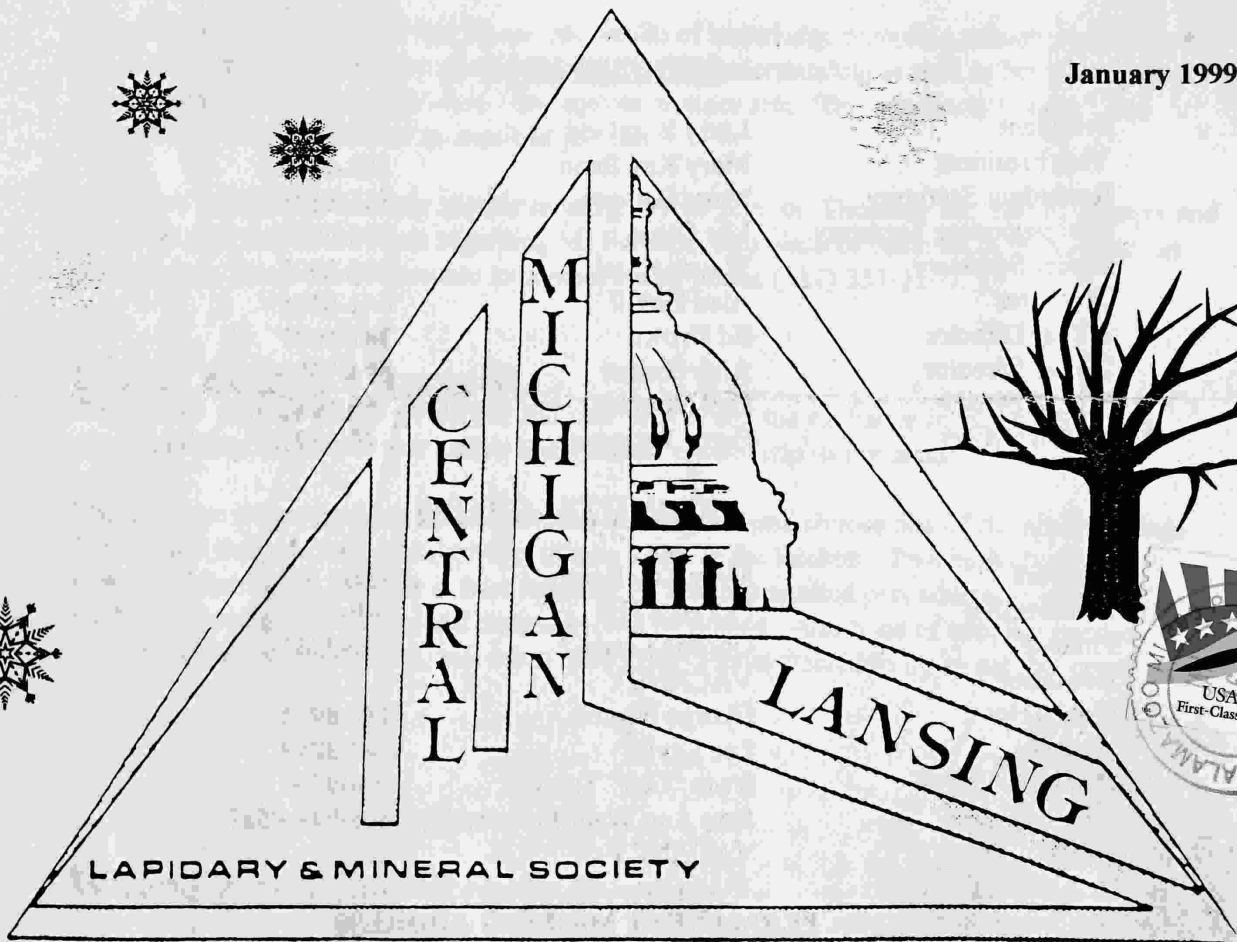


# ROCKHOUND NEWS



Official publication of the  
Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society  
Member of MWF & AFMS

January 1999



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Haslett MI 48864  
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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 p.m.; doors open at 7:00 p.m.**

**Annual dues: Adults \$5.00, Students under age 18 \$1.00**

### **OFFICERS 1999**

President	Larry Bourland	543-6669
Vice President	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Recording Secretary	Mary Gowans	351-6136
Corresponding Secretary	Lee Olson	339-2059
Roster Secretary	Wayne Zittel	485-2002
Treasurer	Alan Hukill	641-6125
1 Year Director	Ed Drown	347-5097
2 Year Director	Alice Turner	694-9596
3 Year Director	Gail Hopkins	886-6047
Liaison Officer	Bettie Patterson	347-8821

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Program	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Membership	Florence Hill	349-3554
Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
Education	VACANCY	
Field Trips	George Heaton	339-8914
Library	Lee Laylin	349-3249
Display	Irwin "Grit" Turner	694-9596
Publications	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	616-948-9589
Show	VACANCY	

### **PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS**

4519 Seneca  
Okemos MI 48864

### **MEMBER OF:**

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies  
<http://www.comean.com/rock/mwf>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

**IF YOUR LAST NAME BEGINS WITH J-Q  
PLEASE BRING SOME GOODIES TO SHARE**

**VICE-PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM REPORT--** Mary Kay Bean

Please welcome our first speaker of the year, Ms Ivone Ferreira, woman entrepreneur, owner and operator of the I. Ferreira Mining Company, who has without fail and with tremendous fortitude left her native Brazil only a few short years ago to become one of our most highly regarded businesswomen in her field at the youthful age of thirty-six years. Her story has appeared in the "Williamston Enterprise" and she was honored as Woman of the Month in March of 1998 by the "Lansing Metropolitan Woman's Spotlight."

Ivone left her homeland and has shared her wealth of knowledge regarding minerals and fossils, enhancing our community greatly with her geological understanding as well as her phenomenal inner beauty and open-heartedness. Her ageless mottoes are: "Be completely honest." and "Explore the world and learn as much as possible."

If you are unable to attend our regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday the 21st of January and would like further information regarding Ms Ferreira, who place of business in "next-door" in Williamston, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (517) 351-1107.

**HELP IS NEEDED!** -- Florence Hill

If you have enjoyed chatting with old and new friends and the exchange of information and planning that goes on with our coffee and goodies, please help us continue.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the next club meeting. Please choose one of the nine meetings (September through June, except May) to take a turn in the kitchen. Two individuals or two families, should work together at each meeting. A list of suggested procedures-- getting things ready, overseeing the serving, and clean-up-- will be posted. Also a list of supplies needed. If you want to pick a date in advance, call me at 349-3554. I have offered to try to get this organized.

Wayne Zittel the "Roster Rooster"  
reminds you that dues are due!  
\$5.00 Adults, \$1.00 for under 18 yrs.  
See him at the meeting, or send a check to:  
3401 Walker Rd, Lansing MI 48906-3205



**DON'T MISS THE JANUARY POTLUCK**-- George Heaton

For January we will be having a potluck at the Alaiedon Township Hall on Sunday, January 24th at 1:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass and your own plates, cups and eating tools.

Many of you may recall the fun times we had there in the past enjoying playing "Rocko," watching movies or slide shows and eating lots of good food. I believe this year we may view slides of past field trips.

Alaiedon Township Hall is located at 2021 West Holt Road., 1/2 mile east of Okemos Road. So mark your calendars for January 24th, bring the whole family, and enjoy a Sunday afternoon of fun and good food.

**EDUCATION REPORT** -- Margaret Green

Mineral of the Month: Halite

Coming Events:

- Marge Holslager who teaches at Murphy Elementary was Royal Olson's friend. This year she needs someone from our club to take her fourth grade class to the mine in Grand Rapids. Her open dates are March 27th, April 24th or May 1st.
- Murphy, Ralya and Fairview are planning their science nights for spring.
- The following teachers need classroom visits. No dates have been set.  
Nancy Winter, a home school teacher 394-0141  
Pat Nesbet, Woodland Elementary, 140 West St., Woodland MI 48849 616 367-4935  
Bella Mitchell, Northwestern Elementary, 400 Dexter, Eaton Rapids 663-2571  
Debra Shankler, Colt Elementary, 349-4241

Message to club members: Thank you for your friendship and support. I am no longer going to work in the club as the education committee chairperson. The time I spent working with you was rewarding and enjoyable. I appreciate all the help you have given me.-- Margaret

**GRAND RAPIDS FIELD TRIP, FEBRUARY 13**-- George Heaton

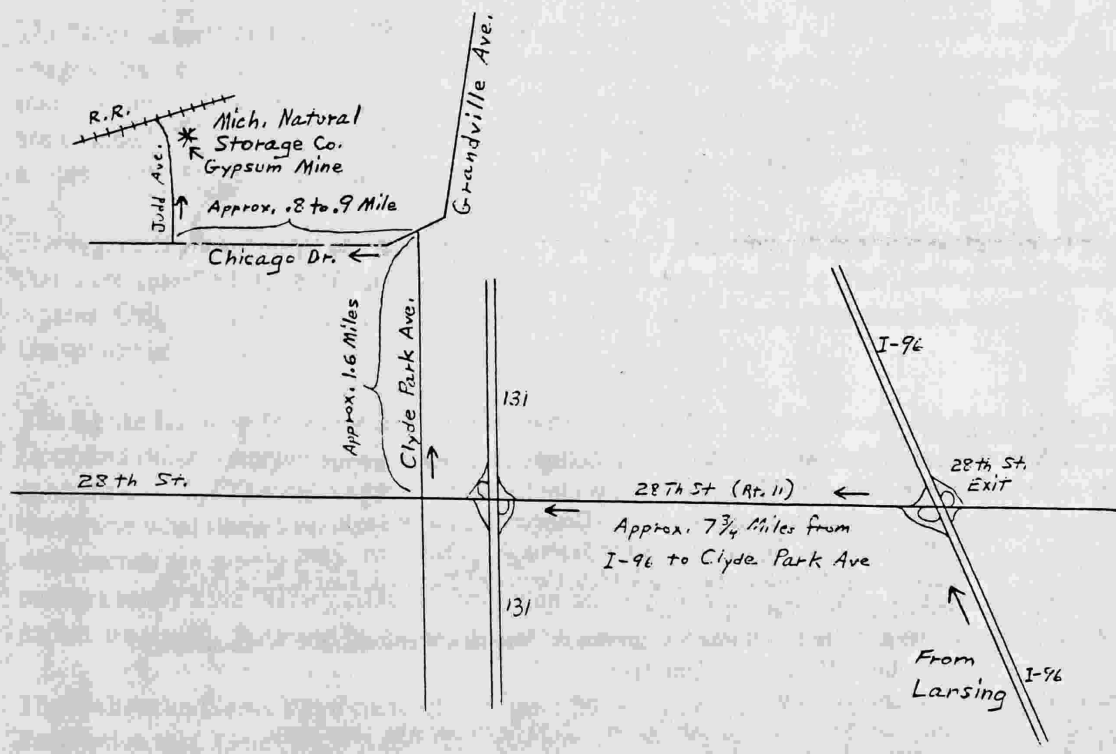
The February field trip will be to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. Gypsum Mine in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We will meet on Saturday, February 13th at the Michigan Natural Storage Co. office at 10:00 am. Please note that this is the Saturday before our regular meeting. This is President's Day holiday weekend and my sister asked if I could have the field trip on this weekend so she and my nephew could participate in the trip. Since this is a departure from our traditional field trip date I will be willing to arrange another field trip to Grand Rapids at a later date if a significant number of people request it.

The storage company charges \$2.50 per person. Bring flashlights, lanterns, and spare batteries since the mine tunnels are dark. You will need hammers, sharp chisels, and buckets or boxes to carry tools and rocks. If you collect selenite crystals, you will also need tissue paper to wrap them. The mine is around 54 degrees, so you will probably find it most comfortable to dress in a few layers which you can adjust to your level of activity. Boots and a hard hat are also recommended.

Do not forget to bring a lunch and something to drink. We stay down in the tunnels until about 3:00pm.

Material to be collected includes massive gypsum in the form of "pencil ore" and alabaster, and gypsum crystals called selenite. I would like everyone to collect and carry out a couple of good pieces of "pencil ore" for the children's table. If everyone does this it will add up to a good quantity of material and I won't have the back-breaking job of hauling out one huge and heavy bucketful by myself. I would appreciate this very much.

To get there take I-96 to the 28th street-West exit at Grand Rapids. (This will be the 2nd 28th St. exit.) Go west on 28th St. to Clyde Park Ave, turn right (North) on Clyde Park. Take Clyde Park to Grandville Ave. and turn left (West). Grandville Ave. becomes Chicago Drive just west of Clyde Park. Take Chicago Dr. to Judd Ave. and turn right (North.) Take Judd to Michigan Natural Storage which is on the right just before the railroad tracks. Allow about 1 1/2 hours driving time from Lansing.



#### CLUB CALENDAR

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Jan. 21    | Regular meeting, 7:30 North School   |
| Jan. 24    | Potluck, 1:00 Alaiendon Township Hall                                      |
| Feb. 13    | Fieldtrip, MI Natural Storage, Grand Rapids. Be ready to go down at 10 am. |
| Oct. 22-24 | Our show. WE STILL NEED A CHAIRMAN!!! INTERESTED?                          |

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY AND MINERAL SOCIETY  
 TREASURER'S REPORT  
 DECEMBER 1, 1998 - DECEMBER 31, 1998

BALANCE ON HAND(12-01-98)	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(7-16-99)	\$11109.36
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	12115.26
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	529.40
TOTAL	\$23754.02

RECEIPTS:	
BADGES	7.00
DUES	91.00
MINI-AUCTION	169.40
RETURN OF CHECK (MERIDIAN)	50.00
TOTAL	317.40

DISBURSEMENTS:	
PUBLICATIONS	137.74
LIBRARY	53.00
ROSTER SECRETARY	78.14
TOTAL	268.88

BALANCE ON HAND(12-31-98)	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99)	\$11109.36
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	12382.66
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	310.52
TOTAL	\$23802.54

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ALAN HUKILL, TREASURER

### SHOW CALENDAR

- March 6 & 7 — Roamin Club Auction. Schoolcraft College, Waterman Campus  
 Center Bldg, 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia. Sat. 11-6, Sun 12-6. Free.
- March 20 — Metro Rock Swap (Dearborn Club). Democratic Club of Taylor,  
 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor (just East of Telegraph). 10am-5pm. Free.
- April 7-10 — Indian Mounds Show. Eastbrook Mall, Corner of 28th St. & East Beltline (M-37),  
 Grand Rapids. 10am-9pm Free
- April 10-11 — Midwest Federation Show & Convention. Veterans Memorial. 300 W. Broad St.,  
 Columbus OH. Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5.
- April 16-18 — Mt. Clemens Show
- May 1-2 — Cincinnati Show. Cincinnati Gardens, 2250 Seymour Ave, Cincinnati.  
 Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5.
- Apr. 30-May 2 — Kalamazoo Show. Fairgrounds County Center Bldg., 2900 Lake St.  
 Fri. 4-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Admission \$2.00, under 12 free with Adult.
- May 21-23 — Dearborn Show. Dearborn Civic Center, Michigan & Greenfield.  
 Fri. 5-9, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 11-5:30
- June 25-27 — Lawrence County IN show/swap. Monroe Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, Bloomington  
 Indiana. Fri. 10-7, Sat. 8-7, Sun. 8-4. Camping \$6.00 per night. Free admission.
- June 19-20 — MGAGS Rockhound Seminar. Southwestern MI College, Niles MI  
 \$15.00 per day, advance \$12.00 per day. See Grit & Alice Turner for more information.
- Aug. 8-16 — Red Metal Retreat. Houghton MI



### Agate Resources on the Web

Duane R. Mohlman and Roger K. Pabian  
Conservation and Survey Division  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

<http://csd.unl.edu/csd.html>

A wealth of agate information is now available via the web from the Conservation and Survey Division (CSD), University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The agate material presented is the result of years of research and data-collection by Roger K. Pabian, CSD research geologist and paleontologist. The "web-work" was done by Duane R. Mohlman, CSD data systems coordinator and web administrator. The web site includes these four major agate attractions:

The "showcase attraction" is **The Agates Page**. As of November 1, 1998, there were 277 images. Some of these images contain multiple agates. Several of the agates include descriptive text. As time allows, text will be added for the remaining agates. Nearly one-half of the images are of agates from the United States (23 different states). The other half includes images of agates from 14 foreign countries, spanning six of the seven continents.

The **Agate Bibliography** contains nearly 3,300 literary citations. This is a compilation of papers that were searched out by Pabian and Andrejs Zarins while preparing their publication "Banded Agates, Origins and Inclusions," Educational Circular 12, Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The **Agate Lexicon** (or more formally known as the *Lexicon and Glossary of Agate, Jasper, Opal and other Amorphous, Cryptocrystalline, or Spherulitic Forms of Gem Silicon Dioxide*), contains over 2,700 named agate varieties with literary citations. The purpose of this page is to determine what named varieties of agates, jaspers, etc. are valid geologic or scientific names and what names are simply trade names that have been coined by dealers to improve sales. Valid names usually have literary citations and geographic information following the entry whereas trade names are usually followed by a citation of the advertisement in which the name was first used.

The **Nebraska Gems Page** currently contains 29 images of Nebraska gems, almost all with descriptive text. Gems from Nebraska have either formed in place right here or they have been transported into the state by streams draining mountainous areas to the west or by glaciers that originated in the north. These diverse sources give Nebraska some unusual gemstones that provide the collector and lapidary with some interesting materials as well as opportunities to learn about the geology of the state. The Nebraska Gem Page is in its early construction phase but it already includes a few entries that did not appear in "Minerals and Gemstones of Nebraska."

To view these agate resources, as well as a host of other earth science material, please visit the Conservation and Survey Division web site at <http://csd.unl.edu/csd.html>. Each of these four agate resources are clearly on the CSD home page.

## CARATS AND KARATS

### Knowing the difference makes you a better shopper

By Frank Rowley

**CARAT:** Gemstones, such as diamonds, emeralds, rubies, etc. weights are stated in carats. Carat is a unit of weight, not size or shape. A carat is equal to 1/5 gram, or you can state 5 carats = 1 gram. There are 28.35 grams in an ounce. If you have 141.75 carats of diamonds you would have 1 ounce of diamonds. A gemstone weighing less than 1 carat is expressed as "points". 100 points = 1 carat, therefore a 25 point stone would be 1/4 carat in weight. If I haven't lost you or put you to sleep try this one.

**AVOIRDUPOIS OUNCE V.S. THE TROY OUNCE:** (Avoirdupois is abbreviated AV) The "Noble Metals" - gold, silver and platinum are usually sold by the ounce - not our everyday Avoirdupois Ounce, but the Troy Ounce. The Troy Ounce is approximately 10% heavier than the AV Ounce, (1.097 AV Ounce - 1 Troy Ounce). If silver wire is listed at \$10.00 per ounce (Troy) it would cost 10% less, or \$9.00, if we think of it in terms of the common everyday ounce.

Gem Stones are usually sold by the common (AV) ounce, if they are being sold by their weight. Valuable Gem Stones are sold by the gram or carat. To convert a gram price into the price per ounce, multiply by 30. This is 6% too high, but it is easier to use a round number like 30 instead of the exact 28.35 grams in an ounce. So when shopping for a gem, and quoted a price of 50 cents a gram (.50 X 30 \$15.00 an ounce) or \$15.00 X 16 ounces = \$240.00 a pound or if \$2.00 per gram \$2.00 x 30 x 16 ounces = \$960.00 a pound.

**KARAT:** Karat is used to express the percentage of pure gold in an article. Karat is abbreviated as "K". 24 K Gold article would be pure gold (100%). 12K gold article would contain 50% gold, 18K article would be 75% pure gold. The alloying metals with gold are usually silver, copper and zinc, unless it is white gold then the alloying metals are nickel, copper and zinc.

OH! YES, there are carrots in the super market or the garden and they are Bugs Bunny's favorite food, and outside of our discussion.

So, at the next Gem Show, at Quartzite or at the jewelry store when the seller quotes you a price per carat, per gram or ounce you can convert or understand the pricing on the spot.

Happy Buying or Selling!

Via Clark County Gem Collectors Newsletter 11/98

