articles for the newsletter.

Old Business:

1. The elected 2019 NMGMS officers are: President, Nancy Roberts; Vice President, Paul Gunther; Treasurer, Rachael Hill; Secretary, Krista Williamson.
2. The January 2019 meeting will be a week earlier, since the library is closed on holiday weekends. Meeting is January 12, 2019 from 1-3pm at the Tupelo library. Program will be a flint knapping demonstration by Randy Burseson.
3. The lapidary workshop room will be open on Saturday, January 19, 2019.
4. On Saturday, January 19, 2019, NMGMS members will be teaching an enameling class hosted by the West Point/Clay County Arts Council in West Point, MS. Watch your emails and The Nugget for details.

No other old business.

New Business:

1. Our SFMS membership is due to be renewed before the end of January. We paid \$1.50 per member last year. Our insurance renewal with the Federation will be due in March. The rent on the Link Centre room will be due February 1, 2019.
2. FRA badges and awards were presented to junior members. Member appreciation awards were presented.

*****Reminder:**

Please return the name tags to the basket before you leave. Is there anyone who needs a name tag printed up for them?

Adjourned at 12:45 Submitted by Paul Gunther

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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 Starting 2019: \$15 for a single, \$25 for a couple, and \$4 each child.

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 became a non-profit corporation in December of 2013. NMGMS is a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. and is affiliated with the American Federation 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.