



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



Looking for crinoids

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

Happy Valentine's Day NMGMS!

First of all, I would like to thank Randy Bureson and his assistants, Alex and Dawson, for their excellent flint knapping demonstration. It was fun to watch, but our junior members really enjoyed being able to try their hand at this lapidary art. Thank you for taking the time to teach them. We had record attendance for this meeting too! Another big THANK YOU goes to fellow member Patti Thompson for her generous donation of a filing cabinet, which is now in our lapidary workshop room. We are in the process of moving important club papers from individuals' homes to the filing cabinet. This should provide easier access to these papers when needed.

NMGMS is doing quite well on its membership renewals for 2019. There are 73 members on the roster so far, and we still have renewals coming in. We've gained some new families and junior members too. Hopefully our membership numbers will continue to grow. Speaking of growth, it's hard to realize that it has been over 5 years since NMGMS was incorporated. Since we have had changes in our officers and club by-laws, it was time to update our corporation with the state. I met with Jeremy Martin this past week, and we are now up to date. It is recommended that we do this about every 5 years or so.

I also met with Rae Mathis Pounds at the Oren Dunn City Museum. We have quite a few display cases that we will be setting up next month, and Rae made some very good suggestions for a few new activities that we could offer at the April 13, 2019 Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show to be held at the museum. We will be setting up most of the event outside; let's hope the weather cooperates this year! We will finalize our event activities at the February meeting and have a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work at this event. If you can't make the meeting, let me know what activity you would like to man.

I would like to encourage all of our members to participate in the setup of our display, which will take place March 4-6th. Please look thru your collections for specimens that you would be willing to loan the club for the cases. Rocks, minerals, and fossils are all welcome! Gather up what you are planning to loan NMGMS for the display and bring them to the February meeting. We are especially looking for rocks from other states and/or countries. The displays at the museum will remain up until the first of May. We will also be displaying jewelry pieces that were created at our club workshops, so please include a few of those for the display. The museum patrons love to see what we create! So take a few moments to go thru your collection and pull out a few of your treasures to show.

Jim Roberts has suggested that we try and have the lapidary room open on Sunday afternoons, since many members have lots of other activities scheduled for Saturdays. If there is some interest, we will go ahead and give this a try. So, let Jim know if you could come on a Sunday. It is really exciting to slice into a rock and see all of the marvelous patterns and colors that are revealed. Better yet, is to cut and polish that stone and turn it into a fabulous piece of lapidary art!

Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS February 9, 2019 Meeting



Photo of Dr. Retrum by Nancy Roberts

The February meeting of the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society will be on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at the Tupelo library from 1-3pm. The program will be "Using a Mineral Identification Kit", given by University of Mississippi Professor, Dr. Julie Retrum. Here's a chance to learn how to identify some of those unknown minerals you have been collecting! 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. 2019 officers are asked to attend. We will be discussing the April 13th Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show.

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

February 16, 2019: NMGMS Lapidary Workshop at the Link Centre. (See page 3 for details).

February 16, 2019: NMGMS copper brazing workshop at the Link Centre. (See page 3 for details)

February 23, 2019: Possible joint field trip with ALMS to an Alabama gravel site. Watch your email for details.

March 9-11, 2019: NMGMS spring break field trip to Mt. Ida, AR for quartz crystals. (See page 3 for details)

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

April 6, 2019: NMGMS April meeting from 1-3pm at the Tupelo Library, program: making fun wire rings. ***

April 13, 2019: Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show, 10a.m.-3p.m. at the ODCM in Tupelo.

****Note!** The April meeting date is changed due to Easter falling on the third weekend of the month.

Other Upcoming Events:

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

March 9, 2019: MMNS Fossil Road Show, 10am to 3:30pm, Jackson, MS. Guest speaker is **Dr. Mark Puckett** from the University of Southern Mississippi, who will present a program on MICROFOSSILS.

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[at]gmail.com, Club website: www.missgems.org

March 9, 2019

MMNS Fossil Road Show Saturday, March 9, 2019, 10am to 3:30pm.
 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/>

For more show dates: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/club-shows-123.html>

Upcoming NMGMS Events: Copper Brazing Workshop February 16, 2019

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Want to learn a metal technique called copper brazing, and also get to try your hand at copper solder? If you do, come to the Link Centre in Tupelo on **Saturday, February 16th**. NMGMS will be holding this workshop upstairs in the conference room, from **10 a.m. until 4 p.m.** You will learn how to create a prong type bezel or frame for a stone using copper wire and copper brazing rods. This is a great technique for making pendants with very "organic" shaped stones. It's really a fun project, and the results will amaze you! The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. The **\$20 class fee** includes all materials, wire, solder, and a couple of stones (you are welcome to bring your own to work with), as well as the use of the tools and torches. **Please bring a brown bag lunch.** There is a refrigerator available. Email or call me, if you plan to attend. Nancy Roberts therockhoundlady@yahoo.com 731-689-5336H

Lapidary Workshop, February 16, 2019

Photo by Jim Roberts



Our NMGMS lapidary room #136 at the Link Centre in Tupelo will be open on **Saturday, February 16, 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 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.

NMGMS Spring Break Field Trip: Mt. Ida, Arkansas

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The 2019 Spring break field trip will be to Mt. Ida, AR for quartz crystals, March 9th, 10th, and 11th. We will be staying at the Royal Oak Inn (870-867-2169) in Mt. Ida. We will be collecting at the Twin Creek Crystal Mine, Collier Springs Rd, on Saturday, March 9th. Group rate is \$20 per person, if we have 10-15, \$18 per person for 15-20 and \$15 a person if we have over 20 people. Children 10 and under are \$12. Mine is open from 9am-4pm. Check out their FB page! **870-867-4945**

We will be meeting at the Royal Oak Inn, Hwy 270 in Mt. Ida, AR at **8:30a.m., Saturday March 9th** before we go to the mine. Twin Creek Crystal Mine is not far from Mt. Ida,

off of Logan Gap Road and Collier Springs Rd. It can be a bit tricky to find, however.

Sunday March 10th, we will be collecting at the Miller Mt. Jim Coleman Mine, off of Hwy 298, north of Lake Ouachita. It's about an hour from Mt. Ida. \$10 per person, children 9 and under are free. Group rate will depend on how many we have. I was told that they have done some work to the road and parking area, as well as turned over the piles, so we should have some good collecting here. We will caravan from the Royal Oak Inn at 8:30am Sunday morning.

Monday, March 11th, we will head south to the Crater of Diamonds State Park. For more information and directions, email therockhoundlady@yahoo.com



Photo by Nancy Roberts

Meeting Program Review:

“Welcome to the Stone Age” by Mike Schuchs

Photo by Nancy Roberts



It was our pleasure to have NMGMS member Randy Burleson introduce us to the proper tools and materials, as well as demonstrate flint knapping techniques at our January 12, 2019 meeting. There is no doubt that flint knapping is the oldest lapidary art in human history and one of the most fascinating; it isn't often that you see so many people, of all ages, engrossed in a demonstration of any sort. Flint knapping turned out to be a very “hands on” adventure for both the young and old; some went home with arrow heads that could put critters on the fire.

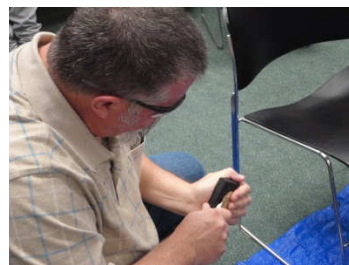
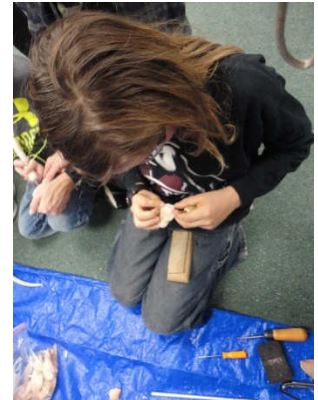
Safety first! You could put your eye out, and you will cut your fingers. Nancy provided safety glasses to everyone, so we dodged the first bullet or shard. When we try this at home, and if you are like me, you will, please wear the gloves and glasses.

Photo by Krista Williamson

We were shown “new age” copper boppers, aluminum indirect percussion rods, and pressure flaking tools, along with the traditional hammer stones, antler boppers, and antler pressure flaking tools. Randy was kind enough to provide us with chert to work and instructions on techniques. His display of obsidian, Keokuk, true flint, novaculite, and other chert specimens was nice on its own.



Personally, I have followed Randy’s advice and watched a couple of hours of how- to videos on YouTube. I have searched my collection for hammer stones and knappable chert, procured modern materials, and I am ready to try it out. The Russians are trying to bring back ice age beasts, and we all saw how the last Jurassic Park movie ended. I will be prepared!



Photos by Nancy Roberts

Workshop Review: West Point Enameling Workshop

Photo by Nancy Roberts



I am lucky that I met Nancy Roberts when I was on the West Point Arts Council. For years now, the Council has hosted a North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society run workshop in West Point. We have beaded, done kumihimo, made leather bracelets, etched, stenciled, soldered, and more.

At each workshop, NMGMS members arrive with all the equipment needed, set up, demonstrate, do one-on-one instruction, and we all learn new skills. Then these volunteers clean up, pack up, and head home. At the end, we participants have new jewelry to wear.

Photo by Nancy Roberts

This year's enameling workshop was excellent. Each table had one or more skilled instructors to help us after a thorough demonstration and explanation. Every participant used a complete work kit and got a full set of written instructions. Safety issues were stressed along with creative suggestions.

We got so many helpful tips in order to avoid beginner's mistakes. Workshop participants, who came from as far as Jackson, MS, all left with beautiful enameled work. NMGMS volunteers are not just skilled jewelry designers, they are excellent teachers. We are so very grateful for this yearly workshop. It is work and time intensive for these terrific volunteers. I send a big THANK YOU to each one of you. You filled our workshop with learning and laughter. Submitted by Souzen Deavers Steelhammer



Photo by Nancy Roberts



I just wanted to say thanks again for the enameling class last week in West Point. All of the people who were there to help with the instruction were immediately available, while still offering us students plenty of artistic freedom with our projects. I can't wait for your next class. Submitted by Lisa Keys

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The vast knowledge of the instructors and assistants in the class made the process of learning how to enamel on copper a success and enjoyable. I really enjoyed the class. Loren, my husband, was excited for me, and we ordered some supplies to get started working with copper. Submitted by Jo Patterson

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The enameling class was great; the instructors were great and very helpful. Very glad I took the class, and I look forward to other workshops that you may offer. The worst thing about the class was the ride from Birmingham to West Point. LOL! Submitted by Don Hill (Editor's Note: We had high winds and a torrential downpour that morning!)

We enjoyed the class very much! The AMLS people who took the class hope to teach this in our future workshops! We learned so much about the process.

I, for one, have never done anything like this, so I was pleasantly surprised at how easy it was for me!

Photo by Nancy Roberts



I look forward to doing more, and will, as soon as I can get the supplies sent to me! I have gotten many compliments already on the jewelry that I made! I enjoyed working with the torch and enamel, and I can see greater things coming from this! The workshop was big and spacious! What a great place you have to do workshops in! Thank you to everyone that was so gracious to the four of us! We appreciate you! Submitted by Lou Ann Newell

Workshop Review cont'd: West Point Enameling Workshop

Photo by Nancy Roberts



I had a great time. The instruction was superb with lots of help when needed. There were lots of fun colors to choose from. I am a novice and was able to come home with two wonderful pairs of earrings. Great value for the cost of the class; thanks for all the fun! Submitted by Charlotte Magnussen

When I looked at everyone's accomplishments from Saturday, I felt so proud of how well everyone did. There were a few glitches here and there during our day, but we all learn from our mistakes. The final products were so creative! I am sure that Nancy, Loretta, Cheryl, Raffieal, and Nikki will agree with me, that it was a successful and fun learning experience for

everyone. Submitted by Clarice Turner

Photos by Nancy Roberts



Bead Soup: Enameling with Stencils, Part 2 by Nikki Kenney

Photo by Nancy Roberts



We learn from our students! At our West Point enameling workshop, Reggie Bolton, member of ALMS and President of SFMS, had a great idea for using a stencil to create a design on an enameled copper piece.

Instead of placing the stencil directly on top of the copper piece, he balanced it on top of two small cups of enamel, positioning his copper disk directly underneath the portion of

the stencil he wished to use. Then by looking through the top of the design, he was able to almost exactly duplicate the design on both of his pieces for a pair of matching earrings. With the stencil raised in this manner, he could carefully lift the stencil away after sifting without disturbing the enamel powder or allowing any of it to filter through the holes in the stencil onto his piece.

Reggie could still place the enameled piece on a small pedestal without it being touched by the stencil, making it easy to lift the disk by its edges after sifting and place it onto the trivet for firing. I think this is an excellent method for using stencils in enameling, and I intend to try it next time.

Photo of Reggie by Nancy Roberts



Photo by Nancy Roberts

Field Trip Review: “NMGMS trip to Alabama” by Rebecca Vallarian

Photo by Nancy Roberts



It was bracingly cold, but not too cold for our junior members to wash off their finds in the lake water. It was windy, but not too windy for Mike's canoe trips to pick up coral, slabs of fossils, and beautiful driftwood finds. It was sunny at times, but remained cloudy enough to really see the tiny blastoids, Archimedes “screws”, and the Fenestella fronds in the matrix. A wonderful day for the field trip to Alabama for Mississippian fossils!

Alison found a super *Zeacrinites wortheni*, the top of a crinoid, and several members found *Phanocrinus* specimens. Barbara and Diana became accustomed to “seeing” blastoids on the ground, as they began to collect quite a few. Alex found a large chunk of the whitest coral, which awaits further identification.

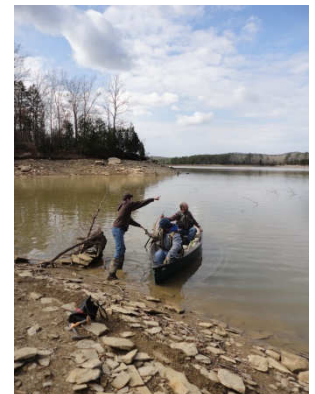
Photo by Nancy Roberts



Rachel walked back with a basketball-sized coral piece cradled in her arms. At the afternoon collecting site, Dawson was quick to locate the only cephalopod found, and he could even correctly pronounce its scientific name. There were many “horn corals” put in everyone's buckets; Mike's trilobite was a great find, and my fossilized “cow patty” (a *Conostichus* trace fossil of an ancient burrow) pleased me.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, the finds, and the sharing of knowledge. Check out NMGMS on Facebook for pictures of how much fun we did have, from Laney, Reese, and Maya enjoying the sunshine at the boat ramp, to the serene picture of Hunter and Mike canoeing the lake.

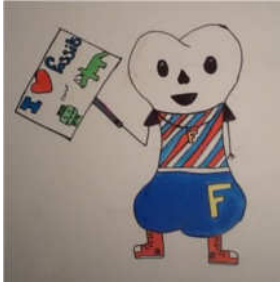
Photos by Alison Schuchs and Nancy Roberts



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!



Mascot by Remy Collins

NMGMS Junior Members

Rockheads

February 2019



www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm

Rockhead Officers for 2019:

President, Liam Langford

Vice President, Alex Rogers

Secretary, Julia Williamson

Adult Youth Advisor for 2019:

Beth Thornton, bethunderwood78@hotmail.com

Rockheads January 12, 2019 Meeting:

At the Rockheads meeting, we learned about field trip etiquette. We are supposed to bring trash bags or containers so that we don't litter. Submitted by Julia Williamson

Next Rockhead Meeting: February 9, 2019

At the February 9, 2019 meeting, the Rockheads will start working on the Earth in Space badge. We will work on making a model of the solar system. You will be painting the different planets, so get ready to take a look at space!



Photo from the AFMS website

Attention Rockheads!



We have entered a new year, so now is the time to think about working toward earning the "NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Award". You will earn some nice prizes!

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.

Your article or review for the newsletter does not need to be long or complicated. Please send it and any accompanying photos to: therockhoundlady@yahoo.com. If you would like to do a display, bring one along to any of the club meetings.



Photo by Jim Roberts, May 2015

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.

The first 2019 SFMS Executive Meeting will be March 1-2, 2019, hosted by the Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, St. Petersburg, FL. For more detailed information, check out the January 2019 issue of the *Lodestar*, <http://www.amfed.org/sfms/pdf/Lodestar%20January%202019.pdf>

SAVE THE DATE!!! 1st Annual SFMS Rockhound Roundup - May 17- 19, Spirit of the Suwanee Music Park, 3076 95th Dr., Live Oak, Florida, 32060. More details to come – SFMS will host a Rock Swap (Nominal fee of \$10 to set-up) in conjunction with our 2nd Executive Meeting of the year. Cabins, RV Hookups, and tent camping are available.

SFMS Classes: William Holland 6/9-14/2019

Beading, Cabochons I, Casting, Chain – Loop n Loop, Electro-Etching/Wood Inlay, Metal Manipulation/ Cold Connection, Opals II – Carving, Silver 2 – Fused, Silver I, Silver-Wear I & II, Wire II – Bracelets Only

For class details: <http://sfmsworkshops.com/>

Editor's Note: Federation news is obtained from the SFMS newsletter and website.

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 about the show and convention:

<https://cedarvalleyrockclub.org/AFMSHome.html>

In the December 2018/January 2019 issue of the AFMS newsletter, BEAC Chair Sue Webb writes an excellent article covering “where, when, and how” to correctly identify your sources in order to avoid copyright issues or plagiarisms when using information derived from the Internet and elsewhere. AFMS Juniors Program Chair Jim Brace-Thompson offers some ideas on using educational cards and card games to help teach junior members about things related to the earth sciences. You can read these articles at: http://www.amfed.org/news/n2018_12.pdf Nancy Roberts

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.

Basic Test Kit for Mineral Identification:

It doesn't take a lot of expensive or complicated equipment to start learning about and identifying minerals. Here is a list of a few basic items that will get you started:

A copper penny that was minted before 1982 (newer pennies are not all copper!), a nail, a magnet, a piece of glass, a piece of white unglazed ceramic tile (streak plate), a pocket knife, a hand held lens (magnifying glass) and a dropper bottle with dilute HCL (about 10% acid). Use caution when working with acids, and always wear safety glasses!

To learn how to use these items and more, come to our February 9, 2019 meeting! Nancy Roberts

Old Bones: A Place to Talk About Fossils!

Below is a listing of some government and research publications that are available as free downloads. They will be immensely helpful toward the identification of the fossils that we collect on our field trips. Nancy Roberts

“Upper Cretaceous Echinoidea” By C. WYTHE COOKE, A SHORTER CONTRIBUTION TO GENERAL GEOLOGY, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PROFESSIONAL PAPER 254-A <https://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/0254a/report.pdf>

“THE FAUNA OF THE RIPLEY FORMATION ON COON CREEK, TENNESSEE” BY Bruce Wade, **Professional Paper 137**
<https://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/0137/report.pdf>

“A GUIDE TO THE FRANKSTOWN VERTEBRATE FOSSIL LOCALITY (UPPER CRETACEOUS), PRENTISS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI”
By Earl M. Manning and David T. Dockery III <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Circular-4.pdf>

“FOSSIL DECAPOD CRUSTACEA FROM THE LATE CRETACEOUS COON CREEK FORMATION, UNION COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI”
By Gale A. Bishop <https://research.nhm.org/pdfs/26971/26971.pdf>

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:



NMGMS January 12, 2019 Board meeting minutes: Submitted by Krista Williamson

1. Nikki has compiled our 2018 fiscal report. We spent a little over \$100 more than we took in. Debits and credits for 2018 were given. Racheal Hill, our new treasurer, has been added to the bank account and our PayPal account.
2. December expenses: Ham, \$42.19; Display cases, \$102.66; Lapidary Belts and templates, \$139.32; Workshop supplies LOS, \$9.07.
3. Replacing the capacitor in the Genie motor should solve the overheating problem and get that machine back in working order. Officers approved this purchase via email on January 9, 2019. Part has been ordered through Diane Cook (dealer) and Diamond Pacific. Cost will be about \$42.
4. Our dues to the SFMS federation for 2019 will be \$241.50, based on 161 members at the end of 2018.
5. We have received 21 membership applications for 2019 so far, approximately 48 members. Note: Rachael Hill renewed via PayPal, but needs to fill out an application form. Do we want to encourage people to add \$1 to cover the fees or just let the club cover that? Fees last year were just over \$13.
6. Our Link Centre rent will be due February 1, 2019.
7. Looks like our West Point enameling class will be full.
8. I have received notices for the 2019 Tannehill show, June 1-2, 2019. We set up as a vendor in 2017. Cost would be \$120 for a shed space, \$165 for an RV spot with electricity, \$100 for an open air spot, and \$18 per rented table. Do we want to set up and try to sell some of the extra tools, equipment, books, rocks, etc.? Are there any volunteers to work the show, if we do setup? We will bring this back up at the Feb. 9th meeting. Take inventory of what we might take to sell.
9. Any ideas or comments about looking into hosting our own rock and gem show? Appoint a committee to do this? Some of the locations that were brought up to check into are: Lee County Agri center, National Guard armory, extension office, furniture market, and the Link Centre. Mike Schuchs and Nannett Mc Dougal volunteered to start the committee.
10. We have inherited a large amount of books, magazines, videos, etc. concerning lapidary arts and jewelry. Would like to set up a club library and Library chairperson; Nikki Kenney has volunteered to be the chairperson.
11. Do the new officers have any questions? Previous officers have any advice?
12. Any other business? There was no other business. Meeting adjourned at 12:48pm

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:

NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: January 12, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Maya, Laney, and Alex.

We had several guests including Gavin Atkinson, the Reinhardts, Karen Sheffield, Sara Wade, and Audrey Conway. 54 in attendance!

The December 15, 2018 meeting minutes as printed in the January 2019 *The Nugget* were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of **December 31, 2018: was given by Rachael Hill.**

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The January field trip will be January 26, 2019 to Lost Creek, Alabama for Mississippian fossils. **(See email or Nugget for details).** I am checking the TVA site to monitor the lake level. It has been going down. If we change the date to Feb. 2, I will email the notice and post it to the club's website and FB page.

Our spring break field trip will be to Mt. Ida, AR March 9-10. We will be booking rooms at the Royal Oak Inn in Mt. Ida. We will do either Wegner Mine (\$40 for 4 hours, will have to call about booking on Saturday.) or Twin Creek (\$25 adult \$12 child under 10, 9am to 4pm) on Saturday and Miller Mountain (\$10) on Sunday. We may be able to get a group rate if we have over 15 people. Anyone interested in going down to the Diamond State Park on Monday? It is about an hour or so from Mt. Ida. Please let me know as soon as you can, if you plan to make this trip. Several members said they were planning to go.

There is a DMC field trip on January 19, 2019 to east TN. If you are interested, I will email you the information. DMC trips are open to club members only. Your dues need to be up to date!

Publicity: (John Byzet) 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: (Diana Watson) Reminder, it is time to renew your membership in NMGMS. Dues for 2019 are: \$15 for a single, \$25 for a couple and \$4 per child. Please give your dues and application forms to Rachael. **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.**

Hospitality:

Refreshments: Will be pot luck at each meeting. Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome.

Website: (Paul Gunther) **You can pay your dues via PayPal on the club website or to nmgms2001@gmail.com. Please add \$1 to cover the fee we are charged.** Old website can be found at <http://old.nmgms.org>
Check us out at www.nmgms.org

Newsletter: (Nancy Roberts) Is there a member who would like to try their hand at being the newsletter editor? **I need a volunteer to submit a program review to the February Nugget about today's flint knapping program.** Mike Schuchs volunteered. 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. **Also, please submit any photos that you take at our events and meetings.**

Youth Members: (Beth Thornton) We will ask the Rockheads to put together a display case at the museum again. Beth said she thought the juniors could do a display.

Historian: (Rebecca Vallarian) If you have any 2018 club memorabilia please give it to Rebecca.

Minutes continued on page 12.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes, continued:**Date: January 12, 2019**

Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show: (Nancy Roberts, John Byzet, and Rebecca Vallarian) **If you have specimens for the museum displays, please fill out a museum loan sheet.** Remember to use blue painters tape and place your initials on the bottom of any specimen that you are loaning. Several members brought specimens to loan the club for the museum displays.

Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show: **We will be setting up displays at the museum early in March. We're looking for specimens from other states or countries. Please bring them no later than the February meeting. We are also looking for handcrafted jewelry and lapidary items to be displayed in our club case at the museum.** Rebecca will be revamping the "rocks like food" display, so if you have new pieces, please give them to her.

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. **We have purchased some new sanding belts.**

Old Business:

1. The lapidary workshop room will be open on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 9am.
2. Our SFMS membership dues are to be renewed before the end of January. Dues are \$241.50 based on 161 members at the end of 2018.
3. Our January 19, 2019 enameling class, hosted by the West Point/Clay County Arts Council in West Point, MS, is full. If you are still interested, I can notify you if we get any cancellations.

There was no other old business.

New Business:

1. The February meeting will be at the library on **February 9, 2019** from 1 to 3p.m. Program will be given by Dr. Julie Retrum from the University Of Mississippi's Geology Department.
2. **For the geology fest**, which is April 13th, we will be setting up the fishing game, the sandbox dig, making a gem tree, the spin and win, a bean bag toss, and the fluorescent rocks. We may set up a cabochon demo, if at all possible. We have the Geode cracker coming this year and at least one returning vendor. George Phillips will be on hand to id fossils. **I will need members to volunteer to man the activities, as well as our club info table where we will be selling grab bags and activity tickets. There will be a signup sheet at the February meeting.**
3. I would like to see some of the Rockheads do a case, as that would fulfill one of the requirements of the FRA showmanship badge. If you are willing to help with the displays when we set up at the museum, please let me know.
4. I have requested the upstairs conference room at the Link Centre for a copper brazing workshop on **Saturday, Feb. 16th from 10a.m.to 4p.m.** The **\$20** class fee includes all materials, plus the use of the tools and torches. The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. Details will be in the February Nugget. Also, the lapidary room (136) will be open at 10a.m.that day for those members interested.
5. The 2019 list of classes being offered at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts is online. Check them out!

Other new business:

1. Niki presented Nancy Roberts with Acetylene brazing goggles for being a great club President and for wearing so many different hats, including: President, field trip coordinator, liaison between other clubs, newsletter, etc. Nikki asked if anyone was willing to take any of the responsibilities to lighten the load on Nancy. Mike Schuchs stepped up and will be our new field trip coordinator.
2. Several Rockheads that were not present at the Dec. meeting were presented with awards and patches.

Motion was made to Adjourn..... Submitted by Krista Williamson

NMGMS 2019 Officers:**President/Field Trip Chair:**

Nancy Roberts
25 Amber Lane
Counce, TN 38326
731-689-5336
therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Krista Williamson
2012 Fillmore Dr.
Tupelo, MS 38801
662-252-9734
kristawilliamson2008@yahoo.com

Vice-President/Webmaster:

Paul Gunther
101 Westover Heights
Booneville, MS 38829
662-643-4210
paul.gunther@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Rachael Hill
2854 Lake Itawamba Rd.
Fulton, MS 38843
662-255-6815
kandrhill@gmail.com

Committees:**Publicity Chair:**

John Byzet
1209 Queensgate Dr
Tupelo, MS 38801
662-844-9841
wa4iax@comcast.net

Hospitality:

Ann Byzet
1209 Queensgate Dr.
Tupelo, MS 38801
662-844-9841
wa4iax@comcast.net

Junior Youth Advisor:

Beth Thornton
104 Grand Ridge Rd.
Starkville, MS 39759 662-320-9805
bethunderwood78@hotmail.com

Historian:

Rebecca Vallarian
308 Meadowbrook Circle
Amory, MS 38821 662-256-2040
janiegirl@vallarian.com

Newsletter editor:

Nancy Roberts
25 Amber Ln
Counce, TN 38326
731-689-5336
therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Membership:

Diana Watson
2312 Hwy 70E
Jackson, TN 38305
731-427-3946
jodyanddiana@hotmail.com



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.