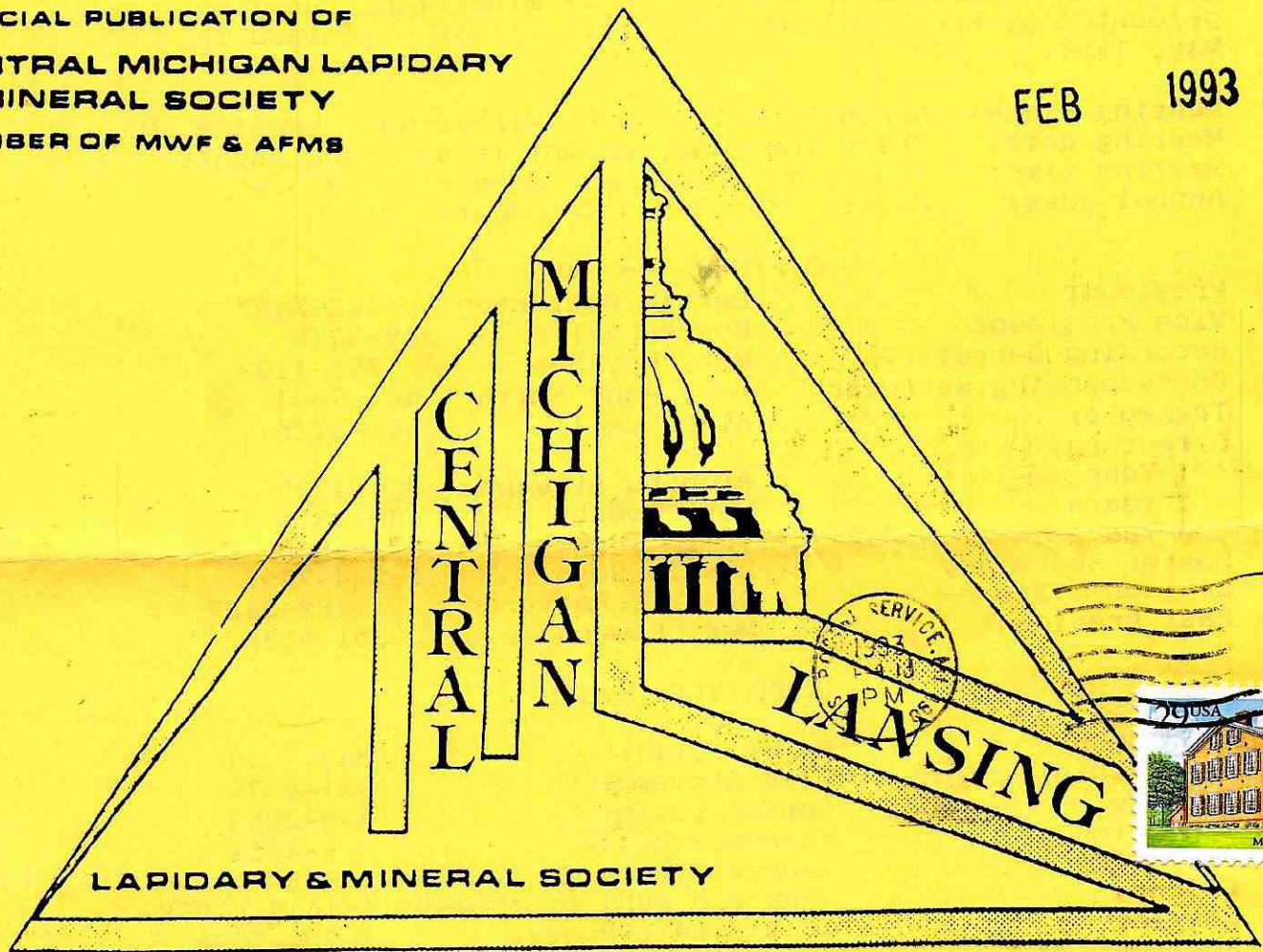


ROCKHOUND NEWS

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

FEB 1993



LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

Return To:
C.M.L. & M.S.
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 and August
Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Doors are open at 7:00 p.m.
Annual dues: Adults \$3.00 Students \$1.00

OFFICERS -- 1993

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Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
Education	Florence Hill	349-3554
Field Trips	George Heaton Jr	339-8914
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MEMBER OF:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
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FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Once again, Lila Stevens invites you to come to the meeting early (7:00pm) to help stuff grab bags and assemble petoskey stone polishing kits for the show. At the January meeting a good amount of work was completed amongst laughter and good conversation.

Our program this month will be presented by Grit and Alice Turner, club members who just returned from a visit to Hawaii. In addition to their own photographs and lava samples, Grit and Alice will share a video which they purchased on the eruptions of Kilauea. Perhaps the sights of all that volcanic action will warm us on a cold February night!

Members with an ORANGE DOT on the mailing label of this newsletter have not yet paid their 1993 dues. If you wish to continue receiving your newsletter and be entered in the directory, you must have your money to Bessie Rogers by the meeting, February 18. You may mail your check, made out to CML&MS, to:

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER, STEVE MARSH

We are pleased to welcome a new Junior member to our club, Steve Marsh. Steve is the son of Chuck and Barb Smith who joined us early last fall. Thirteen years old and a student at Otto Middle School, Steve enjoys geology, archaeology, video games and the Boy Scouts.

EDUCATION— Florence Hill

David Piotrowski will talk about types of conglomerates and breccia at the February meeting.

If you have several specimens you want identified, sign a card and give it to Florence Hill or any member of the Education committee. If you have just one or two, bring them in any time, with the location from which they came. We can all learn from studying these specimens, and hearing what our knowledgeable members say about them.

Add Bill Henderson and Alan Hukill's names to our education committee.

If you are willing to respond to some of the requests we receive for speakers, please let the education committee know.

Egg cartons are needed again! Please bring in your styrofoam egg cartons (1 dozen size) anytime.

Neil and Connie Snapp presented a program to 25 fourth grade students at Williamston Elementary School on February 2, 1993. Michigan rocks and minerals were discussed. Each student received a sample bag of sharks teeth, polished beach stone and a petoskey stone.

GRAND RAPIDS FIELD TRIP, FEBRUARY 20. -- 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 20 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. Do not forget to bring a lunch and something to drink. We stay down in the tunnels until approximately 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 I96 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 Drive 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.

JANUARY POTLUCK -- George Heaton

Our potluck at the Alaiedon Township Hall on Sunday January 24 attracted a good crowd. I think there were at least 31 people, which was sufficient to produce a good quantity and variety of food to eat. George Heaton, who never over eats, ate just the right amount of food again to feel pleasantly stuffed. Roger Laylin showed the slide presentation on the Geology and Minerals of the Rutherford Mine in Amelia, Virginia. Bettie Patterson provided a couple of good mineral games which forced us to think and proved how little we knew. As usual, everyone had a good time and ate lots of food at this popular event.

A NOTE FROM NEIL SNEPP

Since October I've been working on a project with Murphy Elementary School in Haslett to develop teaching displays and materials about rocks, minerals and fossils. I'm doing this as a club project. That is, the club gets credit for whatever success the project has.

Initially, we are concentrating on Michigan, although other specimens are welcome. A small grant has been provided by the school to support the work. Materials will be displayed in the

new media center. A 6'x40"x15" lighted wall case has been made available for cabinet type specimens. Six pedestals will be constructed, each with a display area of 9 1/2"x11" for larger specimens. Three of these are in place. We have obtained some sets of teaching specimens from the Department of Natural Sciences at MSU.

If you have specimens you would be willing to donate or sell for a modest amount for this project, please let me know. A list of suggested materials follows. Other suggestions are welcome.

Rocks: the basic types, conglomerate, concretions
 Minerals: iron ores, hematite, copper, sulphur, gypsum/selenite, pyrite, fluorite, celestite, mica, feldspar, quartz minerals, dolomite, silver, barite, halite, galena, datolite, sphalerite— any others, gem types.

Fossils: any Michigan or other available
 Thanks for your assistance!

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT—

Get well wishes were sent to several members over the past month. Clarence Morgan is now recovering from a heart attack. Kara Miller had outpatient surgery in late January. Alice Turner had knee replacement surgery on February 2, and will be hospitalized for a week to ten days. Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski was down with the flu for a few days.

An expression of sympathy was sent to Thea May Kurtz, wife of life member Ken Kurtz. Ken was well known for his carving of gypsum.

Please call with any news of an event to celebrate, illness or other misfortune. When I am not in, my answering machine (517-484-7804) will take your message.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Anne Smith

MEMORIAL FOR KEN KURTZ

Life member Kenneth Kurtz died January 22, following a long illness. We haven't seen much of Ken and Thea Mae for some time, but Ken served on the society Board several years, bringing to it good judgment and creative ideas. Ken was a skilled stone carver. He displayed and demonstrated his work, and taught the craft to 4-H groups.

Ken loved beauty, especially in nature. When he sold his farm, he built a house which was a rockhound's dream, landscaped it attractively, and raised flowers and vegetables as long as he was able. We extend our sympathy to Thea Mae and the family.

SPRING CLEANING: DON'T FORGET THE CHILDREN'S TABLE

If you're one of those lucky people who actually finds time to sort those boxes of rocks in the garage or basement, please keep the show in mind. Lila and Rich Stevens will be glad to collect your excess at the April meeting.

PRIZES ARE NEEDED FOR THE SHOW RAFFLE—SEE MARY GOWENS

In order to fill out application with the State for our show raffle, we need to have at least three items to be listed on the tickets. If you have a donation ready, or know what you will be donating, please give Mary Gowens a call at 351-6136.

THE GREAT LINGULA MYSTERY—Dana Slaughter, Arrowhead News 11/92

I had a little paleontological problem that cropped up one day about ten years ago when I was a sophomore at GVSU. Well, that "old" problem recently resurfaced and...I thought it might make interesting fodder for fossil fiends!

Back in '82 I had no inkling as to the solution of the "Lingula Mystery". It was a new term for me. Now, armed with a decade of reading Darwin, Eldredge and Gould, I think I know the answer. You see, Lingula is a genera of phosphatic-shelled brachiopods that have persisted since the Cambrian with little or no change. Modern Lingula has a pair or virtually identical symmetrical valves and between these projects and elongated pedicle or foot. The foot serves as an anchor of sorts as the animal lives in a vertical burrow with the edges of the two valves just below the surface.

So, where's the mystery? Well, the question put to me was "Of evolution occurs like you think it does, then why has Lingula remained unchanged for some 500 million years?"

To be truthful, I wasn't aware that such stasis was evident in the fossil record -- I assumed that everything changed. Sure, I knew that reptiles had a long history and that crocs were pretty much the same back in the "dinosaur days", but even they changed. (Fortunately for us, there are no more 45-footers!) But did Lingula really remain unchanged for so long? Here was a dilemma for which I had no answer. I sat there, probably open-mouthed, trying to think of anything that could explain this. I couldn't.

But there is a very good reason why Lingula hasn't changed much in all those years. The solution isn't new to science; it's not ground breaking, but it is often misunderstood and often unnoticed. You see, Lingula lives in a brackish (which means slightly salty) environment. This environment is physiologically difficult and harsh; and, faunas occupying such environments are generally very limited. Today such niches are occupied mostly by brachiopods and gastropods.

Herein lies the answer. Lingula has occupied a very difficult environment, one that it is ideally suited to, yet one that admits nearly zero competitors. In the absence of competition Lingula isn't driven to seek new environments and remains relatively unchanged. The vast majority of sea creatures require near-normal saline conditions -- Lingula obviously does not. Were competitors increasingly able to tolerate such an environment and occupy niches normally dominated by Lingula, then surely Lingula would be pressured to seek new territory where natural selection would presumably speed the evolution of the species.

Still, it seems that there exist some fossil species that appear to have occupied different environments. This may restrict the use of *Lingula* as a paleo-environmental indicator, yet the above explanation seems to fit quite well with what is known about "living fossils."

The story of *Lingula* also serves to dispel a persistent myth about biological evolution. Evolution, as a process, has no ultimate goals; that is, it doesn't have to occur in organisms already ideally suited to a habitat. The greatest evolution seems to occur in geographically isolated populations that are pressured by the introduction of new competitors or by drastic habitat change.

So goes the story of *Lingula*. While not dealing directly with rocks, minerals or fossils, it does help us understand how fossils are interpreted and/or used to explain the history of life...

References:

Time Frames, Niles Eldridge, Princeton University Press, 1985.

Evolution of the Earth, Dott & Batten, McGraw-Hill, 1981.

Invertebrate Palaeontology & Evolution, E.N.K. Clarkson, George Allen & Unwin Ltd, London, 1979.

HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE EXCHANGITE 2/93

--If you keep opals in a bottle of water, add a few drops of alcohol, to keep the water from turning stagnant.

--To remove stains from marble, use a paste of cornstarch and water. Spread over the stain and allow to dry overnight. Rinse with clear water. If the stain remains, repeat with a past of cornstarch and hydrogen peroxide, except rinse off after a couple of hours.

--Spic and Span has oxalic acid in it. It is an excellent source for the final polish of tumbled stones. Use one cup of Spic and Span for each six pounds of stones.

MURPHY'S LAW REVISED via The Exchangite 2/93 & MGAGS

Wirewrappers Law: If a wire must twist, it will break; if it needs to be straight, it will twist; if you need 5 pieces 5" long, you will have enough for 4 pieces 5" long, plus 3".

Fossileer's Law: The person behind you will find a magnificent specimen 2 inches behind you foot; you will find a perfect specimen plus its mold and be so excited you drop one half and throw the other half away as you grab for the one you dropped; if you make a fancy label for your specimen, some expert will change the name next week.

Faceter's Law: If there is a cleavage plane in your stone, it will split as you mount the stone; if you have a concrete floor, you will drop your first completed stone on it; if you are a slow learner, you will also drop the second one.

Cabber's Law: If there is a drain in the floor, that's where the stone will disappear; if there are 2 square inches of floor without carpet or rubber mat, that is where the opal will drop.

CLUB CALENDAR

- February 18 Regular Meeting,
- February 20 Tentative field trip to the gypsum min
(Michigan Natural Storage) in Grand Rapids
- February 25 Board Meeting, Meridian Service Center
- May 20 Club Banquet
- October 29-31 SHOW "Nature's Sparklers" Marshall St. Armory

SPRING SHOW CALENDAR (START PLANNING NOW!)

- March 13-14 Roamin Club Auction- Schoolcraft College, Waterman
Campus Center Bldg, 18600 Hagerty Rd. Livonia
Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 12-6pm
- March 18-20 Jackson Show (Michigan Gem & Mineral Soc.)
"Fossils of Yesteryear"- Fraternal Order of
Eagles, 302 5th St. Michigan Center Thurs 1-9pm
Fri. 10am-9pm Sat 10am-5pm
- March 20 Metro Rock Swap, Dearborn Club 10am-5pm
Democratic Club of Taylor 23400 Wick Rd, Taylor
free admission & parking
- March 26-28 Flint Rock & Gem Club Show "Rockhound Fiesta"-
Williams Comm. Education Center, 3501 Minnesota
Ave, Flint Fri & Sat 10am-7pm Sun 12-5pm
- March 31-April 3 Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club Show-
Eastbrook Mall, 28th Street, Grand Rapids
- May 1-2 Kalamazoo Show, at the fairgrounds in Kalamazoo
- May 14-16 Dearborn Show "Around the Great Lakes"- Dearborn
Civic Center, Michigan & Greenfield Fri 5-10pm
Sat 10am-8pm Sun 11am-5:30pm
- June 18-20 Lawrence County (Bedford) Indiana Show & Swap-
Monroe County 4-H Fair Grounds, Bloomington Indiana
- August 9-15 Midwest Federation Field Trip Convention-
Houghton MI

