

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter



Notes From the President's Desk...September 2019

"Camp Roberts" on Butler Island, VT

Welcome back! I trust that everyone had a great summer and that there will be many new adventure tales to share, plus some new things for "Show and Tell" at our meetings. Now that summer is winding down and school is back in session, it's time to get into our club's fall set of activities. The September meeting on using a rock tumbler promises to be a good one, and the "Rocktoberfest" picnic in October is always a lot of fun. There are several DMC field trips coming up, and hopefully NMGMS will have one or two of their own. So be sure and watch your emails, the club website, our NMGMS Facebook page, or this newsletter for notices, and mark these events on your calendar.

NMGMS is now a member of the Dixie Mineral Council (DMC), a field trip sharing organization that is part of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS). Our club is scheduled to host its first field trip for the DMC in May of 2023, and we are planning it for Twenty Mile Creek. All DMC field trips will be announced as official NMGMS trips, so the SFMS insurance that we carry will cover it. These trips are open to all current NMGMS members. Dixie Mineral Council field trips are not open to the public. The DMC follows the American Federation's Code of Ethics, <http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>.

Speaking of Twenty Mile Creek, 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the W.M. Browning Cretaceous Fossil Park. NMGMS has been invited to participate in the festivities to be held there on May 2, 2020. We will do our Rockheads' cookout there, so be sure to mark this date on your calendar. A rededication ceremony and reception are planned. There will be a lot of other groups there, as well as George Phillips and several other professionals.

On another note, the Oren Dunn City Museum (ODCM) in Tupelo has a new curator, Leesha Faulkner. Several NMGMS members have met with her, and the date for our next Fossil Road Show and Geology Fest has been set for April 18, 2020. We will be meeting with Ms. Faulkner again to finalize plans for this event. We're looking forward to working with her. She wants to expand the layout of the museum and focus more on the history of Tupelo itself. We will have to brain storm some ideas for displays that will fit in with this theme, yet still provide education and interest in rocks, minerals, and fossils. Perhaps we can work in a Geology Merit Badge class for the scouts in conjunction with this event.

NMGMS needs to come up with some kind of a storage solution. After the 2020 Geology Fest, we will no longer be able to store the Spin and Win or Fossil Dig apparatus at the ODCM. The Link Centre lapidary room is already pretty full of equipment, rocks, beads, tools, etc., so there just isn't any available space there. Too much clutter makes for an unsafe work space! Some of the club's possessions are currently stored at several members' homes. It would be better if everything could be in one place, so if any member needs something for a club event or community service function, they'd have access to it. Something to work on! Nancy Roberts

Mark Your Calendar!

NMGMS Picnic & Rock Swap October 26, 2019 "Rocktober Fest"

10th Annual Rock Swap Picnic **October 26, 2019** at the large pavilion in Ballard Park, West Main Street/Highway 6, Tupelo, MS.

We would like to invite all rock hounds from the surrounding areas to join our members for a day of great fun and fellowship. Invite your family and friends too! There is no charge to attend or to set up. The picnic is located in a large covered pavilion (on the west side of the lake) with many picnic tables. There is room to park and tailgate, so bring whatever you'd like to swap or sell, or just come by to join the picnic, look around, and visit with fellow rockhounds. The Swap is from **1p.m. until 4 p.m.** (Set up to begin at 12:00p.m.) We will be having a club auction, as well as other donated items for sale (donated items are most welcome!). Lots of newly donated items will be included. NMGMS will have hot dogs, kielbasa, chips, and drinks. **Members are asked to bring a dessert and folding chairs. The fishing game will be on hand for the kids!**

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

November 2, 9, and 23, 2019: NMGMS Lapidary Workshop Room at the Link Centre will be open at 10am. (Details pg. 4)

November 9, 2019: NMGMS Stack Rings workshop, 10am to 4pm at the Link Centre. (See page 3 for details).

November 16, 2019: NMGMS November meeting from 1 to 3pm at the Tupelo library. Program will be "Fluorescent Rocks and Minerals", by NMGMS members Mike Schuchs and Nancy Roberts. Bring a rock or two to see if it fluoresces!

December 7, 2019: NMGMS Lapidary Workshop at the Link Centre. (See page 4 for details).

December 7, 2019: NMGMS will have a vendor table at the Link Centre Holiday Market.

December 14, 2019: NMGMS annual Christmas party and luncheon from 11am to 3pm at the Tupelo library.

Other Upcoming Events:

October 26, 2019: Robins Street Art Stroll (previously Mimosas and Masterpieces) from 10am to 4pm in Tupelo on Robins St. NMGMS will be setting up as a vendor and selling hand crafted jewelry items made by our members. Money raised will go to our lapidary workshop.

November 23-24, 2019: ALMS member Bud Newell will be teaching a silversmithing class to 7 NMGMS members at the Link Centre. Class is full, but if you are interested, you can be added to the waiting list.

December 7, 2019: Link Centre's Holiday Market, 10am to 4pm. NMGMS will be setting up as a vendor and selling hand crafted jewelry items made by our members. Money raised from sales will go to our lapidary workshop. NMGMS volunteers will be needed at this event. NMGMS volunteers are welcome to assist the Link Centre at their sales table or food vending tables.

Show Dates:

October 18 - 20, 2019

KNOXVILLE, TN: Annual show, Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike; Knoxville, TN 37923.

Friday, October 18th: 10am – 6pm, Saturday, October 19th: 10am – 6pm, Sunday, October 20th: 11am – 5pm.

Adults \$ 6.00/day, or show pass \$10.00; children under 12 are free. Many free activities, displays, hourly door prizes, and children's grab bags. <http://www.knoxrocks.org/gem-show/>

Show Dates:

November 8 - 10, 2019

The 30th Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society http://www.mgcgms.org/gem_show.html

Friday, November 10th: 10am- 6pm, Saturday, November 11th: 10am – 6pm, Sunday, November 12th: 10am – 5pm
Fairground Civic Center, 2902 Shortcut Rd., Pascagoula, MS. Cost to get in is \$3 for a one-day pass or \$5 for a 3 day pass. Kids 12 and under get in free with a paying adult.

New Show!

November 2 & 3, 2019; Birmingham, AL

Alabama Mineral and Lapidary Society is adding a new show to their schedule. The show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 2&3 in Oak Mountain State Park (near Birmingham to the south). This is an outdoor show.

Vendor spaces approximately 12 x 20 are available for \$75 each, as an introductory offer. We will maintain this price for future shows near this date, if possible. We will emphasize lapidary vendors, but quality craftspeople from other areas will be considered to help make this a good holiday shopping opportunity. For information contact: events4amls@gmail.com . Show application form: <https://form.jotform.com/92285981375167>.

Club News: “Amory Regional Museum Display” by Rebecca Vallarian

Photo by Rebecca Vallarian



Amory Regional Museum is currently displaying NMGMS's newest exhibit, "Fossils of Monroe County" until the end of November. Through the generous loans from area collectors and from my own specimens, we are showcasing *Exogyra*, pieces of *Inoceramus* clams, petrified wood with prominent knotholes, small Cretaceous era shells and teeth, and vertebrae from Goblin sharks and Crow (*Squalicorax*) sharks. The displays also show what the fossils and sharks looked like then, along with explanations of how *Exogyras* filtered their food on the sea bottom. A popular part of the *Exogyra* exhibit is showing the weights of the

large oyster shells, from 1 1/2 pounds to 4 1/2 pounds.

Photo by Rebecca Vallarian



There are two tables where visitors can touch and handle various rocks and minerals.....Alabama garnets in matrix, a chunk of rose quartz, fossil coral from Bear Creek, and more. We also have the display of "Minerals in Every Day Use" and Nancy's collection of Mississippi River Agates, Banded Agates, and Chert Fossils. The exhibit has been well received, with many people saying, "I have one of those, but I did not know the history behind it!"

Photo by Rebecca Vallarian

Upcoming NMGMS Event: November 9, 2019 Soldering Workshop

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Try your hand at making some soldered stack rings. Workshop will be upstairs in the conference room at the Link Centre, **Saturday, November 9, 2019 from 10am to 4pm**. We will work with copper, brass, and some silver filled wire. Members will learn to use several different types of solder, as well as the technique of sweat soldering. Bring a brown bag lunch. Watch your emails for more details.

More Upcoming NMGMS Events: Club Workshops

Lapidary Workshop:

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Our NMGMS lapidary room #136 at the Link Center in Tupelo will be open on the following **Saturdays: November 2nd, November 9th, November 23rd, and December 7, 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 two 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. Jim Roberts and/or Paul Gunther will be on hand to help with the saws and to get members certified to use the equipment. The room is small, so workshop is limited to 6-8 members at any one time.

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.

Meeting Program Review: Polishing Stones with a Rock Tumbler

Photo by Krista Williamson



Mike Schuch's September NMGMS meeting program on polishing rocks with a rotary tumbler was so interesting and informative, that Alison Schuchs has posted the video of his presentation on our NMGMS Facebook page. Very good one; so check it out, if you missed it in person. I'm sorry I wasn't there! Nancy Roberts

Photos by Krista Williamson and Alison Schuchs



Island Summer Workshops by Nancy Roberts

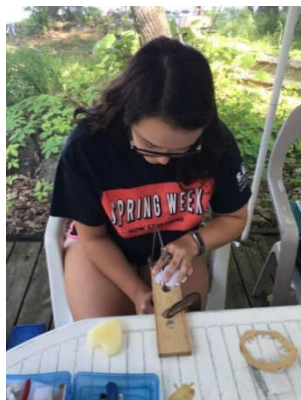
Even though I spend my summer vacation on an island, I still manage to bring some of my jewelry making supplies. I like to stay in practice, so to speak, and get together with a few of my island neighbors for “mini” afternoon workshops. This gives me a chance to try out some new ideas or techniques and iron out any “wrinkles” that may come up. Having a group to work with provides instant feedback and a sharing of ideas or ways to do something that might be easier or better. I love how everyone has their own unique creative approach, and no two projects come out exactly alike. There are quite a few people who summer out here on Butler Island, and the word is getting around that there is a jewelry workshop on the south end!



Some of the techniques we played with this summer were embossing copper sheet with a Sissix Big Shot embossing machine, then applying color to the metal with alcohol inks or Vintaj patinas. We used a soldering iron to apply lead free silver solder from the hardware store to copper, then stamped a design into the hot solder with rubber stamps, so cool! If you didn't like how the design turned out, you could just remelt the solder and try again! We also tried this technique with a small torch, but the solder is more “gloppy”, and you end up with too much on the piece. This can be a neat design element however.



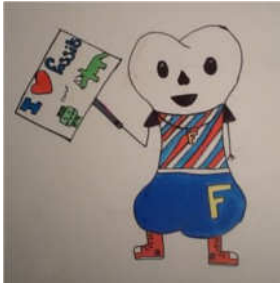
We tried out Kim St. Jean's little water casting technique where you ball the end of sterling silver wire and let the melted ball drop off into a can of water. This makes neat little silver “cups”, or sometimes other “organic” shapes. Really fun to do! Not sure yet what I'll do with those cute little pieces, but stack rings or earrings are a possibility. Since we were into melting wire, I had my little group ball the ends of copper wires to make links for a bracelet, and we soldered a few together to make rings.



Several of us did a little enameling, and a couple of my neighbors tried out the jeweler's saw and made tab-set pendants. I always have to do a beading project or two; I love working with all kinds of seed beads. I find beading to be very relaxing. I just have to be sure I have my extra strength reading glasses on! All in all, it was a productive summer; wish you could have been there!

All photos by Nancy Roberts





Mascot by Remy Collins

NMGMS Junior Members

Rockheads

October 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' September 21, 2019 Meeting: Prospecting for Gold!

Photo by Beth Thornton



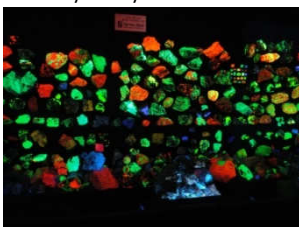
In September we finished up the Gold Panning & Prospecting badge work. We began with a talk about gold and its uses. We also covered some of the history of gold mining. Then we went metal detecting around the library. We didn't find any gold but we did find 10 cents and lots of metal trash. We had 6 members in attendance. Submitted by Beth Thornton

Photos by Beth Thornton



Next Rockhead Meeting: November 16, 2019

Photo by Nancy Roberts



At the November 16th meeting, the Rockheads will start working on the Fluorescent Minerals badge. Be sure to bring a few rocks that you would like to test for fluorescence, and let's see what "glows" in the dark!

Attention Rockheads!



We are two thirds of the way thru our 2019 activities; will NMGMS have any Rockheads who have earned the "NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Award"? Hope so! 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.

Editor's Note: I like to have junior articles to submit to the SFMS Bulletin Competition, and we usually have NMGMS juniors who place. Yeah! So come on all junior NMGMS members and write up a short article or review for the newsletter. You could be our next winner!

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. News:



The second annual SFMS Rockhound Roundup will be held March 6-8, 2020 at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park in Live Oak, FL. Vendor setup will be on March 5th. If you are interested in participating as a tailgater/vendor or helping with the planning, preparation, and setup, please contact: Jerri Heer, SFMS Secretary jheerx6@aol.com 419-344-9999

For the 2020 SFMS Annual Meeting, the Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society has agreed to host both the SFMS and AFMS Annual Meetings. More details to follow in coming months.

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:



In the September 2019 issue of the AFMS newsletter, Volume 72, Number 6, Jim Brace-Thompson mentions that he is planning to issue a 5th edition of the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Manual. Jim is requesting information, ideas, and suggestions on new online resources that can be included in the revised manual. Since NMGMS uses this manual and participates in the FRA badge program, those adult members who have led the Rockheads' meetings may have some valuable input that we could send to be included in the manual. He is looking for YouTube videos, websites, or other multimedia connections that are freely available and appropriate for our junior members, especially those that make for interesting programs for the kids. If you know of any, please submit them. Nancy Roberts

Link to the FRA badge program's manual: http://www.amfed.org/fra/AFMS_FRA_Badge_Manual_Revised_2016.pdf

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.

The IRS and Member Sales at Club Shows –

“The Inurement Clause Clarified” by Linda Nelson, CPA – S.C.R.I.B.E. Secretary/Treasurer

One of the most often misunderstood questions among rock and mineral societies is whether or not a club can allow its members to sell items at its show, meetings, or other events. Those voicing this concern normally do so from a belief that this will jeopardize the club's non-profit status with the IRS. The statutory prohibition against inurement of net earnings first appeared in 1894, and current IRS regulations regarding this are continually being updated and standards created by court decisions. What were once narrowly defined definitions have been expanded and adapted to meet today's needs. These are questions that I hear most often:

1. Can a member of a club or society that is a tax-exempt non-profit organization under the IRS 501(c)(3) rules sell items at an event sponsored by that organization? What about at a club's annual show? Can the individual member profit from selling surplus items at a special “boutique” event? The short answers are yes, they can sell at society events without violating IRS rules.

2. If they do so, is the society in risk of losing its tax-exempt status? The answer is No. Allowing members to sell and profit from an event sponsored by the organization that is, in some way, aligned to the stated interests of the organization will not violate IRS regulations.

There has been some misunderstanding about what a tax-exempt non-profit entity, such as a rock and mineral club, can and cannot do with regard to its members profiting from the club's activities. Once we have the basic idea of what sort of activities constitute inurement, the answers are easy for all of us to understand and accept. The discussion revolves around the Inurement Clause of the IRS Regulations which states that an “organization must not be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests, such as the creator or the creator's family, shareholders of the organization, other designated individuals”, and that “No part of the net earnings of a section 501(c)(3) organization may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.” When we look at our clubs we can apply this rule to our operations.

Rock and mineral clubs are not organized to “tend to the private interests of the creator”. The IRS regulations state that “An individual is not entitled to unjustly enrich himself at the organization's expense”. To understand how this is applied, consider one example of an action in Court regarding the Wendy L. Parker Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc. (1986) – a foundation formed to aid coma victims, including a family member of the founders. The IRS found that a disproportionate amount (30%) of the organization's net income was being used to aid the family's coma victim. The Court found that the family's coma victim was a substantial beneficiary of the foundation's funds. It also noted that such distributions relieved the family of the economic burden of providing medical and rehabilitation care for their family member and, therefore, constituted inurement to the benefit of private individuals and was not entitled to recognition of exemption. Activities of rock and mineral clubs that permit their members to sell their surplus rocks and other creations at a club show or boutique sale involve little, if any, part of the net assets of the organization. Any revenue comes to the vendor/member from those who choose to purchase materials from the member – it does not involve the use of a club's net revenues in any way! Just the opposite is the case when a club charges a small fee for a booth or table at a show.

The IRS further clarifies that “Benefits directed to an individual as a member of a charitable class do not constitute unjust enrichment.” What this means is that the amount of private benefit that will be permitted depends on the magnitude of the private benefit in relation to the public benefit derived from the organization's activities and whether the private benefit will help to effectuate the organization's exempt purpose. The justification for allowing members to conduct sales under the umbrella of the club is easy to determine. Among the many reasons, certainly, are that members selling specimens and crafted items to the public provide increased public awareness and interest in earth science. Another could be that such activity will increase the member's interest in furthering his participation in the club and in the earth sciences.

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“The Inurement Clause Clarified” by Linda Nelson, continued...

What about when a club uses its net profits to rent a building and pays the expenses for holding a show where a member is one of the group of vendors selling in the building? Is this allowed under IRS regulations? Yes. Take the example of *Alive Fellowship of Harmonious Living vs the IRS Commissioner*, referred to by the IRS as G.C.M. 38827 (1982). In this case a portion of the church’s income was given to needy church members in the form of food and lodging, valued from \$1,500 to \$7,500. The court found that the benefits received by the Fellowship's members could be viewed as quantitatively incidental. The organization had a conceded religious purpose, so the public benefit from its activities outweighed any individual benefit to members.

Does this mean that a club can use its profits to lavishly provide for its members? Not at all! Even a small amount of private inurement is fatal to exemption. In the case of *the Spokane Motorcycle Club v. U.S.*, 222 F. Supp. 151 (E.D. Wash. 1963), the entity’s net profits were found to inure to private individuals. Refreshments, goods, and services amounting to \$825 (representing some 8% of gross revenues) were furnished to members which did not benefit their stated non-profit purpose. More examples can be found in this IRS publication: www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/eotopic90.pdf

In summary, the IRS regulations state that private benefit must be substantial in order to jeopardize exempt status. A rock and mineral club may allow its members to sell at its annual show or at any boutique or other sale sponsored by the club without jeopardizing its tax-exempt status. I welcome your comments or questions concerning this or any other tax question pertaining to your club or society. You can contact me at lnelsn@verizon.net.

Reprinted from: S.C.R.I.B.E. - Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors - Volume 43 No. 2 March/April 2019

Grab Bags: We sold out and need more!

At the April 13th Fossil Road Show and Geology Fest, we sold every grab bag that we had there. We still have plenty of rocks and fossils to fill more, but we need members to volunteer to put together more of the cloth bags. You still have time to work on making more bags before our next event, and hopefully we’ll have a bunch ready to fill when we come back together again in the fall. The construction is not difficult, so if you can sew, please take a look at this cloth bag.



Instructions: Cut an 8x15 inch piece of fabric. Notice how it's sewn; You'll sew the casing for the draw string first and then do the side and bottom seams. Make seams half an inch, so the finished bag is approximately 7x7 inches. Experiment, they don't all have to be exactly the same size or configuration, just colorful and enticing! I sew a ¾ inch turn for the yarn first (with the yarn already in place). Fold in half, then sew the bottom & up the one side, stopping before the yarn tube. Good luck and thanks!

See Marion’s article in *The Nugget*, February 10, 2016, Vol. 15, Issue 9, for step by step photos!

Submitted by Nancy Roberts

Photo by Floy Hawkins

Editor’s Note: If you have any excess rock or mineral specimens that you would like to donate for the club grab bags, please bring them to one of our meetings. Thank you! We could use some fresh material.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:



NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: September 21, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Sophie, Amelia, Sydney, Julia, and Levi.

Introduce guests and new members...

Motion to approve the May 18, 2019 meeting minutes as printed in the June 2019 Nugget was made and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of **September 21, 2019** was given by **Rachael Hill**

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be the Dixie Mineral Council field trip hosted by MAGS on **October 12, 2019**. It will be to a Memphis Stone and Gravel facility in Senatobia, MS. This is a fun trip for all ages. You can find chert fossils, agates, petrified wood, jaspers, quartz, etc. MAGS will provide lunch. Please let Kim Hill or WC McDaniel know if you plan to attend; MAGS needs a head count.

(See email for details).

Publicity: (John Byzet) **Pass the word around about our "Rocktober Fest" picnic coming up on Oct. 26th.**

Membership: (Diana Watson) If you would like a copy of the club's membership roster, see Diana Watson. We have 138 members to date. **Anyone need a new member packet or a patch?**

Hospitality: **Our October meeting will be the annual picnic/rock swap on Saturday October 26th.** Members are asked to bring a salad, fruit, or dessert for the October picnic; something to go with hotdogs. Our hospitality committee would appreciate donations of plates, cups, napkins, and plastic ware for the refreshment table. Monetary donations are welcome.

Website: (Paul Gunther) Our website domain has been renewed. Check us out at www.nmgms.org

Newsletter: (Robert Langford) Robert Langford is our new NMGMS newsletter editor. 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:** rlangford2525@yahoo.com
Also, please submit any photos that you take at our events and meetings.

Youth Members: (Beth Thornton) The Rockheads' FRA Badges need to be completed by the November meeting, so we can get them before the Dec. awards.

Historian: (Rebecca Vallarian) **If you have any 2018 or 2019 club memorabilia please give it to Rebecca.**

Geology Fest and Fossil Road Show: (Nancy Roberts, John Byzet, and Rebecca Vallarian) George Phillips is available for the Fossil Road Show and Geology Fest to be held on April 18, 2020. This date has been confirmed with the ODCM. Display setup to be April 2nd & 3rd, 2020 with take down on May 14th & 15th, 2020.

Safety & Lapidary Workshop Chairman: (Mike Schuchs) Paul Gunther will help with the lapidary workroom. **The Genie machine is "out of order"; it needs a new motor. We have purchased some new sanding belts for the other two machines.** If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions about the room or equipment, see Paul Gunther. Need some safety articles for the newsletter.

Minutes continued on page 11.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes cont'd:

NMGMS Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Krista Williamson

Date: September 21, 2019

Old Business:

1. **Reminder:** We have the large pavilion at Ballard Park reserved for our annual picnic and rock swap on **Saturday October 26, 2019 from 1 to 4p.m.** (Set up to begin at 12:00p.m.) We will be having a club auction, as well as other donated items for sale, (donated items are most welcome!) NMGMS will have hot dogs, kielbasa, chips, and drinks. **Members are asked to bring a salad, fruit, or dessert, and folding chairs. Members are encouraged to set up to buy, sell, or trade!**

2. The SFMS annual convention meeting will be October 11- 13th in Huntsville, AL in conjunction with the Huntsville club's rock and gem show. Paul Gunther and Nancy Roberts will be representing NMGMS at this meeting.

There was no other old business.

New Business:

1. The rent on our Link Centre lapidary room has been paid thru January 2020.

2. NMGMS will have a jewelry sales booth at the **Robins St. Art Stroll on Saturday, October 26th** in Tupelo. The event is from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We have a 10ft space reserved, and the rental fee was only \$10, so we hope to be able to make some sales and earn a little towards our lapidary workshop. If you have any handcrafted items that you would like to donate for this event, or are willing to help man the booth, contact Nikki Kenney. Jane Coryell has volunteered to help Nikki at this event.

3. The November NMGMS meeting will be on Saturday, November 16, 2019 from 1 to 3pm at the Tupelo library. Program will be "Fluorescent Rocks and Minerals", by NMGMS members Mike Schuchs and Nancy Roberts. Bring a rock or two to see if it fluoresces!

4. It is time to start thinking about our club's 2020 officers. We will be taking nominations at the November meeting. We have been asking officers to serve a two year term. So be thinking about who you would like to have leading your organization next year. All present and previous officers are automatically on the nominating committee. If you would like to serve as an officer or on any of the committees, we'd love to have you! Don't be afraid to step up to the plate, even if you are new. NMGMS needs your support; remember all of our members are volunteers!

There was no other new business. Motion was made to Adjourn.....



Can you spot the iron nodules in this Butler Island beach photo?

Psst...there are at least 40 of them!

See Nancy if you would like one.

Photo by Nancy Roberts

NMGMS 2019 Officers:**President:**

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

Librarian:

Nikki Kenney
PO Box 808
Tupelo, MS 38802
662-844-6142
nmgms@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

Field Trip Chair:

Mike Schuchs
1148 Lake Dr.
Fulton, MS 38843
662-862-3160
mike.schuchs@gmail.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.