The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Paul Gunther admiring his Christmas gift at the NMGMS December party!

Notes from the President's Desk….January 2020

Firstly, I would like to thank Nancy Roberts for all of her hard work that she put into leading our club. It really helps to make this club successful year after year. Our last year was full of exciting workshops, field trips, and great presentations. I hope I am able to keep that same momentum going forward in 2020.

I know we have several things in the works for the coming year, so be sure to watch the calendar or read the coming newsletters. We are still hoping to have Kim St. Jean teach a workshop. Some of the upcoming field trips are to Alabama for fossils and another to Missouri for druzy quartz. We will also plan to have the lapidary room open for those interested. With that said, is there a day other than Saturday that more people would be interested in going?

We are still working on improving the lapidary room this year. We hope to find a way for you to get a good polish on cabochons by adding a wider variety of grits for you to use. I hope that more people will make use of this resource. We have sharpened the blade on our 10" slab saw, and it is now functioning well again. We hope to find a way to get our Diamond Pacific Genie cab machine running again.

With the new year, I would like to hear if anyone has anything they would like to find out more about, or learn to do? Do you have an interest that is related to a mineralogical society that you feel isn't getting the attention it might deserve? Let us know, so we can see if we might be able to do something about it. Perhaps we can find a speaker to cover a topic at a meeting, or a workshop could be put together. We are interested in your ideas to help make the club more engaging to you! If you don't want to bring it up in a meeting, you can email Nancy or me. We promise that we will look into what can possibly be done.

Finally, I would like to say goodbye to Mike and Alison Schuchs. They have always been willing to help out with the club activities when needed. Mike has in the past been our field trip and safety chairperson. He has also taken on the role of Vice President for our club, as well as having given presentations on a number of occasions over the years. They will be moving to Corpus Christi, Texas. We wish them the best and hope they come back and visit! Paul Gunther

Photo from Alison's FB page, used with permission.

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS January 11, 2020 Meeting

The NMGMS **January 11, 2020** meeting will be held at the Lee County Library from 1 to 3p.m. Our guest speaker, Dr. Jennifer Gifford from the University of Mississippi, will present "Glaciers and the Ice Ages". Refreshments are "pot luck", so members are asked to bring something. There will be a board meeting at 12:30pm.

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

January 18, 2020: NMGMS Lapidary Workshop Room at the Link Centre will be open at 10am. (See page 6 for details)

February 1, 2020: NMGMS field trip to Alabama for Mississippian fossils. (See page 3 for details.)

February 8, 2020: NMGMS February meeting from 1-3pm at the Tupelo Library. Program: Making a Beaded Memory Wire Bracelet. **Note! The February meeting date is changed due to the library being closed on the third weekend of the month.

February 15, 2020: NMGMS soft soldering workshop; location to be determined. (Watch emails for the notice.)

February 22 &23, 2020: Kim St. Jean metalsmithing classes, upstairs conference room at the Link Centre. (Watch emails for the notice.)

February 29, 2020: DMC field trip, members only! Be sure your membership is up to date. (See emails for further details).

March 7 & 8, 2020: NMGMS spring break field trip to Missouri for drusy quartz and Missouri Lace Agate.

March 14, 2020: NMGMS March meeting from 1-3pm at the Tupelo Library, program: Happy birthday NMGMS!

April 4, 2020: NMGMS April meeting from 1-3pm at the Tupelo Library. Program: Filling grab bags; bring your extra rocks!

April 18, 2020: NMGMS/ODCM Fossil Road Show and Geology Fest from 10am to 3pm at the Oren Dunn City Museum in Tupelo.

Show Dates:

February 22-23, 2020
Jackson Mississippi, 60th Gem Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show, Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society
Saturday, February 22 from 9 am to 6 pm, Sunday, February 23 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 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2020
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS), SFMS Rockhound Round-Up - 2nd Annual
Spirit of Suwannee Music Park, 3076 95th Drive, Live Oak, FL 32060, (386) 364-1683
www.musicliveshere.com, Old Fashion Rock Swap, Quarterly SFMS Meeting
All buying is open to the general public.

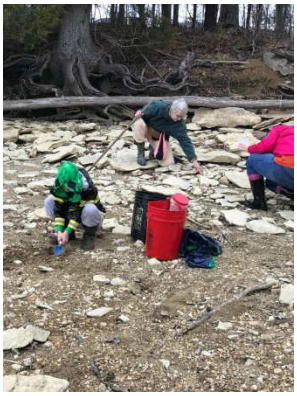
March 7, 2020
MMNS Fossil Road Show Saturday, March 7, 2020, 10am to 3pm.
Location: Mississippi Museum of Natural Science 2148 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202
Admission: $6.00 for adults, $4.00 for children ages 3 and up, children under 3 are FREE.
Museum Members are FREE. For more information, call: 601-576-6000, or visit
http://mmnsfoundation.com/eventscalendar/

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

NMGMS Field Trip: February 1, 2020 Trip to Alabama

Photo of *Zeacrinites wortheni* by Nancy Roberts

The first NMGMS field trip for 2020 will be on **Saturday, February 1st** 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.

Photo by Hope Spencer

If you plan to attend, contact Nancy Roberts, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Club News:

The following officers for 2020 were elected by the membership at the December 14, 2019 meeting: President, Paul Gunther; Vice President, Nancy Roberts; Treasurer, Rachael Hill; and Secretary, Nikki Kenney.

NMGMS Members Take Note!

2020 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!

NMGMS Participates: Link Centre Holiday Market

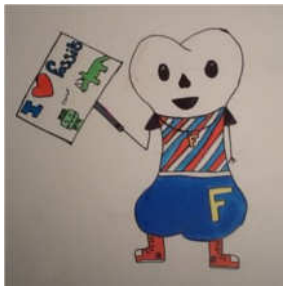
The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society participated in a Holiday Market at the Link Centre in Tupelo on Dec. 7, 2019. Club volunteers, Nikki Kenney and Jane Coryell set up a display and sold handcrafted jewelry items that were made and donated by fellow NMGMS members. There were more vendors this year than last year; some were fellow NMGMS members! Proceeds from the sales go to our lapidary workshops. Submitted by Nancy Roberts

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Meeting Program Review: NMGMS 2019 Christmas Party!

Photos by Nancy Roberts and Nikki Kenney

NMGMS members got into the Christmas spirit with a fun and exciting gift exchange. Many interesting surprises were unwrapped. "The Night before Christmas" ornament game was a rousing success; all players took home a very nice ornament for their tree. Great fun, wonderful food and a very joyful afternoon! Thank you to all members for your donations of toys and can goods. Hopefully we helped to spread a little Christmas cheer. Nancy Roberts



NMGMS Junior Members

Rockheads January 2020

Mascot by Remy Collins

www.amfed.org/fra/ fra_badge.htm

Rockhead Officers for 2020:

President, Sophie Gunther

Vice President, Sydney Thornton; Secretary, Amelia Thornton

Adult Youth Advisor for 2020:

Beth Thornton, bethunderwood78@hotmail.com

Photo by Nancy Roberts

At the December 14, 2019 meeting, our NMGMS junior member advisor, Beth Thornton, awarded 8 Rockheads with the FRA badges that they had earned over the course of the year. Several Rockheads also earned the FRA Rockhound patch. Congratulations on a job well done! Submitted by Nancy Roberts

Photos by Nancy Roberts

Also at the December meeting, 3 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, and Sophie. Kudos to all of the Rockheads for another great year! Submitted by Nancy Roberts

Next Rockhead Meeting: January 11, 2020

At the January 11, 2020 meeting, the Rockheads will start working on the FRA Maps badge. Do you know the difference between a map and a chart? Can you make a map to a field trip site or use a GPS to find your way? Come to the January meeting to learn all about maps!

http://www.amfed.org/fra/AFMS_FRA_Badge_Manual_Revised_2016.pdf check page 248 for maps.

Lapidary Workshop Review:

Photo by Nancy Roberts

On Saturday, December 7, 2019, the NMGMS lapidary workshop room had 4 club members busy at the equipment. Several of the slab saws were going, while Paul Gunther helped Nancy Roberts work up a cabochon from one of the Summerville, GA agates that Jim Roberts had previously slabbed.

Sophie Gunther dug into the club's supply of beads and made some beaded wire Christmas tree ornaments. Sophie even managed to trade one of her beaded creations for a tiny fabric cat that was made by one of the vendors at the Holiday Market downstairs. Jim Roberts tested the 10 inch slab saw whose blade he had sharpened. He and Paul ran several rocks through and it is cutting quite well now.

Submitted by Nancy Roberts

Photo by Jim Roberts

Photos by Jim and Nancy Roberts

Upcoming Lapidary Workshop:

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Our NMGMS lapidary room **#136** at the Link Centre in Tupelo will be open on **Saturday, January 18, 2020** 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 Paul Gunther will be on hand to help with the saws and to get members certified to use the equipment. Try your hand at making a cabochon with some of those rocks you have been collecting. You'll be amazed at the beautiful results!

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, latergator2003@yahoo.com, or paul.gunther@gmail.com , if you plan to attend. Junior members must be accompanied by a parent.

Note: the outside door stays locked on the weekends, so be sure to let Paul or Jim know if you plan to come.

Text or call, Paul: 662-808-7523C, Jim: 731-327-2085C.

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. News:

The 2020 Federation classes have been posted. Check website for Instructor and class information along with the registration form, sfmsworkshops.org

WILLIAM HOLLAND, June 7-13, 2020. Registrar Cindy Reed: 2020sfms.wh@gmail.com
Classes: Cabochons, Silverware Jewelry, Fly Tying, Silver 1, Seed Beading with Broken China, Silver 2, Loop-n-loop chain, Intarsia, Electro-etching, Wire, Flame Painting on metal, Hydraulic Press making your own die, Opals, Faceting, Casting.

WILDACRES, August 17-21, 2020. Registrar Claudia Erwin: registrarwildacres@gmail.com
Classes: Special Projects Adv. Silver, Wire, Southwest Jewelry, Silver 1, Seed Beading, Enamel, Bench Making, Colored Pencil, Cabochons.

WILDACRES, September 14-20, 2020.
Classes: Silver 1, Beginning Chain, Loop-n-loop chain, Metal Clay, Electro-etching, Gem ID 1, Southwest Jewelry, Casting.
Please register early to ensure a spot in the class of your choice, $50.00 Deposit required
Lisa Roberts, William Holland Director SFMS Week: antleycreations@yahoo.com

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:

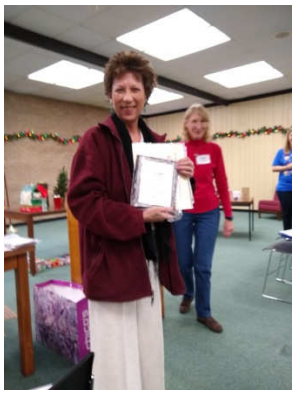
The Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society has agreed to host both the **AFMS** and the **SFMS** Annual Meetings for 2020. The date has been set for October 16-18, 2020 in Knoxville, TN; this is in conjunction with their annual rock and gem show.

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

NMGMS Members Take Federation Awards!

At the December 14, 2019 NMGMS meeting, several club members received Bulletin Competition awards for their submissions to our newsletter, *The Nugget.* I would like to thank everyone who submitting something for the newsletter last year. "Our" newsletter received a first place with the Southeast Federation and a second place with the American Federation for the 2018 issues. Your efforts count! Congratulations to Clarice Turner, Nikki Kenney, Paul Gunther, Kellie Atkinson, and our two junior members, Sophie Gunther and Walter Atkinson for their winning submissions. Submitted by Nancy Roberts

Photos by Nikki Kenney and Jane Coryell



NMGMS Meeting Minutes:

NMGMS Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Nikki Kenney
Date: December 14, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:

Junior Rockheads, Sydney, Amelia, Sophie, and Julia led the pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Introduce guests and new members…

Do I have a motion to approve the November 16, 2019 meeting minutes as printed in the December 2019 Nugget? Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance as of **12/14/2019** was given by Nikki Kenney.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be either the end of January or February 1, 2020, weather depending, to Lost Creek, Alabama for Mississippian fossils. (See email or Nugget for details)

Publicity: (John Byzet) **We will be setting up the "USA Rocks" display at the library early next January.** Hopefully this will generate some interest in our organization. We need more club brochures printed.

Membership: (Diana Watson) 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 Diana if you would like a copy of the 2019 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.

Hospitality: Monetary donations to help out with the refreshments are welcome.
Our hospitality committee would appreciate donations of plates, cups, napkins, and plastic ware for the refreshment table.

Website: (Paul Gunther) There is a link on the club's website where you can pay your dues with a PayPal account. Our account email is nmgms2001@gmail.com. Website is: www.nmgms.org

Newsletter: (Nancy Roberts) Until Robert Langford can get a new computer up and running, Nancy Roberts will continue on as 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: therockhoundlady@yahoo.com
Also, please submit any photos that you take at our events and meetings.
If you happened to miss an issue of our newsletter, previous issues of *The Nugget* are posted on the NMGMS website

Youth Members: (Beth Thornton) Are there any Rockheads who need vests made up for them?

Historian: (Rebecca Vallarian) **If you have any 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) If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions about the room or equipment, see Paul Gunther or Jim Roberts. Need some safety articles for the newsletter.

Minutes continued on page 9.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes cont'd:

NMGMS Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Nikki Kenney Date: December 14, 2019

Old Business:

1. The January 2020 meeting will be a week earlier, since the library is closed on MLK holiday weekend. Meeting is January 11, 2020 from 1-3pm at the Tupelo library. Dr. Jennifer Gifford will be our guest speaker, and she will be covering the Ice Ages.

2. Nominations for the 2020 NMGMS officers: President, Paul Gunther; Vice President, Nancy Roberts; Treasurer, Rachael Hill; Secretary, Nikki Kenney. Are there any other nominations? Do I have a motion to elect this slate of NMGMS officers for 2020? Slate of officers was passed.

Is there any old business? No old business.

New Business:

1. Our SFMS membership is due to be renewed before the end of January; dues are $1.50 per member based on our 2019 club roster. Our insurance renewal with the Federation will be due in March. The rent on the Link Center room will be due February 1, 2020.

2. The lapidary workshop room will be open on Saturday, January 4, 2020, so if you are interested, come by. The cab machines and slab saws will be available. 3 saws are available.

3. Present the FRA badges and awards to junior members. Present the member appreciation awards. Present Bulletin Competition awards.

Is there any other new business????

Need to have new brochures printed. Rebecca will be taking brochures for the library in Amory.

*****Reminder:** Anyone need a nametag? Please return the name tags to the basket before you leave.

Motion to Adjourn……. **Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned.**

NMGMS members displaying their "Ornament Game" winnings!

Photo by Beth Thornton

NMGMS 2019 Officers:

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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.