

Obligatory Notes from the President

Here we go with a new year, one of change for CML&MS. Take a moment to read through the new list of officers and committee chairs on the cover of this newsletter, and you will see that several folks have taken on new responsibilities. It is a little unsettling when the old reliables decide to take a break, but it can and should be good for the growth of our club. Don't be surprised if YOU are asked to do something new, and, PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID TO SAY YES! Our club depends on more than a few people being willing "suckers!"

Since I end up writing most of the newsletter anyway, I won't bother mentioning monthly activities here. JUST KEEP READING.....

Jean Ann

Refreshments needed for the January Meeting

The old reliables are tired of rounding up refreshments every month. Here's an experiment. IF YOUR LAST NAME BEGINS WITH A-M, please bring a plate of goodies to share at the January meeting. We'll see how this works. Thanks, Jean Ann.

Program for January 18 to be video-taped by Grit -- Royal Olson

Grit Turner will video-tape and I in a new format program, similar to "show and tell" but different in its goal. There will be several speakers each telling about the most interesting and exciting place they visited recently, and for those who would like to know where and how to get there, some details and maybe even maps. Each of the speakers may have some samples or photographs, slides or other exhibits but will only have about ten minutes to present their story. At the end, the speakers may even form a panel to answer questions anyone may want to ask about all of this. And of course, there's always the snack time for further pursuit if you wish.

Grit said he would try and capture this all on video tape so that we can keep it for anyone to review when planning a field trip of their own. If this program is successful we may have another like it later, with different places and other members or guest speakers. This can add to our library of where and how to find places of interest, sort of an extension of our state folders.

So far we have Grit and maybe Alice; Larry Parks and Jude Miller; David and Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski. All of the above were at the Red Metal Retreat this summer, and that ought to give us a varied set of viewpoints to learn about. I cannot be at this meeting so I've asked Jean Ann to handle any additions to this roster. If you are desperately wanting to be on this Copper Country/UP panel please let her know.

Tentative programs for the next few meetings: power carving of alabaster; silent auction; Margaret & Randy Randolph on Indian artifacts, plus an expert on materials and how to work them into tools and weapons; hopefully a super speaker for the banquet in May. Please-- if you have any particular program you would like to put on, or acquire from any source, or repeat-- tell me and I will share it with the committee, the sooner the better.

Apologies to the Ferrin Family (jawnp)

It was brought to my attention that the welcome to our new members: Mark, Ann, Sarah & Katylin was full of mis-information. For starters, Katylin's name was misspelled. Former member and Grandma Marie Fisher-McElmurry is alive-and-kicking; and Ann's Dad was Gordon Fisher, not George. Guess I'd better make that appointment with the eye doctor.....

Don't miss the January Potluck, Jan. 21 -- George Heaton

For our January "field trip" we will be having a potluck at the Alaieton Township Hall on Sunday, January 21 at 1:00pm. 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. The board decided that it is about time to play "Rocko" again. **Please bring a couple of wrapped, hobby related prizes** for use in the game.

Education Report-- Margaret Green

Thank you, Florence, for your generous support and patience in mentoring me in my new position as the Education Chairman. Florence has left a legacy for our members that acts as a statement of Faith in their Loyalty and commitment to the club.

Please make note of the following dates for educational outreach opportunities:

Jan. 22 Okemos Science Fun Day 9:30-3:00
March 1 & 2 Michigan Science Teachers Assoc., Lansing Center
April 25 Rayla Elementary Science Evening
May Murphy School Science Evening.

In addition, many teachers are interested in classroom presentations. Please contact me if you will be available to help on any of these dates.

Several of our members will be giving programs at Fenner Nature Center this winter. You may want to attend and lend your support. The sessions are free.

Jan. 20, 1:30pm "What is this rock?" Irwin "Grit" Turner.

How rocks are formed. What makes some rocks alike and some different. Rocks that can be found in Michigan. Specimens to see.

Feb. 3, 1:30pm "The Making of Michigan" Florence Hill

What happened in ancient times to make our state the way it is. Slides of some of the special features of Michigan, with the geologic background to account for them. Unique Michigan stones to see.

Feb. 10, 1:30pm "What is a Crystal?" Royal Olson

Rules that crystals follow as they form. Some of the many interesting crystal shapes. Specimens to see.

Feb. 24, 1:30pm "The Myths, Minerals and Medicines of Birthstones" Bettie Patterson

Fact and legend about the minerals that have been named as birthstones for each month. Specimens to see.

March 9, 1:30pm "Let's go on a Field Trip!" Gordon & Marie Lewis

Planning for a collecting trip. Tools and gear to take. Places to go. Safety and courtesy measures to observe. How to care for your finds after you get them.

New Members (jawp)

Welcome to our newest members Daphene & Robert Hansor. Daphene & Robert were formerly members of the Michigan Mineral Society (Detroit area) and recently moved into the area. They are both interested in minerals and fossils. Robert also does lapidary work and micromounting. Besides rockhounding, Daphene enjoys crochet & quilting; and, collects elephants and Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls. Robert is a gardener.

Their address: 1722 Brogan Rd., Stockbridge MI 49285 517-851-7981

News from Rich & Lila Stevens

Received a post card of "fly the Grand Canyon" postmarked from Las Vegas, Jan. 6!

"Hi Jean Ann and club members. Today is wash day, getting ready for tomorrow, a red letter day. I have contacted Doris Currinton through my MAPPS guide. A most gracious lady who has invited us on two field trips with their club, Jan. 7 and Jan. 11. Tomorrow is a new area for her but we should find fossils. Jan. 11 is another fossil trip. We went sight seeing out in the valley. Lots of gypsum mines. We did not pick up much but saw quite a bit of satin spar. Will get it next time. Nice weather but in the 30's every morn." Lila

Dues are Due via the Petoskey Stone 1/96 & others

You pay your dues and what do you get?

A year filled with friends and fun, you bet!

You learn about rocks and minerals, too;

There's oodles and oodles of things to do!

There's field trips and shows and programs galore.

Now what do you mean, "can't we offer you more?"

Sure, there's scads of books for you to read

To keep your noggin from going to seed.

There's auctions and door prizes and raffles, to boot.

If you're lucky enough, you can win lots of loot.

You don't have to remember, you're reminded to meet

by the monthly bulletin, which we hope is a treat.

There are displays at each meeting for you to see

And hot coffee and cake for cake-eaters like me.

You can visit with friends to your heart's content.

SO PAY YOUR DUES; it's money well spent!

Did you say work? Yeah, there's always that, too.

But it can be fun when you work with a crew.

Just do your share, don't leave it to others.

We'd all shirk the work if we had our druthers.

So plunk down your money and smile when you do,

'Cause there's lots of pleasure in store for you.

Can't think of a way you get more for your dough,

Than by joining this rock club with 'Git up and go!

(Send the bucks to Bessie Rogers, 2222 W. Marshall Rd., St. Johns MI 48879.)

Opal Care from the AFMS Newsletter 11/95

There was an item in the November Rocky Mountain Federation News which greatly alarmed me. It could cause destruction of a valuable gemstone. Since the article was also cited in the AFMS Newsletter would you please place this warning so that good opals will not be destroyed needlessly.

In an otherwise excellent article on black opal, the recommendation was made to prevent opal from drying out by storing it in glycerin! This is likely to cause cracking rather than prevent it! The reason is that glycerin has an affinity for water and may actually draw it out of the opal. Some fine stones have been destroyed by storage in glycerin.

Water is not a good storage either since opal was originally deposited from water solution.

With long exposure to pure water it may start to re-dissolve slightly. You need a liquid that will not mix with water.

I have used ordinary mineral oil. Another pleasant, alternative is to wear it frequently. The oil picked up from a person's skin is also a good barrier to moisture.

Sincerely, William R Cook, Jr. Ph.D. (mineralogy)

Board Briefs from 1-4-96

--Milo Hillis should be in the St. Lawrence Dimondale Center by now. Keep him in your thoughts.

--Sally Barber is recuperating well from her broken hip, but is still not allowed to walk outside. Meals-on-wheels and help from her daughter are making the days more pleasant.

--Grit Turner would like to see more folks displaying at area shows. Jackson especially could use some help, they even provide cases for you to fill. See him for more information, and/or pick up a flier at the meeting.

--Roger Laylin indicated that we will definitely need lots of material for the kids table, egg cartons, grab bags, etc. at this years show. Keep this in mind if you clean the basement this winter. Discussed a possible trip for petoskey stone collecting as our supply is running low.

--Roger Laylin & Alan Hukill are working on the transfer to MWF insurance. By MWF definition we have 123 active members (if you come to one meeting or activity in the year, you are considered active.)

Chalcocites from the Flambeau Mine by Gene L. LaBerge MWF Geology Rept. 11/95

One of the most significant geological and mineralogical developments in Wisconsin in recent years is the opening of the copper/gold mine at Ladysmith. The Flambeau Mine is operated by the Flambeau Mining Co., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kennecott Corporation of Salt Lake City, Utah, which, in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the London-based RTZ corp.

Mining commenced in May, 1993, following expenditure of \$28 million, of which more than \$20 million was for environmental safeguards. The deposit is located about one mile south of Ladysmith, adjacent to the Flambeau River.

The Flambeau deposit is a pancake-shaped accumulation that was formed about 1850 million years ago by hot springs carrying metal-rich brines onto the ocean floor on the flanks of a volcanic island. At this ancient time, a chain of volcanic islands extended across Wisconsin in an east-west direction. Volcanic rocks formed by these volcanic islands were intensely deformed during the formation of a mountain range, called the "Penokean Mountains," about 1840 million years ago. This deformation tilted the ore body on its edge.

What makes the Flambeau deposit unique is that the ore body was subjected to extensive

chemical weathering that greatly enriched the copper and gold. The weathering and enrichment occurred before the Cambrian seas advanced over Wisconsin, covering the ore body with a layer of sandstone.

Of mineralogical interest, the enrichment converted the original chalcopyrite and pyrite to the copper-rich mineral chalcocite. Numerous cavities (pockets) were produced in the original ore by weathering, and superb chalcocite crystals formed in these pockets from the downward percolating waters. Chalcocite crystals to more than two inches long have been recovered, and one-inch crystals are relatively common. Whereas chalcocite from most localities is lead-gray, most of the Flambeau chalcocites have a spectacular patina of gun-metal blue, or brassy yellow, or purple. The combination of large, well-formed crystals and a spectacular patina make these chalcocites among the very best ever recovered anywhere. Unfortunately, they are not very abundant, and the mine will close in 1997, so opportunities to obtain these spectacular crystals will be limited.

CALENDAR

- Jan. 18 Regular meeting, North School, 7:30.
Last names A-M, please bring goodies.
- Jan. 21 Potluck, Aliedon Twp. Hall, 1:00. Bring dish to pass, eating utensils, & prizes for Rocko (wrapped, hobby related)
- Feb. 17 Field trip to MI Natural Storage, Grand Rapids--tentative

SHOW CALENDAR (Yes, already!!!!)

- March 9 & 10 Roamin Club Auction. Schoolcraft College, Waterman Campus Center Bldg, 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia. Sat. 11-6, Sun 12-6. Free.
- March 15-17 Jackson Show. Frat. Order of Eagles, 302 5th St, Michigan Center. Fri. 1-9, Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 10am-5pm. Adults \$2, Teens .50
- March 23 Metro Rock Swap (Dearborn Club). Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor (just East of Telegraph). 10am-5pm. Free.
- April 3-6 Indian Mounds Show. Eastbrook Mall, 28th St., Grand Rapids
- May 17-19 Dearborn Show. Dearborn Civic Center, Michigan & Greenfield. Fri. 5-9, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 11-5:30