

# ROCKHOUND NEWS

FEB 1992

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



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14933 Brown Rd..  
Lansing, Michigan 48906

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, 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 & August  
Meeting time: 7:30pm, doors open at 7:00pm  
Annual dues: Adults \$3.00 Students \$1.00

### OFFICERS -- 1992

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Vice President	Bettie Patterson	482-3437
Recording Secretary	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Corresponding Secretary	Donald Lohrer	482-2914
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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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THANKS!

#### MARY'S MEMO TO THE MEMBERSHIP

What do CML&MS rockhounds do in the winter? Hope you can find time to look over your collections and to think about what can be turned over for the Silent Auction in March and to George for the Children's Table in October.

How do CML&MS rockhounds spend a cold - not cold- frigid, freezing day? About 20 of us spent a warm, non-windy, comfortable afternoon dining on favorite culinary specialties. After seconds and thirds, we watched Red's slides of past shows. The hard-core field trippers stayed for a game of "Rocko." We also looked at photos of past club activities. The pictures and slides brought back many happy memories. Good start for the 1992 field trips!

Thanks to George and Marie for the planning, to Red and Bessie for bringing the prizes and being the "Rocko" callers, to all who brought the delicious dishes, and to all who came and made the January field trip a success. Please read George's report for more details.

Those who would like to have learning groups will have a chance to participate in workshops that are being planned now. Come to the February meeting for more information.

#### FEBRUARY PROGRAM — BASIC ROCK IDENTIFICATION

See Florence's education article for all you need to know.

#### AND COMING IN MARCH...THE ANNUAL CLUB SILENT AUCTION

Our March program will be the annual silent auction. This is a chance for members to pare down their collections; and, give other club members a chance to purchase your duplicates and extras. The proceeds from the sales are yours to keep, though you may choose to donate them to the club.

Full details will appear in the March newsletter. However, we should have some auction slips available at the February meeting so that you can begin to prepare your specimens for sale.

A highlight of this year's auction will be items from the collection of Mr. Walter VanDien. You can look forward to some nice arrowheads and assorted rocks and minerals.

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT — Don Lohrer

This past month found many of our members recovering from a variety of ailments. Johyce Kahres caught a virus, Wm Rogers had a series of tests (and passed them all!) and Agnes Baughan received a belated card for an earlier illness. We also sent get well wishes to Cora Card at Ingham Medical and to John Hopkins who was ill at St. Lawrence Hospital. Charlotte Monro is now recuperating at home following cataract surgery. We wish them all a very speedy recovery.

We also suffered the loss of two of our life members, Mr. Walter Brett and Lelia Peterson. We extend our sympathy to their families. They will be greatly missed by all.

Where was Don at the potluck? I had a bit of unexpected dental work done just before the dinner, but just wait until next year!!!!

#### OLD TIMERS' CORNER -- Florence Hill

Frances Wysong, widow of David Wysong, is a peppy 93. She still lives in her house in Holt and likes the Rockhound News.

We haven't seen Frank Card in some time, but he says he will get to the meetings when the weather gets better. Cora has been in the hospital for observation.

Charlotte Munro had cataract surgery recently. She is not very strong, but she has the help of a daughter and grandson living with her.

Need a display case? I.J. Brett has three club display cases for sale. Phone 882-8376.

#### WE HAVE ANOTHER NEW MEMBER

Welcome to new member Sharon Bacigal. Sharon is interested in just about every aspect of our hobby: mineralogy, archaeology, geology and lapidary arts. Please jot her address in your directory: 2535 Varsity Lane, Holt MI 48842; 694-8547.

#### EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE -- Florence Hill

Are you all set to learn to identify the "stones" we find in our fields and driveways -- the glacial debris scattered so liberally over lower Michigan? Don't miss David Piotrowski's program at the Feb. 20 meeting. If you have your own hand lens, you may wish to have it along as this will be a hands-on program. Dave will provide specimens for identification. However, if you have one or two rocks that you are dying to have identified, you may bring them along and Dave will do his best to help you out. **THOSE OF YOU WITH CHILDREN:** every effort will be made to keep the meeting SHORT, so that the program will begin & end earlier. Please feel free to bring the juniors to the program, they should enjoy it.

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Alice Turner has been busy sharing her talent for wire wrapping. Alice spent February 1 & 2 teaching classes for members of the Mt. Clemens Club.

On February 5, Connie & Neil Snapp talked on fossils to the Brownie Troop of Nia Godbold at the Hiawatha Elementary School in Okemos. Each of the 12 children left with a bag of fossils to begin their own collections.

#### DUES ARE DUE

If I don't get your dues by February 20, you will not be in the club directory.

You can send me a check made out to C.M.L. & M.S., or see me at the next meeting.

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

### FIELD TRIPS — George C. Heaton

JANUARY POTLUCK. Our potluck at the Alaiedon Township Hall on Sunday January 19 attracted 26 members. This is probably about average for our January potlucks and was sufficient to produce a good quantity and variety of good food to eat. Especially notable was the delicious orange jello salad and red simmered chicken wings that someone brought. George Heaton, who never over eats, ate just the right amount to feel pleasantly stuffed. Bill Rogers showed his slides of past mineral shows. The game Rocko was played and I think everyone won at least one prize.

### GRAND RAPIDS FIELD TRIP — FEBRUARY 22, 1992

The February field trip will be to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. Gypsum Mine in Grand Rapids, MI. We will meet on Saturday, February 22 at the Michigan Natural Storage Co. office at 10:00am. 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 as we walk some pretty rough passages to get to the favored CML&MS collecting spot. Do not forget to bring a lunch and something to drink — we stay down in the tunnels until approximately 3pm.

Material to be collected includes massive gypsum in the form of "pencil ore" and alibaster, 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 Street 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.

### IN MEMORIAM — Florence Hill

January 1992 saw the passing of two of our once active life members.

Lelia Coleman Peterson died January 16. Lelia and her husband Milton (died 1984) were always to be found helping where help was needed, be it getting ready for a banquet, working at the show, or at meetings. They enjoyed field trips. With nephew Larry Tripp and his wife Lorna, they were regular members of Wayne Henderson's field trip caravans.

Walter Brett died January 27, just six days after his ninetieth birthday. Walter and his wife Irene (died 1987) were another couple who were always working where needed. Together they visited schools, and showed many youngsters how to polish Petoskey stones, and how to just enjoy rocks. They went on collecting trips all over the country; sometimes with club members, sometimes with family, sometimes on their own. For years the club used the barn on the Brett farm for storage of bulky items. Walter cared for his wife through a long illness, and steadfastly endured his own declining health.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families of Lelia and Walter.

**A RECYCLING TIP** --Rosemary Hughes via MGAGS & the Exchangite  
Use the center plastic ring from sticky tape to hold eggs, spheres or small geodes. The four little edges holding the plastic in the dispenser can easily be snipped off with pliers.

**BEAD STRINGING HINT** -- Strata Data via The Petoskey Stone  
Fresh water pearls are strung on silk thread with knots after every third pearl. If you knot between every fresh water pearl, the necklace will not lay properly.

**CLEANING FRAGILE CRYSTALS**-- Rock Rattler via The Rockpile  
To clean fragile crystals or hard to reach recesses in mineral specimens, try Crew, a product of Johnson's Wax. Spray on this foam; let it set a minute, then rinse with water. It's safe on all non-water soluble minerals, including calcite and fluorite.

**FALSE IVORY**-- Alaska Pebble Patter via Michigan Gem News  
Use large beef bones for bone-ivory. Don't cook the bones; clean them off as best you can. Measure a large mug of 20 Mule Team Borax -- dump it into a pan with just enough water to dissolve the borax. Heat to a warm temperature, not hot. Put bones in and soak for three weeks or so. Wash thoroughly and let dry for several days. And then you can carve, shape, or drill and polish as you would for a cabochon, but much easier to work than stone.

Cut round leg bones into squares, drill holes in the sides and you have links for a bracelet. You don't need expensive tools, household tools will do. Files-- round, flat, pointed, even finger nail files -- a hacksaw and pocket knife for cutting. Sandpaper and finish with fine steel wool.

Use a dremel too to carve flowers or animals, or anything you like. Soak in strong coffee, and you will have 'Mastadon' ivory. The carved area turns darker than the rest and stands out beautifully.

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NEON TOURMALINE— Escomo via Michigan Gem News

Neon Tourmaline is new on the market. There was a small discovery of a new different color tourmaline in Brazil. The color was so different that it was taken to a lab for analysis. It contains copper, and as of now, this is a unique gemstone. No one has ever heard of tourmaline being colored by copper. It produces a hot electric color of several shades of green and blue. The small pocket is completely worked out and the area of discovery has been dug up for miles around.

CALENDAR

February 20	Regular Meeting
February 22	Field trip- MI Natural Storage, cost \$2.50
March 5	Board Meeting, Meridian Service Center
March 19	Regular Meeting & SILENT AUCTION
May 21	Club Banquet, Okemos Masonic Temple
June 27-28	MGAGS Rockhound Seminar, Mott Community College, Flint
October 23-25	OUR SHOW, Marshall St. Armory
August 8-15, 1993	MWF Field Trip Convention, Cu Country!!!

\*\*The Gerald E. Eddy Geological Center in Waterloo is holding several interesting workshops between now and April. Thanks to our new Xerox machine, the entire schedule is COPIED on the last page of this newsletter!\*\*

UPCOMING SHOWS

March 14-15	Roamin Club AUCTION, Schoolcraft College, Waterman Bldg., 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, MI Sat. 11am-6pm, Sun. 12-6pm
March 21	Metro Rock Swap, (Dearborn Club) Sheridan Community Center, Pardee Rd, Taylor 10am -5pm
April 3-5	Flint Rock & Gem Club SHOW Fri & Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 8am-5pm
April 8-11	Indian Mounds SHOW, Eastbrook Mall Grand Rapids 10am - 9pm
April 10-12	Mt. Clemens SHOW, Mt. Clemens Community Center, 300 N. Groesbeck; Fri & Sat 10am-8pm Sun 11am-6pm
April 17-19	Michigan Gem & Mineral Society (Jackson) Show Michigan Center Eagles, 302 5th St., Michigan Center. Fri 12-9pm Sat 10am-9pm Sun 10am-5pm
May 2-3	Kalamazoo Show
May 15-17	Dearborn SHOW, Dearborn Civic Center, Michigan & Greenfield, Fri 5-10pm Sat 10am-8pm Sun 11am-5:30pm
June 19-21	Lawrence Co. (Indiana) Rock Club Show/Swap Monroe Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 8am-9pm, Sun 8am-4pm
July 23-26	Combined AFMS & MWF SHOW, Brunswick High School, Brunswick Ohio

# WINTER PROGRAMS SCHEDULED AT WATERLOO NATURAL HISTORY ASSN.

Everyone is invited to attend the following programs held at the Gerald E. Eddy Geological Center. All programs are free but State Park Motor Vehicle Permits are required. For more information call the Center at 313-475-3170. — From the Waterloo Natural History Association Newsletter.

**February 22** at 1:00 p.m.: Winter Emergency Skills for the Outdoors. Joe Chadburn, an instructor in the 4-H Challenge Program, will show how to survive in the woods in winter. Come prepared for a short walk.

**February 29** at 10:00 a.m.: G.E.M. Workshop for 4th - 6th graders. "Groundwater Education in Michigan," a program for the protection and improvement of our state's water supply, will be taught at this hands-on workshop. Reservations by February 24.

**March 8** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Flintknapping Demonstration. Robert Love will demonstrate the craft of flintknapping.

**March 14** at 10:00 a.m.: Planting for Wildlife. Dennis Rice and Steve Olds, both conservationists, will discuss how to plan and select plantings to attract wildlife.

**March 21-22:** Maple Sugar Festival. Naturalist-led tours, demonstrations, movies, etc. Maple syrup, candy and cookbooks will be available.

**March 28** at 1:00 p.m.: Waterloo Wildflower Slides and How to Take Them. Bill Bliss, with 30 years experience, will show how to take close-up pictures.

**April 4** at 7:00 p.m.: Night of the Amphibians. Bring a flashlight, dress for the weather and prepare to get your feet wet as we look for frogs as they look for mates.

**April 12** at 2:00 p.m.: The Story of the Wolf. Slide program will explore the myths, legends and facts about wolves with Naturalist Beth Duman.

**April 18** at 2:00 p.m.: Walk to the Bog. Naturalist George Sexton will lead a walk through emerging spring flowers on a walk to the floating bog.

**April 25** at 2:00 p.m.: The World's First Papermakers. Join elementary school science teacher Eric Smith and see his collection of wasp's nests and learn fascinating facts about these creatures.

— Joyce Hanschu, Geol. Survey Advisory Comm.  
via The Rockpile

