

ROCKHOUND NEWS

JAN 1990

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY
& MINERAL SOCIETY
MEMBER OF MWF & AFMS



RETURN TO:
C.M.L. & M.S.
15785 Park Lake Road
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

FIRST CLASS

TIME VALUE

ROCKHOUND NEWS

This bulletin is the official publication of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of Greater Lansing, Michigan. It is published the second week of 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, peletonology and the lapidary arts. It was organized in May, 1957.

Meeting place: North School, 333 E. Miller Rd., Lansing, MI
Meeting date: Third Thursday, except in July and August
Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Doors are open at 7:00 p.m.
Annual dues: Adults \$3.00 Students \$1.00

OFFICERS -- 1989

President	Bettie Patterson	482-3437
Vice President	Neil Snapp	339-2863
Recording Secretary	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	353-7912
Corresponding Secretary	Donald Lohrer	482-2914
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3 Years	David Gibbs	
Roster Secretary	Bessie Rogers	1-224-7596
Liaison Officer	Alan Hukill	641-6125
Past President	James Moses	1-647-7310

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Program	Neil Snapp	
Membership	Doris and Walter Aven	655-5226
Finance	Irwin Turner	694-9596
Education	Florence Hill	349-3554
Field Trips	George Heaton Jr	339-8914
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East Lansing, MI 48823

MEMBER OF:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

NEIL'S NOTES

I hope all of you had a happy holiday season, enjoyed good health, good friends -- and didn't gain any unwanted pounds. I'm slightly envious of those of you in warmer climes. Remember we will expect a full report upon your return! Enjoy.

We begin our new year with the annual meeting in January. Committee reports are to be given. This is your chance to ask questions, express your desires about club activities, desired programs and other appropriate matters. We will ask for a motion to have a show in 1990 and to have our annual banquet in May. The meeting will be conducted by Vice President Grit as I will be recovering from a colonoscopy that day.

Someone asked me my goals for 1990. I don't know that I have any profound ones. Some things that I have thought about: complete our review of the constitution and bylaws, increase membership and member involvement in club activities, win some of the MWF awards for CMLMS. What are your goals? What would you like to see the club do this year? Let me know. This is a cooperative venture. Therefore, don't forget the "co" in cooperation. Until next time, the best wishes to all. Neil

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT

Belated get well wishes were sent to Hazel and Clarence Morgan. They were both ill a month or so ago. We also sent a card to Katie Hornbeck who had surgery. We send our sympathy to John Hopkins. John's sister recently passed away. We all share his grief at this time.

It's hard to get too enthused about collecting stones and fossils after sampling what December had in store for us, but a new year is upon us and can nicer weather be too far behind?? Think positive! Think about summer, and collecting, and the kids' table. I can use lots of tumbled stones for critters. Call me at 482-2914 and I'll pick them up, or bring them to any meeting. God willing, I'll be there.

Respectfully,
Don Lohrer

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 1989 SHOW

Total Receipts	\$6971.76
Total Expenditures	\$3774.14
Net Gain	\$3197.62

If you would like more details, see Treasurer Richard Miller.

DUES ARE DUE!!!!

Pay at the club meeting or send the check to me.
Checks should be made out to CML&MS, please.

Bessie Rogers
2222 W. Marshall Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE -- Florence Hill

The mineral for this month's study will be hematite, an oxide of iron. Hematite appears in several different colors and shapes, some of which are familiar to us and some less so.

Bring some specimens or lapidary pieces of hematite to the January meeting to display.

This is the time of year when teachers and club program planners welcome a visitor with a fresh viewpoint. Why don't you offer at your neighborhood school to go in with a display and talk about what you know best in the hobby? Or do the same for the program chairman of a club you know? Try it. You'll like it.

HINT FOR CLEANING GOLD, STERLING OR OTHER METALS --

Try lipstick, any shade will do! Use a soft cloth to apply and another to remove and buff. (I tried the lipstick, it works. Toothpaste is another good household polishing agent.--Jean Ann) From Rock Trails 11/88

COMING!!!-- DEMONSTRATION NIGHT, FEBRUARY 15

Remember how much fun demonstration night was last year? The club members enjoyed it as much or more than our visitors!

This year it will be in the cafeteria of the Okemos Kinawa Middle School. There will be lots of room, and the Community Education flyer bills us as one of their "Special Events." Two things you can do ahead of time: 1. Think of what you do to enjoy the hobby, and call Grit (Irwin) Turner to offer your services demonstrating. 2. Tell your acquaintances about this opportunity for a fun evening. It's free.

We hope to have a CROWD!

SEPTARIA

Most Michigan rockhounds come across this rock sooner or later. Thought you might find this article interesting:

West Michigan rockhounds have for many years gathered the ironstone septaria which is common on the beaches of Lake Michigan south of Holland. Septaria, while lacking in hardness, has many virtues, namely the ease of shaping, sanding and polishing. The stone also has character. By that, I mean that there is a great deal of variation of color, both in the matrix and calcite filling which, while usually white, may come in shades ranging from clear to black to pink.

The rockhound's imagination can run wild as he interprets, in terms of pictorial aspects, the various shadings of the matrix and the structure of the lines, which seemingly are distributed at random. The one overwhelming characteristic is the appearance of "avenues of entry" where the calcite invaded the nodule.

How did this stone come to be? It is thought that the process first involved the formation of a soft body, probably in a shale matrix which was full of dregs, or cavities. This "soft body" dried out and formed a "shrinkage crack" pattern, with avenues opening from the center and going outward. These cracks often do not go directly out, but meander around and thus form the complex patterns often seen.

The next step was the invasion or filling of the cracks due to unknown causes, by a calcite solution. There is always a question as to why, with all the available sand or silica in West Michigan, the filling material was not silica! This would have resulted in West Michigan agate material! That was not to be, however there have been rare instances where nodules have been found with druzy quartz present.

After the filling by calcite occurred, there came a hardening of the nodule under pressure of the overlying

strata. As the years passed, the shale body eventually changed to clay while the septaria nodules, being harder, were unchanged. Erosion and man-made excavations have exposed thousands of these nodules of all sizes ranging from egg-size to those too large to carry.

The most obvious place to collect is the Lake Michigan shore between Douglas and South Haven. The occurrence is composed of weather-worn nodules, with calcite-filled entry avenues plainly discernable. One will soon find out that there is no uniformity, as many have no filling at all and many are composed mostly of fossils. It is easy to find good lapidary material as you walk the beaches. It is best to leave your rock hammer at home as no purpose is served by breaking or chipping the nodules, except to litter the beach with sharp particles of rock, a procedure which would surely incur the wrath of cottage owners, and undoubtedly make it more difficult to obtain permission to gather rocks on the beach!

One of your main problems will be to obtain access to the beach! Some good rock-hunting can be obtained by going down the steps of the Douglas village beach access, then going south along the beach. The town of Glenn also has a public access road where excellent picking is possible. Wind, waves and water level change the septaria beds day by day, as the sand washes off and on to the stony shores. This erodes the stones out of the banks. Sometimes this cover them up again as quickly as it uncovers them... (As always, be sure to get permission before entering private property.)

Bolo ties, pins, pen stands, book-ends, paper weights, table tops, fireplace facings, etc. have been made from local material. I personally like the nodules polished as specimens. I can then pick out the outstanding pieces and set them in a prominent place where I can speculate, with a rockhound's vivid imagination, on the figures and patterns revealed.

The popularity of the West Michigan septaria has held up for many years and it is still an excellent article for "swap sessions." With the closing of so many sites, it is nice to know of something which seems inexhaustible. Adherence to the "Rockhound's Code of Ethics" should assure many years of profitable collecting. There is also the possibility of more highway construction tapping these beds just south of Holland.

Joe Moran --Tulip City Conglomerate

CLUB CALENDAR

January 18	Regular meeting
February 1	Board meeting held at Capitol Savings & Loan in Okemos.
February 15	Demonstration Night/Meeting Kinewa Middle School, Okemos
February 17	Michigan Science Teachers Convention -- LCC
SHOW DATES -- Spring 1990	
February 7-11	Quartzite Pow-Wow, Quartzite AZ (Let's all go!)
March 9-11	Richmond, Indiana
March 10-11	Roamin Club Auction, Livonia
March 24	Dearborn Swap
March 30- April 1	Flint
April 6-8	Mt. Clemens
April 20-22	Jackson
April 21-22	Columbus, Ohio
May 18-20	Dearborn

ATTENTION EXCHANGE EDITORS:

Our official mailing address is changing. Please send exchange bulletins to:

CML&MS
14933 Brown Rd.
Lansing, MI 48906

Thank you!

For Sale from Al Purtill's 20yr collection:
mini tumbler, medium tumbler, saws,
grinder/polisher, black light, cut slabs,
cutting material, and numerous specimens.
Call Cleora Purtill, 484-7196.

