Volume 19 Issue 8 February 10, 2020

The Nugget

North Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Paul presiding over the January meeting

Notes From the President's Desk…February 2020

Boy, we have a busy month for our club this time. We are having two different classes this month. On February 22 & 23, Kim and Norm St. Jean are teaching a couple of classes, one being a Sonoran Sunrise pendant and the other is a water casting project. On February 15th we have a stamped silver solder workshop in West Point, and we had a field trip to Lost Creek, AL at the very start of the month.

I hope everyone's winter is going well. It was awfully warm for a couple weeks! I had to sort through some of my rocks in the garage to try and make some more space. I managed to even find time to make a cabochon while there. I hope everyone else found ways to enjoy our little spring in the middle of winter this month, despite all of the rain and storms we have had.

Photo of Agatized Florida Coral Cab by Paul Gunther

It is almost time to start to look forward to spring. We will have lots of activities to stay busy with as the weather starts to warm up. Between starting to prepare for the Oren Dunn Geology Fest and the Missouri field trip, and trying to learn how to lead our club, I am wishing there was more time to the day. I look forward to hopefully getting to spend a little more time in my garage making a few more cabochons from my stones.

I want to see our members get more involved this year. If you have an interest in any part of the club or think you might want a more active part in leading the club, please let us know. Anyone is welcome to attend the board meetings and listen or give input. If you find it interesting and want to be an officer or chairperson next year, we can help you learn what is involved or what responsibilities you would have. Then you could make an informed decision if this is something you could or would like to do! No one should feel like they can't take a more active part in our club. I wasn't a member too long before I became the secretary. I urge you to please think about this throughout the year.

Photo by Jim Roberts

Paul Gunther

Mark Your Calendar! NMGMS February 8, 2020 Meeting

The NMGMS **February 8, 2020** meeting will be held at the Lee County Library from 1 to 3p.m. Program: Making a Beaded Memory Wire Bracelet. Learn how to make a quick and fun bracelet that is trendy and easy to wear. Refreshments are "pot luck", so members are asked to bring something.

Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

February 15, 2020: NMGMS soft soldering workshop for the West Point Arts Council in West Point, MS (See page 4 for details).

February 15, 2020: NMGMS Lapidary Workshop Room at the Link Centre will be open at 9am. (See page 6 for details)

February 22 &23, 2020: Kim St. Jean metalsmithing classes, upstairs conference room at the Link Centre. (See page 4 for details.)

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. (See page 5 for details)

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

Meeting Program Review: NMGMS January 11, 2020 Meeting

"How Do We Know There Were Ice Ages?" By Nancy Roberts

Photo by Nancy Roberts

At our NMGMS January meeting, Dr. Jennifer Gifford gave an excellent presentation that answered the question, "How do we know there were Ice Ages?" Dr. Gifford talked about the many glacial signs, such as layers of sticky clay containing many boulders, huge glacial erratics found in the middle of "nowhere", scoured scratch marks left on the bedrock, and fossils of Artic plants and animals found well outside of their normal range. Scotland has glacial signs similar to those found in the Alps, thus indicating that it was once under glacial ice. She also explained that there is a lot of chemical evidence, such as gas bubbles of heavy oxygen that are trapped in polar ice. Core samples of polar ice show records of snowfall, as well as an increase or decrease of greenhouse gases and changes in the atmosphere. For example, a bigger ice cap means more heavy oxygen will be found in the sea water.

Dr. Gifford explained how the sun is like a "pacemaker". Ice Ages are related to Milankovitch Cycles. Our earth travels on an elliptical orbit around the sun; it is also tilted on its axis, so earth is closer or farther away from the sun at certain points. The planet also "wobbles" on its axis as it travels around the sun. When less sunlight reaches the northern latitudes, temperatures drop and more water freezes into ice, starting an ice age. When more sunlight reaches the northern latitudes, temperatures rise, ice sheets melt, and the ice age ends.

According to scientists, there have been 5 or 6 Ice Ages over the course of Earth's history. The Late Cenozoic Ice Age began about 34 million years ago, its latest phase being the Quaternary glaciation, in progress since about 2.58 million years ago. At the beginning of the Quaternary glaciation, the cold glacial periods, where temperatures were colder and glaciers advanced, occurred every 41,000 years. However, during the last 800,000 years, huge glacial sheets have appeared less frequently, about every 100,000 years.

During the last glacial period, sea level was much lower, and there was a land bridge between Russia and Alaska; also between Britain and mainland Europe. These land exposures allowed animals and humans to traverse from one area to another. Animals such as woolly mammoths, woolly rhinos, reindeer, musk ox, horses, lions, and spotted hyenas roamed the land.

Photo, Internet Image: © Mauricio Anton

The last glacial period peaked about 20,000 years ago. Dr. Gifford mentioned that the warm periods, or interglacials, are much shorter than the glacial periods. We are presently in an interglacial (thaw) that began about 11,000 years ago. Dr. Gifford also talked about the effects that the melting waters had on the topography. Huge volumes of water flooded Europe and North America. Sea levels rose about 120 meters, and Britain became an island. Evidence of this melt can be seen in the Channel Scablands of eastern Washington State. Many Pleistocene fossils can be found in the North Sea. Also, the ground is still slowly rising since the weight of all of that ice is now gone!

Upcoming NMGMS Workshops: Stamping Soft Solder

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, a Lead-free Silver Solder on Copper Workshop!

If you would like to learn how to use a soldering iron and lead free soft solder to create unique designs onto copper metal for making jewelry pieces, this is the class for you. This is a fun and easy process; the results are very exciting and make unique components to include in your jewelry creations. In this workshop, you will be using a soldering iron and lead-free silver solder just like those used in stained glass work. There is no flame involved, just heat. You will be using rubber stamps to create the designs in the molten solder. We will also be doing some cutting, filing, texturing, and patina to make the finished pieces. You will finish with a pair of earrings and a pendant or bracelet. You will also learn to make your own ear wires. The class is limited to 12 students, so sign up early. The $35 class fee includes all materials plus the use of the soldering irons and other tools. This is really a fun project and the results will amaze you!

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Please bring a brown bag lunch. There is a refrigerator and microwave oven available.

When: **Saturday, February 15, 2020**

Where: Louise Campbell Center for the Arts, 235 Commerce St., West Point, MS

Time: **10 to 4 Class fee**: **$35**

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

Again, we are asking that if you plan to come, please mail a check for $35 to:

WP/CC Arts Council

P.O. Box 105

West Point, MS 39773 so that we receive it before Friday, February 14, 2020

Kim St. Jean Mixed Metals Workshops

Photo by Kim St. Jean

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is very excited to announce another Kim St. Jean, Mixed Metals class to be held upstairs at the Link Center, 1800 West Main Street, Tupelo on Saturday**, February 22, 2020 from 10a.m. to 5p.m.** The project that Kim will be teaching for this class is called “Sonoran Sunrise”. It involves some pine straw casting, sawing, and soldering. Cost for the full day class is **$125** and the silver for casting is $.75 a gram. Kim usually uses about 8-10 grams when casting. Any other silver that people wish to add to their piece is also extra.

Photo by Kim St. Jean

The Sunday, **February 23, 2020** class project is a fun water casting technique using sterling silver wire and making a pair of earrings with the "bubbles" or cups that form. The Sunday class is from **10am to 2pm** and the cost is **$75** which includes all silver used for the project. Kim provides all tools and materials for her classes. You can choose to take one class, or the other, or both! Let me know if you are interested in either or both of these classes, and I will reserve your seat.

Nancy Roberts, therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Upcoming NMGMS Field Trip: Spring Break Trip to Missouri

Photo by Nancy Roberts

For our March 7-8th spring break field trip, we will be collecting agate rocks/boulders/chips covered in drusy quartz in the Mark Twain National Forest area near Potosi, MO.
Mountain Home, AR club (OESC) member Sharon Waddell will be our field guide. **We will rendezvous at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 7th, at the Missouri Mines State Historic Site Lead Mine and Museum in Park Hills.** https://mostateparks.com/park/missouri-mines-state-historic-site
The collecting site is 30-45 minutes away. Sharon will be our guide for Sunday also. Saturday's fee is $20 per person 12 and up. Collecting Sunday will be in Palmer, MO and is free. The Saturday site may be at an industrial park area and will be a fresh exposure, or it may be on farm property in a creek, if the industrial site isn't open. We will collect for about 4 hours. There is a chance that we will find barite also.

Equipment for the dig: gloves, shovels, pry bars, small rake, hammer and chisel, buckets and possibly a small cart, wagon, wheel barrow or a sled or other flat bottomed device that can be pulled with a rope for hauling out larger pieces! Many of the bigger and more interesting pieces may be partially buried, so expect to do some digging. This is an old strip mine area. The smaller pieces, especially those that can be used for jewelry, are scattered all over the ground and around the trees. Let's hope for a sunny day, because when the drusy sparkles it's easy to spot and collect!! BTW, we'll be out in the woods and there are no facilities, so pack a lunch, drinks, snacks, and some TP!!

There are accommodations in Bonne Terre and Farmington, MO. The Super 8 and Quality Inn appear to have the best prices. There are several campgrounds in the area also. (I have booked my reservation at the Quality Inn in Farmington)

Since it is spring break, you may want to check out some of the other area attractions. Area attractions: Park Hills Lead Mine and Museum, Bonne Terre Mines, The Space Museum, Amalgam Gallery of Arts, Elephant Rocks State Park, Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park, St. Francois State Park, and historic Ste. Genevieve on the Miss. River, the oldest town in MO.

Directions: From Memphis take I-40 West towards Little Rock, and then take I-55 North towards Blytheville AR/Missouri. Continue north on I-55 to the MO-32 West exit number 150, then go left towards Farmington. Go straight onto US-67 North, to Park Hills. Allow approximately 6 hours driving time

For any further information, or if you have any questions, please contact me, Nancy at therockhoundlady@yahoo.com

Photos by Nancy Roberts

Lapidary Workshop:

Photo by Jim Roberts

Our NMGMS lapidary room **#136** at the Link Center in Tupelo will be open on **Saturday, February 15, 2020** at **9a.m.** for those members interested. Please email paul.gunther@gmail.com, or latergator2003@yahoo.com, if you plan to attend.

Note: **the outside door stays locked on the weekends. Be sure to let Paul or Jim know if you are coming, so they can meet you at the door. Text or call, Paul: 662-808-7523C, Jim: 731-327-2085C**

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 club has lots of other equipment besides the slab saws and cab machines, so if you would like to do something with beading or working with wire, please come. Bring your own project to work on, or just come and learn a new skill. If there is something that you are specifically interested in, let Paul, Jim, or Nancy know ahead of time, and we'll try to accommodate you, if we can.

Lapidary fee: $1 per cut with the 12 or 10 inch saws, $2 an hour on the cab machine and trim saw, and donations for consumables. Bring a brown bag lunch. Junior members must be accompanied by a parent.

Preparing for Workshops: "Practice, Practice, and More Practice!"

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Whenever NMGMS is scheduled to teach a workshop, those members who will be instructors for the project get together at our club's lapidary room and practice the techniques involved. This helps us to be sure that those who attend the workshop get as much help and "expert" guidance as possible. We also work through the project to ensure that everyone will go home with a finished piece. At these "mini" sessions, members help to put together the materials kits needed for the workshop and also check to be sure we have all of the necessary tools.

NMGMS members are always looking to expand their skills, so if you have a skill or technique that you would like to share or just learn more about, please come and join us. If you have a day or time that works best for you, let us know.

The club has lots of other equipment besides the slab saws and cab machines. When the room is open, if rocks are not quite your thing and you would like to do something with beading, working with wire, or metalwork, please come. Bring your own project to work on, or just come and learn a new skill. If there is something that you are specifically interested in, let us know ahead of time, and we'll try to accommodate you, if we can. We have some very talented NMGMS members, but we are not experts. (At least I know I'm not!). We all learn from each other. Nancy Roberts

Photos by Nancy Roberts

NMGMS Field Trip: February 1, 2020 Trip to Alabama

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Several NMGMS members, plus guest, Dr. Julie Retrum from the University of Mississippi, braved the chilly morning on Saturday, February 1, 2020 to enjoy a day of fossil hunting. We were after Mississippian age fossils like corals, blastoids, and crinoids. The recent rains had a lot of the rocks covered in mud, but we still managed to find some nice "keepers". We had to go slow and watch our step, since the mud made for some slippery going as we clambered along the ledges.

After a warm up and nice lunch break back at the gas station where we meet that morning, we all caravanned to another collecting site. This time, the going was a bit easier, and the day had warmed up considerably. The most prevalent fossil of the day was the bryozoan *Archimedes.* The fine sediments washed up by the high water made the blastoids a little hard to spot at first, but after finding a few, they began to "jump" out at us!

Here's what club member Marilyn Cheeseman had to say: I just had to tell you how much fun I had on Saturday! I was in heaven digging in the sandy dirt. I apologize for being a slow poke, but I was overwhelmed by the number of fossils around me. I didn't want to miss one. Thank you for sharing your expertise. The box of fossils you showed us before the hunt was particularly helpful. I'm looking forward to future rockhounding trips with the group. Thank you, thank you.

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Submitted by Nancy Roberts

Club News:

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.

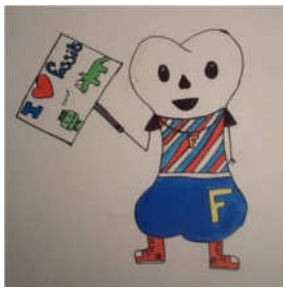
You can also pay your dues with PayPal from our club website, or to nmgms2001@gmail.com. The application form is located on the website: www.nmgms.org

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:

Photo by Cheryle Langford

On January 6, 2020, Nancy Roberts and Rebecca Vallarian set up the "Rock Collecting Across the USA/ 50 Rocks from 50 States" display at the Lee County Library in Tupelo. The library provided us with 2 display cases for this exhibit. It is on the main level near the checkout/Information desk. If you haven't had a chance to see it, please do so soon. We expect to take it down at the end of February. Thank you to all of the club members who loaned specimens for this display. Nancy Roberts



Mascot by Remy Collins

NMGMS Junior Members

Rockheads February 2020

www.amfed.org/fra/ fra_badge.htm

Rockhead Officers for 2020:

President, Sophie Gunther

Vice President, Sydney Thornton

Secretary, Amelia Thornton

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Adult Youth Advisor for 2020:

Beth Thornton, bethunderwood78@hotmail.com

Photo by Jim Roberts

At the January 11, 2020 Rockheads meeting, Jim Roberts filled in for Beth Thornton. Due to the inclement weather, only one Rockhead, Sophie was in attendance. She worked on the FRA maps badge.

Attention Rockheads!

Now is the time to work toward earning the "NMGMS Junior Rockhound of the Year Award". You'll have fun doing it, gain a lot of experience, and feel a sense of accomplishment. You will also 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!

Photos by Jim Roberts

I would like to encourage all of our NMGMS junior members to attend a lapidary workshop. If cutting stones or making cabochons are not your interest, we have lots of other projects you can work on. We have tools, beads, wire, sheet metal, resin, polymer clay, books, magazines, etc. available. Let us know what you would like to learn! Nancy Roberts

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. News:

The next SFMS Rockhound Roundup will be held at the Spirit of Suwannee Music Park, Live Oak, FL (Spirit of Suwannee Music Park, 3076 95th Drive, Live Oak, FL 32060,(386) 364-1683, www.musicliveshere.com) The dates are March 6-8, 2020. The first quarterly SFMS meeting will be held Saturday night, March 7th at the park. There will be a SFMS social gathering on Friday night, March 6th.

SFMS Executive Meeting Information: March 6-8, 2020; Suwannee River Music Park, 3076 95th Drive, Live Oak, FL 32060

Schedule of events:

Friday, March 6: 8 - 10 am - Rockhound Roundup Setup; 10 am – 5 pm Rockhound Roundup; 7 PM – SFMS Social – Spirit Lodge, in the Park Informal "meet and greet" social.

Saturday, March 7: 8 - 10 am – Rockhound Roundup Setup, 10:00 am – 5 pm Rockhound Roundup, 5:30 pm – Registration and check-in for Executive meeting Spirit Lodge, 6:00 pm – Executive Meeting.

Sunday, March 8: 8 - 10 am - Rockhound Roundup Setup, 10 am – 5 pm Rockhound Roundup.

The Park has cabins, RV sites, and Camping sites. If you want to stay there, call Carol Walker at (386)365-0700 for reservations, leave a message if necessary. Identify yourself as with the SFMS Roundup. You may also reserve online at www.musicliveshere.com or by calling the main line (386)364-1683. There are also hotels in the area, listed on the "Directions" page of the Park website. We have secured a block of rooms at the Days Inn. The block name is SFMS. Call 386-752-9350. Rates are $80 on Thursday night, $75 per night for Friday and Saturday nights (plus tax!) Hotel address is 3430 N US Hwy 441, Lake City, FL 32056.

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/

The February AFMS newsletter is available on the AFMS website: http://www.amfed.org/news/n2020_02.pdf

Both the February and March AFMS newsletters stressed learning about how to properly set up a display case, whether you plan to be competitive or not. President Dave Wayment suggested taking a class from the federation on how to judge a display. Even if you will never be a judge, you will learn how to display and how to interpret the rules. He also mentions that you will learn a lot and make many new friends. Dave says that displays are a great way to show people what your club has to offer and he encourages all members to consider doing a display to exhibit their skills and crafts. For further information contact the Uniform Rules Committee, either for the AFMS or your local region. These are the people who can explain the rules to you and help you understand how to get a display case ready for showing.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:

NMGMS January 11, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Nikki Kenney

1. Paul suggested creating an email account for NMGMS so that the agenda and minutes can be shared by all of the board members. Possible email address, info@NMGMS.org

2. December expenses: (due to Nancy) Christmas Party ham: $23.30; Junior Rockhound of the Year awards: $16.48; Memory wire for the February program: $21.31; Solder for West Point workshop: $31.95. Total: $93.04 Does anyone else have receipts to turn in?

3. P.O. Box fee may be due in March.

4. Nikki and Rachael have the list of any monies that came in since our Nov. 16th meeting.

5. We need to order pads or belts for the lapidary room.

6. The change of officers was emailed to Jeremy Martin at the Secretary of State's office.

7. Paul Gunther will be added to the brochure as President, also to the PayPal and bank accounts.

8. Our NMGMS IRS Form 990N is filed online and due before May 15, 2020. Nancy has in the past done it around the middle of March.

9. Library policy is on file at the Link Center.

10. Nancy will email former vendors at Geology Fest to see if they want to participate this year.
Suggested ideas for displays for that event were: 3 rock types, minerals and their uses, Geologic timeline that the Rockhounds made, if we can find it. Include jewelry and practical items pertaining to rocks and minerals being displayed with those items.

11. Grab bags need to be made for Geology Day, since they are a big seller.

Members in attendance: Paul Gunther, Nikki Kenney, Robert Langford, Rachael Hill, and Nancy Roberts. Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes:

NMGMS Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Nikki Kenney **Date: January 11, 2020**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by Sophie Introduce guests and new members…

Do I have a motion to approve the December 14, 2019 meeting minutes as printed in the January 2020 Nugget? January Nugget had not come out in time for the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Closing Balance in the checking account and PayPal was given by Rachael Hill.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Field Trips: The next NMGMS field trip will be February 1, 2020, weather depending, to 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 2020 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.

Minutes continued on page 11.

NMGMS Meeting Minutes cont'd:

NMGMS Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Nikki Kenney **Date: January 11, 2020**

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: (Justin Thornton) 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: (Robert Langford) 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** Rlangford2525@yahoo.com or 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: () 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.

Old Business:

1. The February 2020 meeting will be a week earlier. Meeting is February 8, 2020 from 1-3pm at the Tupelo library. We will be making memory wire bracelets.
2. Kim & Norm St. Jean are still thinking that they will stop here on their way to Tucson and teach a class. Hope to have details soon! Planned classes will be Sonora Sunrise on February 22, class fee $125.00, and water casting on February 23 for a half day, class fee $75.00.
3. The rent on the Link Center room will be due February 1, 2020.
4. The USA rock display has been setup at the library. People are stopping to admire it and ask about the club!

Is there any old business? No other old business.

New Business:

1. DMC field trip is coming up in February to Brookwood, AL. If you wish to attend please make sure you have paid your dues. Further information about trip will be coming to your email accounts very soon!
2. The next NMGMS field trip will be February 1, 2020, weather depending, to Lost Creek, Alabama for Mississippian fossils. (See email or Nugget for details)
3. Lapidary room attendance is still very low. Are there people who wish to use it, but find Saturdays inconvenient? We can try to have it open other days if people want.
4. There will be a "Stamping Soft Solder" workshop either on January 25th or February 15th depending on what day we can get set up at West Point. If neither date works for the West Point Arts Council, we will do the class at the Link Centre. Working on setting it up for February 15, 2020.
5. The spring break field trip is going to be March 7th and 8th to Petosi, MO for drusy quartz. (See email or Nugget for details)

Is there any other new business? There will be a rededication ceremony for the fossil park at 20 Mile Creek on May 2, 2020. **Motion to Adjourn…….**

NMGMS 2020 Officers:

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Booneville, MS 38829
662-643-4210
paul.gunther@gmail.com

Secretary/Librarian:
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nmgms@comcast.net

Vice-President/Field Trip Chair:
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Committees:

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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.