



**Fossils from Colorado collected by the Thorntons. Can you find the insect?** Photo by Nancy Roberts

Notes From the President’s Desk...December 2023

The year is almost over, and we are about to elect our officers for the next year. Without people volunteering their time to help run the club, we would not be able to keep it going. I want to thank all of our members who have volunteered their time by serving in a position or helping at any of our events through the last year. We appreciate all the help and support.

Our club needs to get a rock and gem show started. This has been something we have talked about for the last couple years. I hope we can get a group of committed individuals together to help us get his project moving in the coming year. If you think you would like to help plan such an event, please reach out.

As the holidays are fast approaching, please be safe out there and enjoy spending time with friends and family. I wish all of you a *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

Paul Gunther

**December Birthstones: Tanzanite, Turquoise, and Zircon**



Photos by Tanzanitejewelrydesigns.com, Gemstones.com, and Dirindiamart.com

## Mark Your Calendar!

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The NMGMS annual Christmas party and potluck luncheon will be on **Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., upstairs at the Lee County Library in Tupelo, MS.**

The club will provide a ham for the luncheon, and members attending are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. We will have a gift exchange. If you wish to participate, bring a gift (**\$10 maximum**), and label it either as a man, woman, or child's gift.

We are asking members to bring a few canned goods or other nonperishable food items for our club's contribution to a local food pantry. We will also participate in the "Toys for Tots" program, so please bring a new toy to donate. The toys will be dropped off at the Oren Dunn City Museum after the party.

**We will be doing the "Night before Christmas" ornament exchange. If you would like to participate in the game and ornament exchange, just bring an ornament. They can be handmade, or store bought. Everyone that brings an ornament will go home with one.** Hope to see everyone there to help NMGMS celebrate another great year.

**Remember, this is when NMGMS passes out badges, awards, and certificates to members for their accomplishments.**

### Other Upcoming NMGMS Events:

**December 16, 2023:** NMGMS field trip for echinoids. Watch your emails for more information. (See page 3).

**December 17, 2023: DMC field trip.** DMC field trips are for club members only! DMC Field Trip, hosted by the Rome Georgia Mineral society. (See email for further details).

**January 6, 2024:** NMGMS field trip to Alabama for Mississippian fossils. Rain Date: **January 13, 2024.** (See page 3)

**January 20, 2024:** NMGMS January meeting 1 - 3pm at the Tupelo Library. Program: "All About Maps" with guest speaker Dr. Julie Retrum, University of Mississippi Department of Geology.

**January 27, 2024:** NMGMS workshop. Project: Making a pendant with riveted components. (See page 3 for details).

**February 10, 2024\*\*:** NMGMS February meeting 1 - 3pm at the Tupelo Library. Program: TBA.

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

**March 16, 2024:** NMGMS March meeting from 1-3 p.m. at the Tupelo Library, program: Happy birthday NMGMS!

### Show Dates:

#### December 9 - 10, 2023

Franklin, TN Mid Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society's 42nd Annual Earth Treasures Show

Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show and Sale

Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, December 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane, Franklin, TN 37064**

Admission: \$6 (2-day pass, \$10), students (18 and under) \$1, children 12 and under free with an adult.

Scout Youth in Uniform are free. Additional information: <http://www.mtgms.org/show.htm>.

#### February 24-25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Jackson Mississippi, 64th Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show, Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, February 24 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, February 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, 1200 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39202**

Admission: Adults \$8, Students \$3, Scouts & Leaders in Uniform \$2, and Children 5 & under—Free

Additional information: rock2lanes[]gmail.com, Club website: [www.missgems.org](http://www.missgems.org)

## Upcoming NMGMS Events:

Photo by Nancy Roberts



### NMGMS Field Trip: December 16, 2023

NMGMS will have a field trip on Saturday, December 16, 2023, to collect in some Prairie Bluff and Chiwapa Sandstone deposits. **We will meet at 9:30 a.m.** Hopefully we will find some echinoids! Be sure to pack a lunch, hat, sunscreen, and drinking water. You will need good sturdy shoes, a bucket or other container for your specimens, a trowel, screwdriver or pick for getting the fossils out, and a hammer. Foil, paper towels, or toilet paper for wrapping fragile specimens. Egg cartons make great containers. Watch your emails for where we will meet.

### NMGMS Field Trip: January 6, 2024, Trip to Alabama

Photo of *Zeacrinites wortheni* by Nancy Roberts



The January NMGMS field trip will be on **Saturday, January 6, 2024**, 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 the corner of Hwy 24 and 187, approximately 17 miles east of Red Bay, AL at **9:30 a.m.**

Bring small containers, cardboard flats, and a bucket for carrying your fossils and gear. Newspapers, paper towels, or aluminum foil are recommended for wrapping up those that are fragile. A rock hammer, chisel, and something to pry with are also handy to have. Wear boots or shoes that can get wet or muddy, and bring a hat, water, sunscreen, safety glasses, etc. A backpack or extra bucket is good to have, since we will be walking and carrying our gear with us.

Watch your email for directions and more details.

If you plan to attend, contact Nancy Roberts, [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)



Photo by Nancy Roberts

### NMGMS Riveting Workshop: January 27, 2024

#### Cold Connections with Rivets

Photo by Nancy Roberts



If you like working with metals, but either don't have a torch for soldering or are a bit leery of using one, then cold connections using rivets is a must for you. Come join NMGMS on **Saturday, January 27, 2024, 10 a.m. upstairs at the Link Centre** in Tupelo for a fun and "riveting" workshop. You will make a pendant in this class while learning to use a variety of rivets in your mixed metals creations. You will be riveting several components on the pendant such as a dapped circle and a charm of your choice. You will also be able to try out several methods of adding texture and patina to your piece. You will make a clasp and finish the ends of a piece of leather so you will be able to wear the pendant.

Workshop fee is **\$20** and includes all materials and the use of the tools. **Class is limited to 10**, so sign up soon. Learning to rivet several pieces of metal together is a great skill to have in your "toolbox", and it opens a whole spectrum of design possibilities. **Bring a brown bag lunch.** There is a refrigerator available.

Email or text me if you plan to attend. Nancy Roberts, [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com) 731-727-5574

## NMGMS Lapidary Workshop:

Photo by Nancy Roberts



Our NMGMS lapidary room #136 at the Link Centre in Tupelo will be open on **Saturday, January 27, 2024, at 10 a.m.** for those members interested. **There are two large slab saws and a 10 inch saw available, as well as a trim saw 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 slab saws, \$2 an hour on the cab machine and trim saw.**

**Bring a brown bag lunch.** Please email [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com), [latergator2003@yahoo.com](mailto:latergator2003@yahoo.com), or [paul.gunther@gmail.com](mailto:paul.gunther@gmail.com), if you plan to attend. Junior members must be accompanied by a parent.

## Club News:

### Grab Bags: If you sew, we need more bags!

Our NMGMS stockpile of grab bags is getting down, and we still have plenty of rocks and fossils to fill more. We need members to volunteer to put together more of the cloth bags. This would be a good winter project for when it's too cold for other club activities. The construction is not difficult, so if you can sew, please look at the cloth bag shown below.



**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 along the long edge for the yarn first (with the yarn already in place). Fold the fabric in half with right sides together, then sew the bottom & up the one side, stopping before the yarn tube. Good luck and thanks!

**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 are always looking for fresh material.

## **Attention NMGMS!** Time to Renew Your Membership



2024 is fast approaching, and it is time to start thinking about renewing your NMGMS membership.

Our club treasurer 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 1800 W Main St., Tupelo, MS 38801.**

An application form is located on our club website: [www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org)

**Note: You may also pay your annual dues with PayPal. You will find a link on the club website or use [nmgms2001@gmail.com](mailto:nmgms2001@gmail.com).** **Editor's Note:** I don't think PayPal is letting us use the "family and friends" feature any more to save the 4% but give it a try.

## “A Successful NMGMS Fossil Road Show and Geology Fest” by Nancy Roberts

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society, in conjunction with the Oren Dunn City Museum in Tupelo, hosted its ninth annual Fossil Road Show on Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4, 2023. This year on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, our featured speaker was George Phillips, paleontologist with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS.

The topic for Mr. Phillip’s presentation was the K-Pg Boundary, previously known as the K-T Boundary. This boundary is represented by a thin layer of rock which marks the end of the Mesozoic Era and the beginning of the Cenozoic Era, 66 million years ago. This boundary is associated with the mass extinction event that wiped out 75% of plant and animal species including all non-avian dinosaurs.

Mr. Phillips presented an overview of some of the geologic features of Mississippi and how they were formed. He showed how you could tell on the geologic map of the state exactly where the K-Pg boundary is located. He talked about exposures of this boundary within the state of Mississippi, what it is composed of, and how it relates to the Chicxulub asteroid strike off the Yucatan Peninsula which occurred 66 million years ago.

This presentation was a wealth of information. I think the topic was new to many. Most of us know that the dinosaurs disappeared, but many did not know that there was evidence of this event right here in Mississippi!

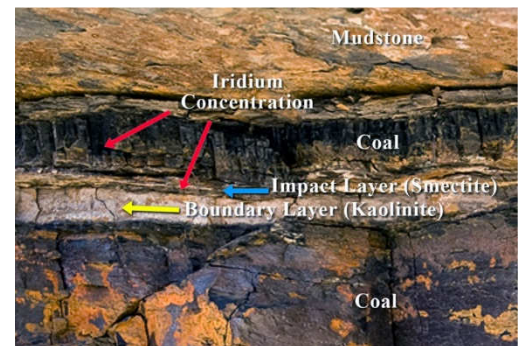


Photo by Blogspot.com

Photo by Nancy Roberts



The event’s games and activities were held on the museum grounds Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The weather was perfect. A beautiful fall day with sun and warm temperatures. The morning did start out a little nippy, but it warmed up enough by lunch time that the chocolate candy at the information desk was getting soft. Such a change from last year’s rain. We had almost 200 visitors come through. Many people brought in specimens from their collections to be identified, and the kids enjoyed our games. The Spin n Win plus the Bean Bag Toss were the top choices. The geodes provided by Mr. Mike Baldwin were also a big draw. It’s always exciting to see what is inside after they are cracked open!

Photo by Nancy Roberts

Inside the museum there were fossil rubbings, displays, and a “hands on” table with all kinds of specimens pertaining to geology and paleontology from the area. George Phillips, Robert Langford, and Dr. Julie Retrum were our professional experts on hand to do the rock and fossil identifications. Lunch for the volunteers was provided by the museum.

I would like to thank the museum curator, Leesha Faulkner for her valuable input and assistance in making this event possible. Also, a thank you to Carlos Diaz and Boyd Yarbrough for their help in getting things setup for the displays and activities. We could not have had such a successful event without the support and help of our professionals, the museum volunteers, and fellow club members who worked hard to see that the day went well. Our junior members did a fantastic job in manning the games. I hope we can do as well next year.



# “The Geology Fest and My Club Family” by Ezra Armas

Photo by Nancy Roberts



On Saturday, November 4, my club hosted the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society Geology Fest at the Oren Dunn City Museum. The Geology Fest is very special to me. It is how I learned about the North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society in the first place. I came to the Geology Fest with my mom in 2021. My mom says that she saw a flyer advertising that George Phillips the paleontologist would be there to speak about dinosaur fossils, and that is what made her decide we would go. We went to listen to him speak on a Friday night and came to the 2021 Geology Fest the next day. After that, we came to a meeting at the library and joined the club.

I have volunteered at two Geology Fests in a row now. Our club always does a great job at the Geology Fest. Kids and families come and have a great time. There were many games like Spin n Win, Bean Bag Toss, Fossil Dig, and the Fishing Game, which I ran with my mom and Amelia. There was a booth where you could build your own gem trees using gems or beads. I made a willow tree with black and gold beads. There was also an extra booth where you could crack a geode and keep it! People could buy Grab Bags filled with lots of neat rocks and minerals too.

NMGMS is super fun! I get to discover so many things, and I have so many great memories of things I have done and seen with my club. Everyone is so welcoming. I want to thank all the members of NMGMS for accepting me, and I just want to say that our club is a family.

Photo by Montana Hopper

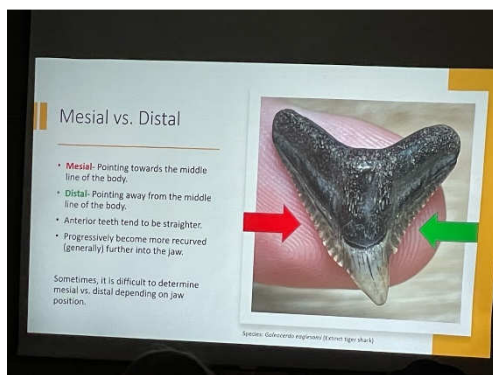


# November Meeting Review: “What Can That Shark’s Tooth Tell You?” by Nancy Roberts

## “What Can That Shark’s Tooth Tell You?” by Nancy Roberts

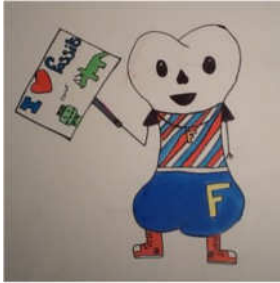
Slide by Chase Egli/Photo by Marilyn Misulia

Our guest speaker for the November 18, 2023, NMGMS meeting was Chase Egli, a graduate student from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Chase’s program covered the more common shark teeth that we collect on our field trips in Mississippi and Alabama. His presentation not only talked about the genus and species identification of those teeth, but he also covered many characteristics that would tell us where in the



shark’s jaw a particular tooth would be located. This was new information to many of us. We learned that the size and shape of the tooth could tell you whether it was an upper tooth, or one found in the lower jaw and how close to the front or back of the mouth it occurred. He also explained how you could tell which side of the tooth faced inward. He explained terms like labial, lingual, and anterior, etc. Chase also showed some of the specific features found on a tooth that would pin down the species. Wow, I will certainly look more closely at my specimens from now on! Chase brought a variety of teeth to show us. Of course, the Megalodon tooth was the star!





Mascot by Remy Collins

# NMGMS Junior Members Rockheads

December 2023



"The fossil hunter does not kill, he resurrects." G. G. Simpson

[www.amfed.org/fra/fra\\_badge.htm](http://www.amfed.org/fra/fra_badge.htm)

## Rockhead Officers for 2023:

President, Julia Williamson; Vice President, Emma Misulia; Secretary, Ezra Armas

Photo by Marilyn Misulia

Photo from the AFMS FRA Badge Manual



Communication

At the November 18, 2023, Rockheads' meeting, several junior members completed the FRA Communication Badge. To complete this badge, they had to present a project board covering a topic of their choice and do a short presentation about it to the club members at the regular meeting. NMGMS now has three Rockheads who have earned all 20 of the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America badges. This makes them Rock Stars! Way to go!

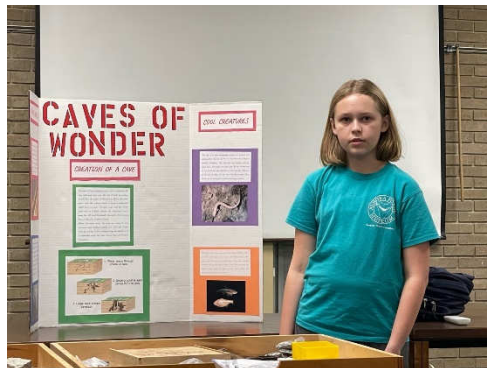


Congratulations, Sydney, Sophie, and Amelia!

[AFMS Juniors - Rock Stars & Honor Roll \(amfed.org\)](http://amfed.org)



Photos by Nancy Roberts and Marilyn Misulia



**New Members:** At the November 18, 2023, NMGMS meeting, several new junior members joined. We welcome them into the Rockheads. Welcome Arlen and Weston! NMGMS hopes you will have fun while learning new things and earn many FRA badges along the way.

## Rockheads' Officers for 2024


November is when our organization proposes a new slate of officers for the coming year. At the next Rockhead meeting you will decide on who you would like to have as officers for 2024. Are you willing to serve? Who do you want to lead the Rockheads? Be thinking about this issue and be prepared to vote for your new officers. Nancy Roberts

**Geology Website for Kids: Test your knowledge!**

Answers elsewhere in this newsletter!


[Mini Me Geology Blog](http://www.MinimeGeology.com) Photos from [www.MinimeGeology.com](http://www.MinimeGeology.com)

**Who Am I?**  
 My color is due to traces of manganese or titanium in my crystal structure. I make pretty jewelry. People mistake me for quartz, but I'm rosier.



MINIME Geology Where Kids Rock! www.MinimeGeology.com

**Who Am I?**  
 I am black, brown, or greenish-brown. I am soft and form thin in sheets called "books." You can find me in many igneous & metamorphic rocks.



MINIME Geology Where Kids Rock! www.MinimeGeology.com

**Who Am I?**  
 I am a beautiful royal blue with white streaks. I usually form a crystal mass. I make pretty jewelry and decorative items.



MINIME Geology Where Kids Rock! www.MinimeGeology.com

**“The Florissant Fossil Beds” by Amelia Thornton**

Photo by Beth Thornton



Did you know that long ago Colorado was home to giant redwood trees? For most people, the west coast of the United States comes to mind when thinking about redwood trees. This past October I traveled to Colorado to visit the Florissant Fossil Bed National Monument located in Florissant, Colorado.

At the museum I learned that Colorado was once a warm temperate forest during the Eocene Epoch. Unfortunately, the eruption of a super volcano many miles away wiped out the redwoods. The volcano formed massive mudflows of ash and water called lahars. The mudflows covered the redwoods and eventually petrified the stumps, some of which are still visible in the park today. The mudflows dammed up a stream which led to the formation of

ancient Lake Florissant. Over time, thin layers of shale formed on the bottom of the lake. Dead bugs, fish, plants, birds, and bats were preserved and fossilized at the bottom of the lake. As time went on, the landscape changed, and the lake disappeared.

Eventually people settled in Florissant and found the redwood stumps and fossils in the shale layers. People even tried to take one of the redwood stumps to the World's Fair. Unfortunately, they did not succeed; the saw blades are still stuck in the petrified stump! In the museum there are many fascinating fossils that have been found in the park. If you are ever in Florissant, you should stop by and check out the museum and hiking trails to see an interesting piece of history.



Photo by Beth Thornton



## “Summer “School” Can be Fun!” by Sophie Gunther

Photo by Paul Gunther



Hi, my name is Sophie, and I went to a week-long class in the middle of my summer break. Did I mention it was a week-long class? With 8 hours of class each day? Most people wouldn't think that sounds very fun; I mean it's a *class* in the middle of my summer. You are probably wondering what this class was. I went to William Holland Lapidary School in Young Harris, Georgia and took the “Junior Rocks” class. It turns out it was a lot of fun. They had so many activities, and it wasn't like usual school at all! My Mom, Dad, and I, all went together. At first, my mom didn't really want to go; she just went to be with us. Turns out she loved it and wants to go back next year! Attending William Holland Lapidary School is a great thing to do for all ages. They have something for everyone.

The Junior Rockhound's class had tons of different activities: We went outside and searched for rocks, tie dyed clothing, sculpted with clay, and oh my goodness, did I have a lot of fun with the clay! Let's just say I crafted my own chicken entourage... anyway, we also took time to take notes on rocks and minerals and start a rock collection. All those activities, and that was only my class. They also have a “Junior Jewelers” class for kids, where those kids learned how to wire wrap jewelry. There are a bunch of classes for adults: flame painting on copper, enameling, leather work, silver smithing, glass fusing, and tons more.

They had fun, social activities, like cookie day, movie night, and they even had an auction one night after dinner. Also, during breakfast, lunch, and dinner, everyone got to bond; it is a really nice community. I even made friends.

At the end of the week, everyone got to show off what they made. It was really cool! They made a line of everyone's classwork, and we even got to display our own. Everyone got a turn in the line, and it was nice to see what you could possibly do for next year. I have a strong feeling we will be going back. It's a great bonding time for your family, and we made a lot of fun memories. We learned some cool things. Until next time...bye!

[Home - William Holland \(lapidaryschoolregistration.org\)](http://www.lapidaryschoolregistration.org)

## “Keep Your Eyes on the Sky!” by Nancy Roberts

Photo by WTVD



December is the month for the Geminid Meteor Shower. It will last up until Christmas. These meteors last longer and burn brighter than most, making them a rival to the famous Perseids of August. You may be able to see up to 50 or more an hour on a dark clear night away from city lights.

The peak of this shower will fall on December 13-14th, so watch the sky from 9 p.m. into the wee hours.

Photo by Collins Dictionary

This meteor shower is called the Geminids because the meteors appear to radiate out from Castor, the bright star in the constellation of Gemini. Gemini (The Twins) will rise in the east around 9 p.m. Lay back and look in all directions as the meteors shoot across the sky. Grab a blanket, lean back, and enjoy! Look up for a change instead of at the ground. These meteors burning in the sky are actually space rocks left by the asteroid 3200 Phaethon!

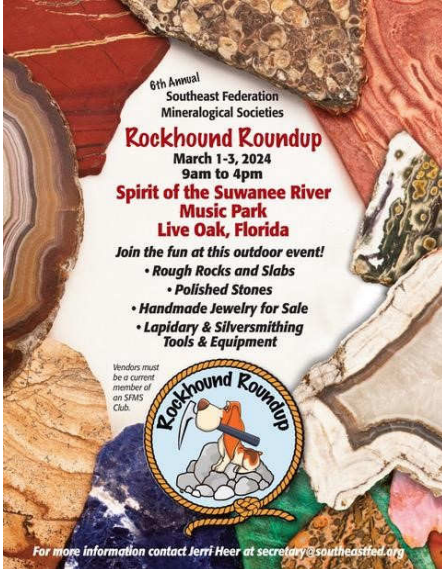




## Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. News:

The Southeast Federation's officers for 2024 are as follows:

President: Danny Griffin, 1st VP: Vonda Echols, 2nd VP: Jason Hamilton, Treasurer: Barbi Beatty, Membership Director: Rick Marshall, AFMS 1<sup>st</sup> Regional VP 2025/2026: Steve Henegar



The By-Law revisions as to the use of electronic means of communication and to allow for virtual meetings were approved at the SFMS 2023 Annual meeting, October 21, 2023.

The SFMS William Holland Workshop website is up and running! Everything you need in order to register is there. We have already had registrations coming in! Please share this with everybody in your clubs. Let's pack the place! Rick Marshall, SFMS William Holland Director, 407-949-1416. The SFMS week of classes starts June 2, 2024.

<https://www.sfmsworkshops.org/william-holland-classes>

SFMS Rockhound Roundup Flyer



## American Federation of Mineralogical Societies News:

The American Federation now has a pin that junior members aged 10-17 can earn by volunteering and helping their club for at least 20 hours of volunteer work. Junior members keep their own record on an official AFMS form. Check it out! [AFMS Juniors - Juniors Volunteer Award \(amfed.org\)](http://www.afms.org)

In addition to the AFMS Juniors' website, [www.juniors.amfed.org](http://www.juniors.amfed.org), Future Rockhounds of America is now on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AFMS.FRA/](https://www.facebook.com/AFMS.FRA/). Michelle Cauley has volunteered to serve as the moderator. Please help spread the word and grow this page by leaving a "like" and be sure to "follow" and "share" the page with others.

**Notice:** Rock & Gem (the officially endorsed hobby magazine of AFMS) is offering a special deal to members of local gem and mineral societies affiliated with the Federation. It's a win-win-win deal in that Rock & Gem gets subscribers, we subscribers get a special 61% discount, and AFMS gets a 15% commission on each subscription that will go into the Endowment Fund. This deal applies to both new and renewing subscriptions. For more information and the QR code to order, see page 4 of the AFMS October 2023 newsletter, Volume 76, Number 7. Also, see page 21 of the SFMS November 2023 Lodestar. [Rock and Gem Magazine | Magazine-Agent.com \(com-sub.info\)](http://www.rockandgem.com)

Image from [WWW.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)



For more AFMS Federation news, please check out their website:

<http://www.amfed.org/>

To read the AFMS newsletter: [http://www.amfed.org/afms\\_news.htm](http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm)

**NMGMS Meeting Minutes: NMGMS November 18, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 18, 2023, 12:30p.m.**

IONOS is changing the price of our website hosting once our current term is up in April. Last time we paid \$16/month for a year of service. The new price will be \$20/month. This looks to be in line with what a lot of other places are charging. **Keep it for another year.**

Our club room is getting very cluttered! Do we want to hold an auction for some of the items? **Try selling through the club website.**

Is there anyone we think might want to take over managing our website? It has not been getting updates. Paul Gunther would be happy to help someone learn how to add events and articles to it and occasionally help with updates. **Jim Roberts and Robert Langford will meet with Paul Gunther on Saturday, December 2, 2023, to learn how to add posts to the NMGMS webpage.**

We have been asked to help Ms. Tia Green, Tupelo Middle School science teacher, with the field trip grant she received. She is planning to take the middle school students on field trips spread out over the last week of school in May 2024. NMGMS may host one or two of these trips either to the W.M. Browning site or to Blue Springs. **George Phillips is overseeing this endeavor.**

We may be required to renew our corporation with the state of Mississippi in 2024. We last did it in 2019. **Nancy Roberts will contact the Secretary of State office.**

Do we want to try for 501©3 status with the IRS? **Try for it online.**

Leesha Faulkner at the ODCM is retiring at the end of this year. Hopefully we can continue working with the museum and the new curator.

We may have to seriously consider holding a rock and gem show if we want to continue to rent at the Link Centre. We just are not generating enough revenue currently. Also, much of the lapidary equipment needs new saw blades and wheels. How can we increase membership use of the room and equipment? **See what our finances look like after our membership renewals and try to get several people willing to meet with some of the other clubs to find out what we need to do to get a show going.**

We are signed up to be a vendor at the Link Centre's Holiday Market on Saturday, December 2, 2023. Table fee was \$45 and was paid through the club's PayPal account.

NMGMS has been asked to participate at the Lawhon Elementary School's art festival again. Date is February 13, 2024, 4-6 p.m.

NMGMS has been asked if we want to participate in the Link Centre's Link Fest on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Last time we did the "make a gem tree". We can't charge a fee, but we could get a sponsor.

Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Answers to Who Am I?  
Rose Quartz, Biotite Mica, and Sodalite

## NMGMS Meeting Minutes:

### NMGMS Meeting Minutes

Date: November 18, 2023



Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Introduce guests and new members... Heather and Arlen Hewett, Chase Egli, Ryan Bullock, Brianne and Weston Cook, Barbara Hopper, and Wanda Patterson.

**Do I have a motion to approve the October 21, 2023, meeting minutes as printed in the November 2023 Nugget? Approved**

**Treasurer's Report:** Closing Balance as of **10/30/23** was given. **The August check for the Link Centre rent has not cleared yet.**

**Field Trips:** Tentatively planning a field trip for December 16 to a site for echinoids. **We will meet at the Pontotoc Fuel Center on the corner of Hwy 41 and 15 at 9:30 a.m.** Watch emails for details and directions.

**Publicity:** (Krista Williamson) Watch our NMGMS Facebook page and website for notices. NMGMS has a new mailing address: **NMGMS 1800 West Main St., Tupelo, MS 38801**

**Membership:** (Nancy Roberts) Reminder! The time to renew your membership in NMGMS is fast approaching; dues for 2024 will be \$15 for a single, \$25 for a couple and \$4 per child. See Nancy if you would like a copy of the 2023 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 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](mailto:nmgms2001@gmail.com). Website is: [www.nmgms.org](http://www.nmgms.org)

**Newsletter:** (Nancy Roberts) 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 [therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto: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 2023 club memorabilia, please give it to Rebecca.**

**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. 2024 is fast approaching, and it is time to start thinking about renewing your NMGMS membership. 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 1800 West Main St., Tupelo, MS 38801. You can also pay online at our website or via PayPal if you can, please add a dollar extra to cover our transaction fees.

**Is there any old business? Ask Marilyn if she can still get us on Instagram. She said she would try.**

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## Continued: NMGMS Meeting Minutes November 18, 2023



### New Business:

1. We need a slate of officers for 2024. **Robyn Ray has volunteered to remain as the Secretary.** Is there anyone not willing to serve next year as needed? Any nominations or volunteers? Are all committee chairs willing to continue? Some discussion ensued. Need a new treasurer. Angel Gunther volunteered to be treasurer. Paul Gunther and Nancy Roberts will stay on.

2. The NMGMS annual Christmas party and potluck luncheon will be on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 11a.m. until 3p.m., upstairs at the Lee County Library in Tupelo, MS.

The club will provide a ham for the luncheon, and members are asked to bring a potluck dish to share. We will have a gift exchange. If you wish to participate, bring a gift (\$10 maximum), and label it either as a man, woman, or child's gift.

We are asking members to bring a few canned goods or other nonperishable food items for our club's contribution to a local food pantry. We will also participate in the "Toys for Tots" program, so please bring a new toy to donate. The toys will be dropped off at the Oren Dunn Museum after the party.

We will be doing the "Night before Christmas" ornament exchange. If you would like to participate in the game and ornament exchange, just bring an ornament. They can be handmade, or store bought. Everyone that brings an ornament will go home with one.

3. We will be setting up as a vendor for the Link Centre's Holiday Market. Is anyone willing to volunteer to help sell? Does anyone have any crafted jewelry they would like to donate to sell?

**Amelia Thornton and Sophie Gunther have volunteered.**

4. We will also have the lapidary room open on December 2nd for any members interested in slicing rocks or making cabochons. Paul Gunther and Jim Roberts should be on hand to help train members in safety or help give instructions as needed. \$1 per slice on the large slab saw and \$2 per hour on the cab machines.

5. Club receipts for the Geology Fest activities and grab bag sales came to \$347.

6. We are planning a field trip for December 16 to a site for echinoids. We will be collecting in Prairie Bluff and Chiwapa Sandstone deposits.

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

**Motion to Adjourn..... Meeting was adjourned.**



**Slate of Officers for 2024:** President: **Paul Gunther**, Vice President: **Nancy Roberts**, Secretary: **Robyn Ray**, and Treasurer: **Angel Gunther**.

**Editor's Note:** Notices, announcements, and comments are written by the editor, unless otherwise noted.

**NMGMS 2023 Officers:****President:**

Paul Gunther  
101 Westover Heights  
Booneville, MS 38829  
662-643-4210  
[paul.gunther@gmail.com](mailto:paul.gunther@gmail.com)

**Secretary:**

Robyn Jo Ray  
5020 John Rankin Hwy  
Fulton, MS 38843  
662-784-0715  
[robynray91@gmail.com](mailto:robynray91@gmail.com)

**Vice-President/Field Trip Chair:**

Nancy Roberts  
25 Amber Ln  
Counce, TN 38326  
731-727-5574  
[therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:**

Tequila Sunrise  
190 Rd. 1009  
Tupelo, MS 38804  
662-213-0246  
[tqsunrise99@yahoo.com](mailto:tqsunrise99@yahoo.com)

**Committees:****Publicity Chair:**

Krista Williamson  
1466 Road 1451  
Mooreville, MS 38857  
662-252-9734  
[kristawilliamson2008@yahoo.com](mailto:kristawilliamson2008@yahoo.com)

**Hospitality:**

Ann Byzet  
1209 Queensgate Dr.  
Tupelo, MS 38801  
662-844-9841  
[annbyzet123@gmail.com](mailto:annbyzet123@gmail.com)

**Junior Youth Advisor:**

Beth Thornton  
104 Grand Ridge Rd.  
Starkville, MS 39759 662-320-9805  
[bethunderwood78@hotmail.com](mailto:bethunderwood78@hotmail.com)

**Historian:**

Rebecca Vallarian  
308 Meadowbrook Circle  
Amory, MS 38821 662-256-2040  
[janiegirl@vallarian.com](mailto:janiegirl@vallarian.com)

**Newsletter editor:**

Nancy Roberts  
25 Amber Ln.  
Counce, TN 38326  
731-727-5574  
[therockhoundlady@yahoo.com](mailto:therockhoundlady@yahoo.com)

**Librarian/Membership:**

Nikki Kenney  
PO Box 808  
Tupelo, MS 38802  
662-844-6142  
[nmgms@comcast.net](mailto:nmgms@comcast.net)

**Webmaster:**

Justin Thornton  
104 Grand Ridge Rd.  
Starkville, MS 39759  
662-320-9805  
[jthornton75@gmail.com](mailto:jthornton75@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](http://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.