

CMLMS  
15785 Park Lake Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

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FIRST CLASS**

## **Rockhound News—January, 2016**

Official publication of the  
**Central Michigan Lapidary and  
Mineral Society**  
Affiliated with MWF and AFMS

**Dues are Due  
for 2016**



# Rockhound News

This bulletin is the official publication of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of greater Lansing, Michigan. It is published each month except July and August.

The Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society is a non-profit organization, meeting to promote interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, paleontology and the lapidary arts. It was organized in May 1957 and celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2007.

**Meeting place: Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Street, Okemos, MI**

**Regular meeting date: Third Thursday, except July and August**

**Meeting time: 7:30 p.m., doors are open at 7:00 p.m.**

**Annual Dues: Adults \$10.00; Families \$15.00; Students under 18 \$2.00**

**Board meetings: First Tuesday, except July and August; 7:00 p.m., Okemos Library**

## OFFICERS 2016

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## Affiliated With

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

<http://www.amfed.org>

# ROCKHOUND NEWS

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 21, 2016**

**PROGRAM: DVD *Discover: Mexico's Silver***

**REFRESHMENTS: Members with Initials M - Z Please Bring Goodies**

**Location and Time:** The CMLMS membership meeting will be held on January 21, 2016, at 7:30 p.m., at the **Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Street, beautiful downtown Okemos.**

**Calendar for Winter 2016** and later

January 21, 2016 - 7:30 p.m., membership meeting, DVD *Mineral Explorers: Mexico's Silver*, mineral of the month - garnet,, Also brief Show board meeting at end of meeting.

February 2, 2016 - board meeting, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., Okemos Library

February 17, 2016 - Donley Elementary School, East Lansing, Science Night

February 18, 2016 - 7:30 p.m., membership meeting, mineral quartz, variety amethyst

March 1, 2016 - board meeting, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., Okemos Library

March 17, 2016 - 7:30 p.m., membership meeting, silent auction, mineral beryl, variety aquamarine

[Editor's note: the deadline for the newsletter is now the Sunday after the board meeting]

## JANUARY PROGRAM

Membership Meeting Program will be a Mineral Explorers video about Mexico's historic silver industry from an insiders view, *Discover: Mexico's Silver*.

Mexico's Silver Belt: Source of 2/3's of world's silver.

Guanajuato: Leading center of silver mining in the world. A UNESCO Heritage Site.

Fresnillo Silver Mine: Silver House Crystals. Craftmanship at the state-of-the art Silver House.

History of Colonial Cities and connection with US Cities. Collector Pieces of silver crystals

## SHOW BOARD MEETING

We will have a brief Show Board meeting immediately following the Regular Meeting on Thursday the 21st. Main item is to establish the Show budget for this year.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**The Vice-President's position is vacant. Let President, Sue Casler, or a board member know if you have any ideas for speakers, or other programs.**

January 21, 2016 - DVD *Mineral Explorers, Mexico's Silver*; mineral garnet.

February 18, 2016 - To be announced; mineral quartz, var. amethyst.

March 17, 2016 - Annual Silent Auction; mineral beryl, var. aquamarine.

## TRANSITIONS

**Long-time member, Gordon, Lewis, passed away January 10, 2016.**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER**  
**Susan Montgomery of East Lansing**

**Message from Roster Secretary Ernie Aughenbaugh**  
**Dues are now being collected for 2016**

Please keep in mind that December 31 of each year is the actual date your dues should be paid to the society so the board can plan accordingly for publishing an annual directory and insurance for each member for field trips. Also, if you receive your newsletter or any other notifications by electronic means, PLEASE NOTIFY THE BOARD IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE IN YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOSPITALITY AND VARIOUS CHAIRS**

We need members willing to set up hospitality on membership meeting nights. Please consider taking a few minutes to help out.

Show chair is open. Currently the board will pick up the duties but a permanent chairperson is needed.

Library chair is open. Please let the board know if you are interested in either position.

**MINERAL OF THE MONTH**

The board has decided to offer a **Mineral of the Month** feature at membership meetings to encourage society participation. Members can bring in samples of their specimens with a chance to speak briefly about them. This year will feature birthstones, starting in January with garnet. Samples can include not only the mineral but beads, jewelry, etc. Everyone go through your stash and bring in samples of garnets.

**GARNETS**

Word origin for garnet: from Old French grenate, gernatte, granate or Medieval Latin granatum, meaning garnet, or an adjective meaning a dark red color; also perhaps abstracted from the Medieval Latin or Old French words for pomegranate, from the stone's resemblance to the shape of the seeds or the color of the pulp; or the word might be from Medieval Latin granum meaning grain in its sense of "cochineal, red dye." A common word in Indo-European languages: French grenat; Spanish-granate; Portuguese-granada; Italian-granato; Dutch-granaat; German-Granat [German capitalizes nouns].

Garnet describes a group of several closely related minerals. The most well-known color of garnet gemstones is dark red yet they come in a variety of colors with different properties. Red garnet gemstones (almandine and pyrope) are the common ones and made into all types of jewelry that is affordable. At the other end, pricey, are the green tsavorite and demantoid garnets. Some of the garnet types:

Dark red: almandine and pyrope are the gemstones commonly found. Almandine, the most common garnet, is usually opaque and not good for gemstone use. It is found occasionally in a transparent form that is used. Pyrope [from Greek pyr=fire and ope/opos=opening/eye] frequently lacks flaws or inclusions. Rhodolite, a rose-red to violet variety of pyrope, is also used in gems.

Orange/orange-red: spessartine, an orange to orange-red form, has become more popular as a gemstone.

Bright green: Uvarovite, somewhat rare and found in small crystals.

Varicolored: Grossular includes green tsavorite, orange-brown hessonite and a yellow to yellow-green form. Andradite, a particularly lustrous garnet, includes the rare green demantoid, the yellow

topazolite, and the black melanite varieties.

Some garnets exhibit a property that changes color under different forms of light such as, brown or orange in daylight or pink or light red in incandescent light in the same stone. Pyrope-spessartine will change from blue-green to purple depending on the temperature of the light.

Garnets are used industrially as abrasives. It commonly replaces silica in sand-blasting. *Wikipedia* has a good article on garnets. And a *Google* search will turn up many websites with descriptions and photos of the varieties.

## LAUGHING OUT LOUD

January 9 *Prairie Home Companion* on NPR repeated Brad Paisley's 2014 performance of his song Geology. It's described as a love song. You can find it with a *Google* search. Check out *YouTube*! If you're already familiar with the song, you know what I mean. It's funny!

## CLUB NEWS

**Outreach Committee:** Always in need of volunteers to help with school science fairs, talks and presentations at schools and other organizations, and educational opportunities. Contact committee chair Mary Gowans to lend a hand. [gowans@msu.edu](mailto:gowans@msu.edu) or 517-351-6135.

The next Science Night will be on February 17, 2016 at Donley Elementary School in East Lansing.

Please mark your calendars and email me at: [gowans@msu.edu](mailto:gowans@msu.edu) and let me know which events you can attend.

**Library:** Check out the new books in the library boxes. Always something in there, old or new, for all interests.

### Field Trips!

January 23, 2016 - Field Trip to the Alabastine Gypsum Mine (Michigan Natural Storage Co.), 1200 Judd S.W., Grand Rapids, MI, Winter, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Check with Dan for more information.

See Dan Sine to sign up and for more information. Cell phone 517-316-5713 or [daniel.sine@opm.gov](mailto:daniel.sine@opm.gov). Dan would like to set up an email list of all who plan to go on the field trips. Please contact him if interested in getting emails as field trips are set up.

Minimum age for a quarry is 12. No children under 12 will be allowed at the quarries (their rule). Trips to other collecting sites may have no minimum, or maximum, age requirement. Safety rules in the **Field Trip Guide** are posted at the society website. They should be reviewed, printed out and **taken to every field trip**. Also, insurance coverage for the field trips by the Federation is very limited. It provides only for damage that members might do on-site. There is no personal injury coverage; no coverage underground. Coverage is only for members, so our policy is that field trips are only for members. Members should review this insurance information on our website. Let Dan know of any other locations and contact information that you may know about and would like to visit. Dan does a fabulous job getting these field trips lined up for club members so please take a moment to thank him personally for all his work.

**PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO—Check [www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)  
or our website [www.michrocks.org](http://www.michrocks.org)**

**FoundMichigan, an online magazine on culture in Michigan—[www.foundmichigan.org](http://www.foundmichigan.org)  
Check out our website for items for sale. There are links to eBay and Craig's List.**

## UPCOMING SHOWS

March 4-6: RICHMOND, IN - Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society Annual Show. Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm, Sun 11 am - 4 pm, Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Rd., Richmond. Contact: Judy Burton, (937) 339-1966; jleeburton@woh.rr.com; eiggs.weebly.com.

March 5-6: LIVONIA, MI - The Roamin Club Annual Show. Sat 11 - 6; Sun 12 - 6 Schoolcraft Community College, 18600 Haggerty Rd., Livonia. Contact: Todd Gass (248) 348-5093.

March 19: TAYLOR, MI - Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society of Michigan Rock Swap. 10 - 5 St. John's Lutheran Church 13115 Telegraph Rd., Taylor. Contact Lou Talley, (734) 259-8532; ltalley1970@gmail.com www.mmls.us

April 7-9: WYOMING, MI - Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show. Roger's Plaza, 28th St at Clyde Park, Wyoming. Thurs & Fri. 9:30 - 9; Sat 9:30 - 8. Contact Kreigh Tomaszewski, (616) 243-5851; kreigh@gmail.com www.indianmoundsrockclub.com

## CMLMS MINUTES

### **CMLMS, Membership Meeting, December 17, 2015**

**Call to Order:** President Sue Casler called the meeting to order at 7:45pm at the Masonic Hall in Okemos. There were no guests or visitors.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Jan Sjoquist submitted the Minutes of the November Membership Meeting and the December Board Meeting that were printed in the December CMLMS Newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Elaine Beane presented the 2015 CMLMS Show report.

**Announcements:** Sue Casler has not finalized the plans for the January and February 2016 membership meetings. A silent auction will be held in March, Sally Labadie will speak about Mastodons in April, and the banquet will be held in May.

Starting with the January 2016 membership meeting, a new feature will be added to the programs. A **Mineral of the Month** will be spotlighted using the birthstone for that month. January starts with Garnet and its many varieties. Members are encouraged to bring any garnet specimens they would like to display. Thanks to Theresa Hubbard for organizing this. Long time members will remember this feature from past years' membership meetings.

**Door Prizes:** Dan Sine arranged five door prizes.

**Program:** Holiday gift exchange, holiday treats, and DVD about Arkansas Quartz from *Mineral Explorers* first season. Thanks to Milt Gere for displaying a beautiful Arkansas Quartz cluster and to Roger Laylin for bringing amazing Arkansas Quartz crystals.

Respectfully Submitted, Janet Sjoquist, Recording Secretary

### **CMLMS, Board Meeting, January 5, 2016**

**Board Members Present:** Elaine Beane, Dave Berquist, Sue Casler, Theresa Hubbard, Nate Krupp, Roger Laylin, Lyle Laylin, Gordon Lewis, Jan Sjoquist, Roni Sionakides.

**Board Members Absent:** Ernie Augenbaugh, Gaylord Brooks, Mary Gowans, Alan Hukill, Lee Laylin, Dan Sine.

**Members Present:** Bob Mosher

**President:** Sue Casler called the meeting to order at 7:15pm at the Okemos Library.

Kara Miller and Jennifer Martin will continue to represent CMLMS to do Petoskey Stone polishing if requested, but will be removed from the Education Committee. Kara and Jennifer have had no requests this past year.

Sue Casler will not be in attendance at the January Membership meeting; Theresa Hubbard will conduct the meeting on January 21, 2016.

The program for the January CMLMS Membership Meeting will be a DVD from Mineral Explorers, *Mexico*. The featured mineral will be silver. In addition, the birthstone Garnet will be featured as the "Mineral of the Month". Other programs are as previously stated.

Sue has scheduled CMLMS Board Meetings at the Okemos Library on February 2, March 1, April 5 and May 3. Members are always welcome and encouraged to attend. Meetings are at 7pm.

**Treasurer:** Elaine Beane has not received a current statement from the bank as yet, but reported on expenditures. Final report is pending.

**Recording Secretary:** Jan Sjoquist has submitted the December Membership Meeting minutes for publication. The January Board Meeting Minutes will be submitted by the deadline. Jan will not be available to record the minutes in February and March. Roni Sionakides will assume the duties as recording secretary. Thank you, Roni.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Theresa Hubbard has sent a thank you note and has prepared a letter to be presented to new members. The rough draft was submitted for review. The final letter will be signed by the Membership Chairman and sent to welcome new members.

**Directors:** Gaylord Brooks (3yr): absent, no report. Lyle Laylin (2yr): no report. Nate Krupp (1yr): received a thank you note for sending specimens to a school in the Twin Cities. The teacher was referred to a local club as a future resource.

**Roster Secretary:** Ernie Augenbaugh: absent, no report.

**Liaison Officer:** Alan Hukill; absent, no report.

**Past President:** Elaine Beane, no report.

**Membership:** Dave Berquist: has received an application for membership by Susan Montgomery of East Lansing. Roger Laylin made a **motion to accept applicant into membership**. The motion received support by Lyle Laylin. A vote was taken, passed and Susan Montgomery is welcomed into CMLMS membership.

Dave Berquist submitted a rough draft of a new membership application. Changes were discussed and Dave will continue to revise the form for later approval. Meanwhile, the old applications will be used.

**Publications:** Roni Sionakides will need Newsletter submissions by the Sunday evening following board meetings.

**Education:** Vacant

**Community Outreach:** Mary Gowans: absent, no report.

**Library:** Lee Laylin by Roger Laylin: Lee is willing to do a program about our library. Members are also encouraged to do a book review at meetings.

**Display:** Jan Sjoquist, no report.

**Finance:** Gordon Lewis submitted a proposed budget for 2016. Some changes were discussed and the final budget will be approved at the February Board Meeting.

**Webmaster:** Lyle Laylin states that the copyright issue was closed with no further action to be taken on their part.

**Show:** Roger Laylin will need an increase in the budget to reflect the demand for more tables and chairs. There are plans for the construction of a bigger exhibition building at the Fairgrounds. The new building will have an impact on CMLMS as we will need to adapt our procedures for setting up, tear down, etc. There is no projected completion date as yet.

**Old Business:** Membership Application form was revised.

**New Business:** None, because of time constraints.

**Adjournment:** Roni Sionakides made a **motion to adjourn the meeting**. The motion

received a second by Elaine Beane and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.  
Respectfully Submitted, Jan Sjoquist, Recording Secretary

### **All About Chalcedony**

Chalcedony is a catchall term that includes many well known varieties of cryptocrystalline quartz gemstones. They are found in all 50 states, in many colors and color combinations, and in sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks. Chalcedony includes carnelian, sard, plasma, prase, bloodstone, onyx, sardonyx, chrysoprase, thundereggs, agate, flint, chert, jasper, petrified wood, and petrified dinosaur bone just to name a few of the better known varieties. Because of its abundance, durability, and beauty, chalcedony was, except for possibly obsidian, the earliest mineral material used by humankind. The earliest recorded use of chalcedony was for projectile points, knives, tools, and containers such as cups and bowls. Early man made weapons and tools from many varieties of chalcedony including agate, agatized coral, flint, jasper, and petrified wood.

The move from using certain items as weapons and tools, to using the same items for ceremonial and personal adornment is very easily made. It was only natural for early man to use his finest looking knife for special occasions or to attach a special lance point or arrowhead to his tunic. All 50 states produce some variety of chalcedony, but the material from some states is better known than that from others. Arizona is well known for its petrified wood because of the Petrified Forest National Park, and petrified wood ranks third in value of commercially produced gemstones. It is generally accepted that the park contains the most colorful examples of silicified logs in the world.

Petrified wood occurs in every county in the state, but the commercial production is essentially from privately owned lands in Navajo and Apache Counties near the Petrified Forest. Federal regulations restrict collecting petrified wood on public lands to 250 pounds plus one piece per person per year, none of which is supposed to be sold commercially. The regulation essentially eliminates production from federal lands. Pieces as small as 1/4 inch to sections of logs 5 feet in diameter are recovered from the surface of the ground or with minimum excavations for use in the lapidary trade.

Arizona petrified wood has the broadest range of applications of any gem material produced in the State. The material is suitable for tumble polishing for use in baroque jewelry or for cutting into cabochons for jewelry and display. Free form and calibrated slabs are polished for pen and pencil set bases and bases of other items, and polished slabs are used for clock faces. Additionally, large blocks, limb sections, and geometric shapes are used as bookends and decorator pieces. Objects of art, principally carvings, are produced, and furniture such as coffee and end tables are made from the petrified wood.

Arizona is the only state currently to have commercial production of fire agate. Fire agate is a form of chalcedony which contains inclusion of iron oxides that result in a play of colors much like that of precious opal. Eleven operations in Arizona report either commercial production of fire agate or dig-for-fee production. The material is produced in Graham, Greenlee, Maricopa, Mohave, and Yuma Counties.

Fire agate is cut into free form and calibrated cabochons for use in the manufacture of silver and gold jewelry. The material is popular in the Southwest and with hobbyist lapidaries throughout the United States. Fire agate also has been used and is currently used in Indian style jewelry. California's "Mojave Blue" agate has gained a great deal of attention in the past several years. This pastel blue or blue-gray agate cuts into attractive cabochons for jewelry and, in the hands of an expert carver, makes outstanding carvings.

Source: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/sp14-95/chalcedony.html>  
via The Living Stones, January 2016, page 4, publication of the Livingston Gem and Mineral Society