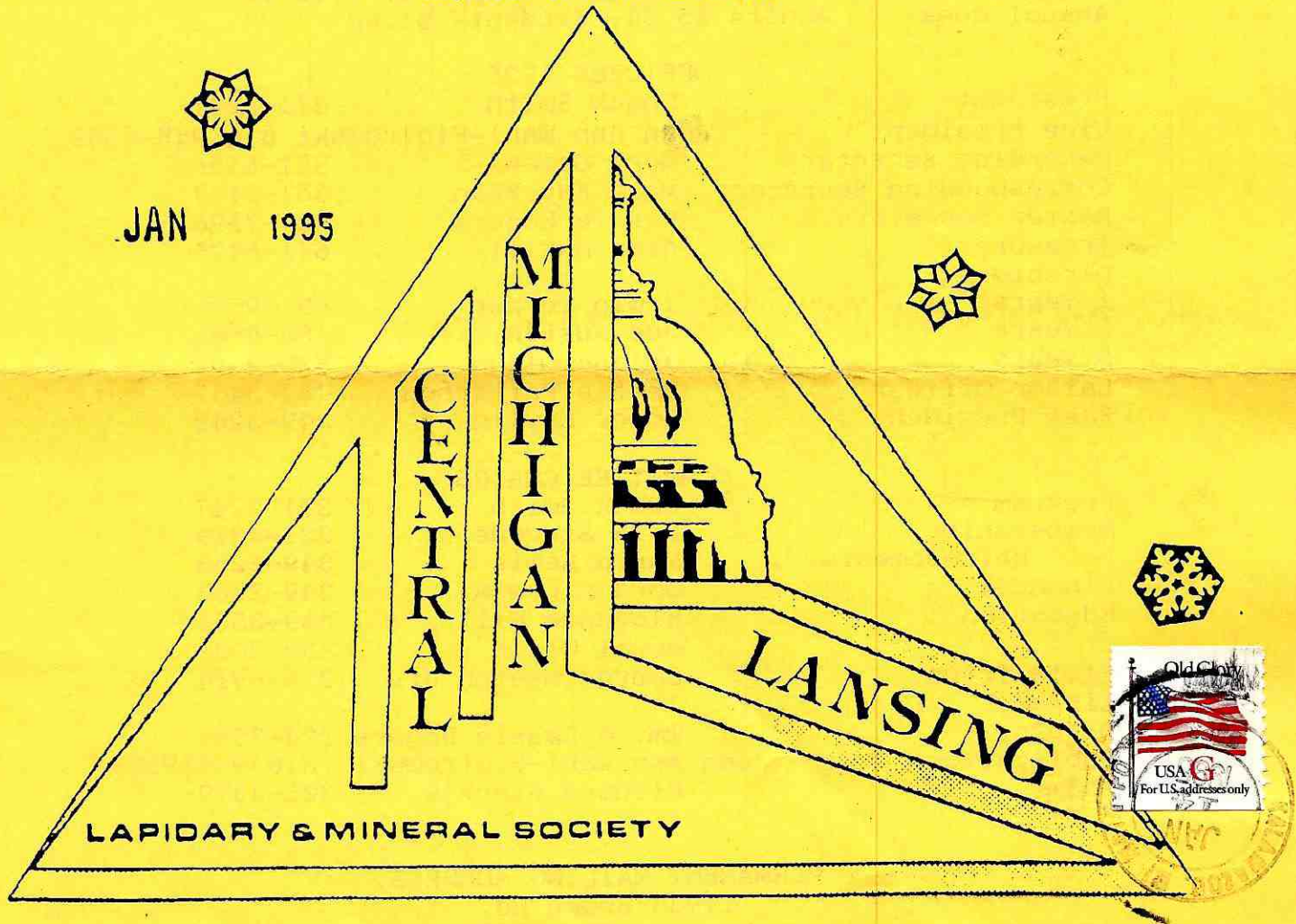


JAN 95

ROCKHOUND NEWS

official publication of the
Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society
member of MWF & AFMS

JAN 1995



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 Lansing MI 48906
FIRST CLASS
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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, paleontology 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 pm; doors are open at 7:00 pm
Annual dues: Adults \$5.00, Students \$1.00

OFFICERS 1995

President	Chuck Smith	371-3247
Vice President	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	616 948-9589
Recording Secretary	Mary Gowans	351-6136
Corresponding Secretary	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Roster Secretary	Bessie Rogers	224-7596
Treasurer	Alan Hukill	641-6125
Directors:		
1 Years	Irwin Turner	694-9596
2 Years	Joe Austin	485-4665
3 Years	Arlene Olson	339-2059
Liaison Officer	Bettie Patterson	482-3437
Past President	Roger Laylin	349-3249

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program	Chuck Smith	371-3247
Membership	Lila Stevens	321-4379
Refreshments	Marie Lewis	349-2263
Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
Education	Florence Hill	349-3554
	Royal Olson	339-2059
Field Trips	George Heaton Jr.	339-8914
Library		
Display	Wm. & Bessie Rogers	224-7596
Publications	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	(616)948-9589
Show	Richard Stevens	321-4379

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS:

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MEMBER OF:

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNERSTONE

Now that the holidays are over and we start a new year, we need to stop for a moment and catch our breath. It has been a very busy year and looks like the new year will be just as busy. Our club is planning many activities for our regular monthly meetings and field trips for the spring and summer months.

I hope you all have had a pleasant holiday season and I hope to see most of you at the next meeting.

Chuck Smith

NEVER POLISHED A PETOSKEY STONE? HERE'S YOUR CHANCE! jawp

Every year we prepare hundreds of petoskey polishing kits for the show, but how many of us have had a chance to do it? Our program for January will be hands-on: a chance for everyone to hand polish a petoskey stone. Richard and Kara Miller will share their wisdom and guide everyone along through the process.

The required materials have been donated by members and by the club. All you will need to provide is the willingness and a little elbow grease. Lila Stevens even has some partially tumbled stones that should be manageable for those whose friend, Arthur Wrightus, might present a problem.

I hope this will be a good chance to learn something new and visit with each other at the same time; and, I'm betting that Richard Miller hopes to recruit some new helpers for demonstrating at the show!

DON'T MISS THE JANUARY POTLUCK - George Heaton

For our January "field trip" we will be having a potluck at the Alaiedon Township hall on Sunday January 22 at 1:00 pm. Please bring a dish to pass and your own plates, cups and other eating tools.

Many of you may recall the fun times we had there in the past enjoying "Rocko," watching movies or slide shows and eating lots of good food. Bettie Patterson will be doing the program this year. It will be a talk about "Myths, Medicines and Minerals of Your Birthstones." Bettie illustrates her talk with samples.

The Alaiedon Township hall is located on Holt Road, just a 1/4 mile or so east of Okemos Road.

"SCIENCE IS FUN DAY" HELP NEEDED- Florence Hill

January 28 will be a "Science is Fun" day for Okemos students. A group of concerned parents has sponsored this day for several years. The session will be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the new Okemos High School, Jolly & Hulett Roads.

We have been invited to take part. So put on your thinking caps, and see what you can imagine that would make youngsters see how much enjoyment there is in rockhounding. Give your ideas to Florence Hill at the meeting or call her- 349-3554.

DUES ARE DUE!

If I don't have them by the end of the February club meeting you will not be in the directory. They are \$5.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students.

Bessie Rogers

EDUCATION- Florence Hill

We start 1995 with one of the very pretty minerals as our subject of study-- rhodochrosite, a manganese carbonate. David Piotrowski will discuss it in our 5 minute talk.

Several opportunities for learning will be opening soon.

Crystal study-- Bettie Patterson will lead a study group on crystals. Dr. Pough's series of lessons on crystal systems will form the basis of discussion. Bettie's collection will provide a source of first-hand observation.

Cabochon making-- We have several members who will help any new members (or member of long standing who has never tried cab-making) cut and polish their first cab. You will have a chance to try equipment, make something lovely with the advice of experience, and see if this part of our hobby is our dish.

In the planning is a brainstorming session of members who have given programs on the hobby to various age groups, and members who would like to be able to do so.

Sign up sheets will be available at the January meeting if you are interested in any of these subjects. Or call 349-3554 if you can't be at the January meeting.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY-- SHARPEN YOUR POCKET KNIFE jawp

Since our winter meeting attendance is usually light, we will continue with a hands-on theme for the program. In February we will re-address the topic of gypsum carving. (Last year we had a chance to look at examples, this year we'll devote our time to doing.)

Grit Turner and Lila Stevens will be bringing some examples of their work to the January meeting to wet our appetites. Gypsum is soft enough that plenty can be accomplished with simple tools like a pocket knife and coping saw.

Grit says he has some alabaster he is willing to share for this activity. If there is anyone else out there with excess to donate, please give me a call at (616) 948-9589.

NEWS FROM THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY- Mary Kay Bean

This past month get well cards were sent to Frank Owen and Barb Smith. Barb had a cardiac incident Christmas Eve but is home now and resting.

We received good news from Oleta Brockway. Oleta is doing well after her surgery and is hoping to leave for Florida around the 20th of this month! The removed tumor was not cancerous, so we can all breathe a sigh of relief on Oleta's behalf.

Sadly, we have lost another life member, Dorothy Rothman. A card of sympathy has been sent to her family.

COMMUNITY SERVICE- Florence Hill

Alice Turner is conducting two sessions of wire wrap instruction for the Oakland County Earth Science Club.

Grit Turner gave a program to 90 fourth graders at the Cedar Street Elementary School in Mason on January 12. He had taken the Kreps cases there for the youngsters to study early in the week.

Neil and Connie Snapp entertained a troop of Haslett Webeloes at their home January 3. They showed them rocks and fossils, and talked about them.

Grit and Alice Turner were interviewed January 9 by Jennifer Dodner of the Towne Courier staff. She is going to do a feature article on our mineral society, and has expressed great interest.

OUR SHOW DATE IS SCHEDULED, YOUR HELP IS NEEDED jawp & others

Our show is set for October 27-29 at the Marshall Street Armory. In the past, the show board has worked alone to come up with a theme for our show. This year Lila Stevens is asking everyone to put on their thinking caps. Please do your best to think of a catchy theme that we might be able to use for the show. We usually try to come up with something that is broad enough to encompass our hobby in general, rather than one particular aspect. Lila will take your suggestions at the January meeting.

Florence Hill sent a note listing her needs for the egg carton collections we make up for the children's table at the show. Please search your spares for the following:

Specular hematite in walnut size chunks or a little smaller
Gypsum pencil ore from Grand Rapids

Any other interesting specimens of at least 5 or 10 cents in value. These should be in multiples of 60.

Florence is aiming for 450 total, as we sold out last year.

Lila Stevens says, "HELP, HELP, HELP!" we need your willing hands again to take home small stones to label and bag for the grab bags. Lila will have the stones for you to take home at the January meeting. Please bring them back at the March or April meeting.

NEW BOOK ON AGATES PUBLISHED jawp

The Midwest Federation Newsletter included a flier from the Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division describing their new publication Banded Agates--Origins and Inclusions by Roger K. Pabian and Andrejs Zarins.

Pabian was at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for 25 years and is now with the Conservation & Survey Division. "He wound up looking at some 35,000 agates and reading some 2,500 articles on the subject...This knowledge has been distilled into a book."

Sounds worthwhile to me! Cost is \$4.50 + \$1.50 postage + .27 MI tax (yes they're collecting)= \$6.27. I'll have order forms at the meeting.

GYPSUM CARVING by Lloyd Conklin (submitted by Florence Hill)

In all the years we have been going to the Grand Rapids Gypsum Mine for material I have wanted to try my hand at carving it. So last spring I got up the nerve to try. On a club field trip I selected some gypsum especially for carving and started in. I have carved all animals and am now doing some fish in relief for bolo ties. My display and demonstration at the club show last fall drew much attention from people of all ages.

The only tools I used to carve at first were three jackknives; an old Scout knife worked very well for heavy shaping, with smaller blades for fine work. Later I found other tools that were helpful. Here is a suggested list of supplies: Saw— may be a lapidary diamond saw, hacksaw (tungsten blade), small Stanley hacksaw, coping saw (for openings). Knives with a variety of blades. Soft brush for cleaning surfaces. Rasps— may be large flat ones from hardware store, special ones for carving from art supply store, all sizes & shapes. Small woodcarving chisels & gouges. Picks or awls of various sizes. Sealer— Krylon, clear lacquer or varnish.

In choosing gypsum (from Grand Rapids) that is suitable for carving, look for pieces that are really solid and fine-grained. Avoid pencil gypsum. Some sugary pieces can be worked up successfully but others are too soft. Some streaks are mud or shale, which interfere with carving, while others may work up all right and add a touch of contrast. Take advantage of coloring in laying out your design.

To begin, saw a slab of material large enough to draw an outline of the design you want to make on the flat surface, and thick enough to make it in proportion with your figure. Slabs may run from 1/2 inch to 3 inches for most animals. Most are between 1 1/3 & 1 1/4 inches. Slabs for bolo ties (relief) should be about 1/4 to 5/8 inches thick.

Draw the pattern which you have found or made on the slab, and shape to this outline first with small saw, rasp, or knife. Then shape to the round, and add details with knife or chisel. Rasp marks can be smoothed out with a knife. Shaping may be to a full round for freestanding objects, or to relief with a flat back. Some people use fine sandpaper for finishing. I prefer a knife. The piece should be coated with a sealer when finished to avoid deterioration in moist air. Brush out all dust, wash and dry thoroughly before applying sealer.

Patterns may be obtained from books on carving, or you may make your own from magazines or books showing pictures of the figure you want to make. I find wildlife and outdoor sports magazines a good source for the figures I use. Some children's coloring books have simple outlines which can be used. Small figures you already have may be copied. And you may make your own from nature.

Carving can be done anywhere in the house with papers to catch the dust and a 6x12" board to support the stone once the slab is prepared. The work can be picked up and shaped in your odd moments. Supplies are inexpensive. Once you have gotten the feel of carving there is no limit to what you can do -- whatever you take a notion to try.

QUARTZ IN ARKANSAS via Rock Trails 12/94 via MGAGS & Strata Data

The U.S. Forest Service now has a Quartz mine in Montgomery Co. which is open for recreational collecting. It is on a mountain top with a spectacular view of Lake Ouchita and is a 20 minute uphill hike to get to. Collecting will be with hand tools only. Patient and persistent collectors should be rewarded, as will searching the old dumps.

Stop by the ranger station east of Mount Ida, called "Womble Station," to buy maps or get directions to the mine.

VASELINE HELPS via Border Gem Chatter 12/94 via Stoney Statements

After a tube of epoxy has been opened, dab a bit of Vaseline on the treads. The cap will not stick and mess up your tube. Also, put some Vaseline around the rim of your tumbler before bolting on the lid. It makes a tighter seal and it will be easier to remove the lid.

LAPIDARY TID BITS- Bill Horton via MWF Newsletter 12/94

Save all of your remains of bars of soap. Put them into a container (used butter or etc.). When you are lapping or facing a slab or geode that has a vug of crystals, soak the soap to a thick paste, and fill the vug. When you have completed the lapping process, use a brush to wash out the soap. This will eliminate the grit or slurry from filling the crystals.

BOARD BRIEFS FROM JANUARY 5 MEETING jawp

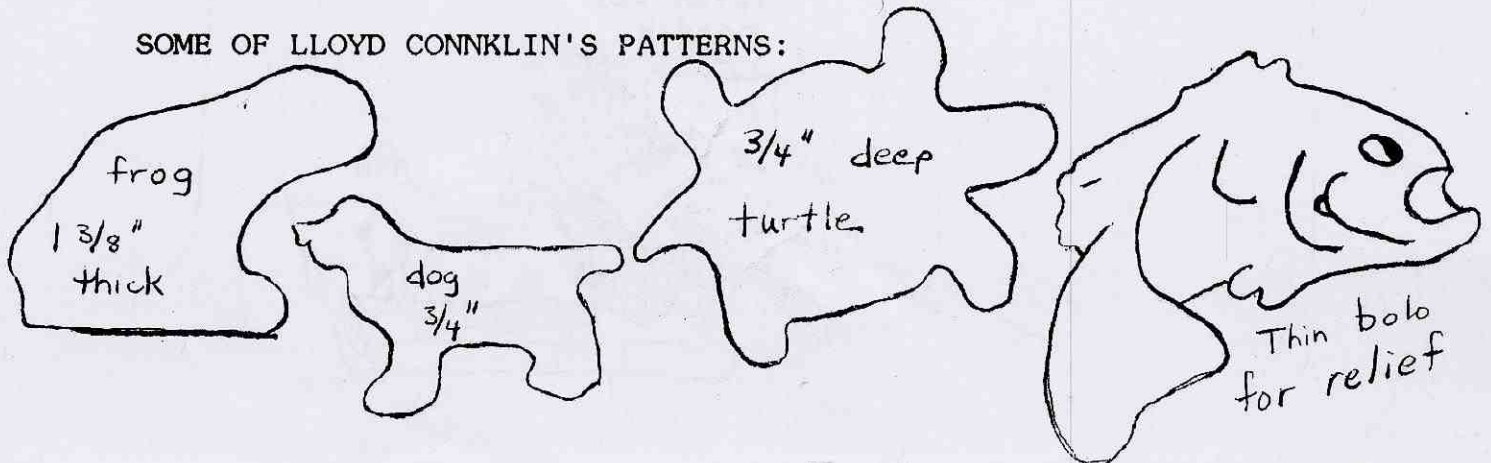
As usual, here's a briefing of items not already included in the newsletter:

--Discussion regarding LCC scholarship. We still have no good answer as to how LCC spent approx. \$3,000 we donated several years ago. Gordon Lewis will continue to persue. Also, only 3 earth science courses are offered. Will not offer financial support to LCC at this time.

--Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski suggested we think about offering financial support (and labor) to area museums and the Eddy Center.

--No additional word has been received about the mineral display at Kedzie Hall (MSU.)

--We have been given a space for display/outreach at the Michigan Science Teachers Convention to be held March 4 at the Lansing Center & LCC.

SOME OF LLOYD CONNKLIN'S PATTERNS:

CLUB CALENDAR

January 19	Regular meeting, 7:30pm, North School
22	Program: Petoskey stone polishing (hands on)
28	Potluck, 1:00pm, Alaiedon Township Hall, Program: Myths, Medicines & Minerals of Your Birthstone
February 2	Science is Fun Day, Okemos High School, 10:00am
16	Board Meeting, 7:30pm, Meridian Service Center
18	Regular meeting. Gypsum carving (hands on)
March 4	Field trip! Grand Rapids gypsum mine
October 27-29	Science Teachers Convention, Lansing Center
	OUR SHOW!

IT'S SHOW TIME AGAIN-- YES!!!!

March 11 & 12	Roamin Club Special Auction. Sat. 11am-6pm, Sun. noon - 6pm. FREE Waterman Campus Center Bldg. Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Rd. Livonia
March 17-19	Jackson Show. Fraternal order of Eagles, 302 Fifth St. Michigan Center
March 25	Dearborn Club Rock Swap, 10am-5pm, Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor (just east of Telegraph) FREE
March 31-	Flint Show. Fri. & Sat. 10am-7pm, Sun. noon-5pm
April 2	Williams Comm. Ed. Center, 3501 Minnesota Ave, Flint
May 6-7	Kalamazoo Show. Fairgrounds Center Bldg.
May 19-21	Dearborn Show. Fri. 5pm-9pm Sat. 10am-8pm Sun. 11am-5:30pm. Dearborn Civic Center, Michigan & Greenfield
June 23-25	Lawrence Co. (Bedford) Indiana Show & Swap, Monroe Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, Bloomington IN
August 5	Ishpeming Swap, 9am-5pm
August 7-11	Red Metal Retreat (Houghton)
August 12-13	MGAGS Seminar, Houghton, 9am-6pm
Oct. 7-8	Eddy Center Geology Arts Fair
Oct. 13-15	MWF Convention & Show, Detroit

Thanks to Margaret Randolph & Roger Laylin for the ideas for this cartoon. Drawn by David Piotrowski.

