

Rockhound News

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 17, 2011

PROGRAM: *Recent Meteorite Recoveries in Michigan*

Presented by Michael Velbel, MSU Geology Faculty

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

Location & Time: The CMLMS February Meeting will be held on February 17 at 7:30 pm at the North School, 333 E. Miller Rd, Lansing, MI. Please get there a little early to help set up the tables. Enjoy a presentation on recent meteorite recoveries in Michigan by Prof. Michael Velbel, MSU Geology Faculty.

Calendar for March 2011

March 3, 2011 Board Meeting-7:00 pm at the Okemos Library

March 17, 2011 Membership Meeting at North School, Lansing at 7:30 pm. Program is the spring **Silent Auction**. Please see the printable auction form available on the club website, www.michrocks.org. Please start selecting specimens for the Silent Auction and making out the forms for them. Mineral specimens, jewelry, rock-related equipment or books/magazines may be sold on the silent auction. A slide show or DVD will also be presented during the auction.

Club News:

- **2011 Officers are:** President – Roni Sionakides; Vice-President – David Westjohn; Recording Secretary – Sue Casler; Corresponding Secretary – Sharon Patton; Treasurer – Kris Wood; 3 Year Director – Jan Sjoquist; 2 Year Director, Bob Mosher; and 1 Year Director, Mary Gowans.
 - **A Volunteer** is needed to serve on the **Audit Committee** reporting on the 2010 finances. Elaine Beane also will serve on the Audit Committee, but one more CMLMS member is required. Please contact Roni Sionakides to volunteer for about 3 hours of work. Financial experience is useful, but not required!
 - **Roster Secretary Ernie Aughenbaugh:** Dues are now being collected for 2011!!! Please pay your dues or you won't be in the club directory and you won't be able to vote.
 - **Show Chair Roger Laylin:** The 2010 Annual Show was successful in raising sufficient funds to support a scholarship for an MSU geology student. The scholarship recipient will be selected and the scholarship awarded in the Spring of 2011.
 - **Banquet Chairs Milt Gere & Sharon Bacigal:** Ernie Aughenbaugh is selling tickets at \$10 per adult; contact Ernie at 989-224-7619 or esalapidary@gmail.com; ticket sales end the Friday before the Banquet date on May 19, so **get your tickets soon!** Neil Snepp is making arrangements for the food and the meeting hall at the Masonic Temple in Okemos; Dan Sine is working on doorprizes and seeking displays from members; contact Dan if you have an interesting display for the banquet. Elaine Beane will produce the banquet programs. Sharon Patton will be organizing the Hospitality Table; contact Sharon at 517-484-7795 if you can help bring appetizers and beverages for the banquet crowd.
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- **A Message from Field Trip Chair Dan Sine:** On February 26, CMLMS will join a trip to the Gypsum Mine in Grand Rapids; the CMLMS spots on this field trip are all filled. In May, Dan has arranged a trip to the LaFarge Quarry in Paulding, Ohio; the group will meet at the 8:00 AM in the quarry parking lot, with the collecting period ending at 1:45 PM. The Quarry Coordinator lists the following requirements: hardhats, safety vests, safety glasses/goggles, leather boots, long pants, and collecting equipment. Contact Dan if you are interested in this trip. -- Tentative field trips: June 24-26 – an Indiana field trip in conjunction with the Bloomington, Indiana show. Also, a September (9-2 through 9-5) trip to Flint Ridge, Ohio, with the Tulip City Club, to visit the annual flint knappers' show and sale.
 - **Training for Field Trips:** The Kalamazoo Club has made arrangements for a Mine Safety Class to be given in March in a Marshall location. The class is 4 hours long and costs \$20.00 per person. Please contact Dan Sine for more information. Each participant will receive a mine safety training booklet.
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MINUTES for CMLMS Meetings in December 2010 and January 2011**Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society Board Meeting December 2, 2010**

President: Roni Sionakides called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm at the Okemos Public Library.

Board Members Present: Elaine Angstman, Ernie Aughenbaugh, Elaine Beane, Sue Casler, Milt Gere, Mary Gowans, Alan Hukill, Richard Lassen, Roger Laylin, Gordon Lewis, Bob Mosher, Sharon Patton, Roni Sionakides, Jan Sjoquist, David Westjohn and Kris Wood. [Board members absent: Lyle Laylin, Jennifer Martin, Kara Miller, Dan Sine and Mary Ann Smith].

Discussed: “Bad Weather Advisory”: - A cut-off time of 5 pm was agreed for decision to cancel board meetings. **Membership meetings will follow the same pattern; members also should monitor Lansing school closing notices on radio and television: If the schools are closed for the day, the CMLMS membership meeting is cancelled.**

Vice President: Rich Lassin - Program Review: the December meeting will be our annual “Holiday” meeting, bring a rock related gift for exchange, and everyone bring their favorite Holiday treat. For the January meeting the topic will be Gold Mineralization in Menominee County in the UP, presented by Rich Lassin.

Recording Secretary: Sue Casler - Briefly summarized the November 4, 2010 board meeting minutes (to be included in a future newsletter).

Corresponding Secretary: Mary Anne Smith (Absent).

Treasurer’s Report: Kris Wood - Reviewed the receipts and disbursements for the month of November; and also presented the show deposits/expenses.

Directors: [1-YR] Bob Mosher - Further study of the micro fossils from the Alpena Quarry; Bob has found that sponges were extremely common, and that sponge spicules cover many other fossils.

[2-YR] Mary Gowans - No report.

[3-YR] Dave Westjohn - No report.

Roster Secretary: Ernie Aughenbaugh - few misc. items.

Liaison Officer: Alan Hukill - No report.

Past President: Milt Gere - No report.

Membership: Elaine Angstman - Presented three applications for CMLMS membership to the Board: 1) Amy Hitunen; 2) Patricia Scott; and 3) Tina Saunto. **Alan Hukill moved to accept new member applications; Gordon Lewis seconded the motion. Vote taken and motion approved. Welcome new members!**

Field Trips: Dan Sine (Absent) - Roger Laylin asked if there would be interest in going on a field trip to Archie’s (shop in Mason) - there was, so Roger will schedule something with Archie.

Publications: Elaine Beane - Items for the newsletter are due to Elaine by the Tuesday following the Board meeting.

Education & Community Outreach: February 12 is Science is Fun Day at the Okemos H.S., from 11-3 pm (club was well represented last year); if interested see Gordon, Roger, Milt or Roni.

Library: Roger Laylin - the library will be returning to the school for the next membership meeting.

Display: Dan Sine/Dave Westjohn - No Report.

Finance: Gordon Lewis - No report.

Web Master/Site: Lyle Laylin (Absent)

Show: Roger Laylin - Wrap-up meeting for the Show will be December 9 at 7pm at the Laylins.

Old Business:

*We will have installation of 2011 Officers at the December meeting (check w/Neil and Gordon to do the honors)

*Discussion of Impression 5 Science Center scholarships - to be tabled until next spring.

By-Law change for memorials - extensive discussion, revisions will be revisited in January.

New Business: Banquet - volunteers needed for Banquet Committee (based on the experience from 2010 - need to get organized earlier for 2011 Banquet). Will be agenda item for January membership meeting.

Milt Gere moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mary Gowans. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Casler, Recording Secretary

CMLMS Newsletter

February 2011

Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society Membership Meeting December 16, 2010

- a. **Call to Order.** The December membership meeting was called to order by President Roni Sionakides at 7:40 pm at the North Elementary School.
- b. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests/Visitors.** Guest/visitors this evening were: Pat Scott (new member), Amy Hitunen (new member) and Michele Ballinger. Welcome to all!
- c. **Minutes of Last Meeting.** Sue Casler - Summarized the November 18, 2010 meeting minutes (will be printed in a future newsletter.)
- d. **Treasurer's Report.** Kris Wood - Absent.
- e. **Announcements:**
 *Science is Fun Day - Feb. 12, 11-3 pm at Okemos High School (Jolly Rd.)
 *Email received from a teacher on the usefulness of club website.
 *Banquet Committee needs to get formed - volunteers needed.
 *Arctic Dinosaurs program on Nova (public tv).
 *Richard Lassen - Program for January, Gold Mineralization in Menominee Co.
 *Richard Miller - mentioned there were groups interested in polishing petoskey stones.
 *Long time member, Bessie Rogers turns 90-years young on Dec. 31!
 *Installation of 2011 Officers - Gordon Lewis
 President - Roni Sionakides
 Vice President - Dave Westjohn
 Treasurer - Kris Wood
 Recording Secretary - Sue Casler
 Corresponding Secretary - Sharon Patton
 1-YR Director - Mary Gowans
 2-YR Director - Bob Mosher
 3-YR Director - Jan Sjoquist (Absent)
- *Door prizes - Dan Sine with lots of prizes for this evening.
 Tonight's program - "Holiday" party - "Rocky" gift exchange, sweet treats to eat, and visit with rock friends.
- f. **Adjournment.** Mary Gowans moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Richard Miller. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Casler, Recording Secretary

Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society Board Meeting, January 6, 2011

Minutes will be included in the March CMLMS newsletter.

Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society Membership Meeting, January 20, 2011

- a. **Call to Order.** The January membership meeting was called to order by President Roni Sionakides at 7:40 pm at the North Elementary School. President Sionakides announced the deaths of Sharon Patton's husband, Nancy Smith Collins, and Donna Nolte of the Oshkosh Club. Condolences were expressed.
- e. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests/Visitors.** Guest/visitors this evening were: Jim Heinzman (recently retired State of Michigan geologist). President Sionakides announced that we have two new members, Glen Kuban and Michele Ballinger. The large number of folks in attendance at the January 20 meeting was also noted.
- f. **Minutes of Last Meeting.** Sue Casler - Summarized the December 16, 2010 meeting minutes (will be printed in a future newsletter).
- g. **Treasurer's Report.** Kris Wood - Absent.
- e. **Announcements.**
 *Vice President - Dave Westjohn announced tonight's program "Gold Mineralization in Menominee County" to be presented by 2010 Vice President Rich Lassen.
 The February meeting program will be "Recent Meteorite Recoveries In Michigan" by Mike Velbel (of MSU).
 The March program will be the annual Silent Auction.

- *Science is Fun Day - Feb. 12, 11-3 pm at Okemos High School (Jolly Rd.)
- *Special Auction at Schoolcraft College (Livonia) Feb. 26 & 27
- *Roster Secretary - Erie Aughenbaugh reminded folks that 2011 dues are DUE.
- *Banquet announcement - Neil Snapp, banquet will be held the third Thurs. in May which is May 19th. Club needs to have a minimum of 60 tickets sold for banquet. A show of hands vote was taken for swiss steak or chicken - the chicken legacy continues. Tickets will be \$10/per person.
- *Field Trips were discussed by Dan Sine - potential visit to Archie's shop in March; Check w/Tulip City club for field trip schedule.
- *Dave Westjohn - volunteers needed to take club display to various club shows.
- *Door prizes - Dan Sine with lots of prizes for this evening.
- g. **Adjournment.** Neil Snapp moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Mary Gowans. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Casler, Recording Secretary

Education: A Rock Solid Start

By CMLMS member Marvin Oesterle

Q. Why is it important to educate people about our underground treasures?

A. Because a "mine" is a terrible thing to waste.

Rock clubs are made up of volunteers that are ready, willing, and able to share the hobby. A few examples from our own club might be Kara "Have Sandpaper Will Travel" Miller who has never met a wild Petosky stone that couldn't be improved with a little elbow grease. Or Dan "The Pied Piper" Sine who constantly volunteers for Science Fairs and hopes he has somebody following him when he gets there. Or Saint Mary Gowans who organizes the club's Children's Tour at our annual Show and gets over a thousand excited grade school kids though the exhibits in just a few hours. Or Ernie Aughenbaugh and the Turner's who spend hours and hours demonstrating their skills at shows. -- The list goes on and on.

Several years ago, one of our members volunteered to judge the rock category for the 4-H members at the Ingham County Fair. Roger Laylin was doing the honors and was moving right along until he came to a certain 11 year old girl. As Mr. Laylin was reviewing her collection, he was talking with the young lady to see how much she knew. Then he came to a misidentified specimen and told the girl about it. She told him that, no, he was wrong and it was properly identified. Mr. Laylin said that he could understand the confusion because the stones looked somewhat alike. The young lady, much to the horror of her nearby mother, said that she was correct because she found it in a rock book. After a few more unsuccessful attempts to change the youngster's mind, Mr. Laylin awarded her a blue ribbon and the Best of Show award. He must have thought that she had learned about her rocks and done the work herself because she, obviously, wouldn't listen to anybody else. The difficult child was my daughter, Alexis, who accompanied me to rock club meetings for years as a junior member.

Many club members take some of their collections into local schools. My favorite group of kids was Mrs. Barry's 2nd and 3rd grade class at North Aurelius Elementary. At that age, they treat you like a "rock" star. My least favorite group was a 5th grade class. There was a group of rowdy boys who were obviously headed to juvenile delinquency. We were talking about metamorphic rocks and I was displaying a hunk of gneiss. They thought it was a funny name until I showed them a piece of schist. One smart aleck wanted to know if I used toilet paper to pick it up. Some days you just miss corporal punishment. But they had a point. Who names these rocks anyway?

A Message about the CMLMS Website

Check out the CMLMS website www.michrocks.org for information about collecting sites, plus the Silent Auction form. Webmaster Lyle Laylin continues to add useful links and features.

Visit the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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

for places to go and things to do!
