

FOLKS WITH LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH R-Z: IT'S YOUR TURN TO BRING REFRESHMENTS. THANKS!!!

A NOTE FROM EL PRESIDENTE

My first official act as President, after hurrying between storms to get back from Florida in time for the January meeting, was to cancel the meeting due to bad weather!

It did give us the opportunity to shake down the new "Telephone Tree" for emergency calling, and from all reports it was quite successful. We called more than sixty members who had been attendance at least once during the past year.

I'll try to describe how this "tree" came to be. Primarily, I would like to praise the participants in this outstanding cooperative activity. It began with a yeoman effort by Florence Hill to sort out and assign names to be called from the rosters signed at each meeting; polling those who could most likely spare the time to make calls; and then, the extra effort by others to be sure that it all worked smoothly and in time to avoid inconvenience -- nothing worse than driving some distance under hazardous conditions to arrive at a dark, locked meeting place on a cold and windy night.

As an extra precaution Chuck Smith offered to go to North School and post a notice on the door for anyone we didn't reach by phone. That reminds me that one of the refinements we need for the "Tree" is to add daytime or workplace phone numbers to our directory. Anyone who has comments or suggestions for improvement feel free to contact Florence, Jean Ann, or myself. We may need to use it again.

Royal

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: ROCKS OF THE MICHIGAN BASIN-- Leila Stevens

Mr. Bob Reszka from the Eddy Geology Center will be our speaker at the January meeting. His specialty is the **ROCKS of the Michigan basin**. You may bring in some of your perplexing finds for him to identify.

GRAND RAPIDS FIELD TRIP, FEBRUARY 22-- Melissa Tuchowski

The February field trip will be to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. Gypsum Mine in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We will meet on Saturday, February 22nd at the Michigan Natural Storage Co. office at 10:00 am. 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. Another useful tool is a 4" paintbrush for dusting off potential specimens. Remember that you will be carrying all your gear into & around the mine, so pack sensibly! 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, and of course, eye protection are required. Do not forget to bring a lunch and something to drink. We stay down in the tunnels until about 3:00 pm. Note that there are no bathrooms available underground so budget your timing (and liquid consumption) accordingly.

This trip will give us the excellent opportunity of gathering "pencil ore" for the children's table. If everyone would be so kind as to gather a few extra pieces to contribute, we will end up with an ample amount without one poor soul (George) having to carry out a full and heavy bucket load himself. Types of materials to be collected on this trip will include massive gypsum in the form of "pencil ore," alabaster and gypsum crystals (selenite). Good luck to all!

February Field Trip, cont.

Directions: Take I-96 to the 28th Street-West exit in Grand Rapids (this will be the 2nd 28th St. Exit). Go west on 28th St. to 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 ½ hours driving time from Lansing. Hope to see you there...

MARCH FIELD TRIP March 15, 1997-- Melissa Tuchowski

Not to push my luck with the unpredictability of March's weather, we've opted for an indoor field trip to the Jackson Show: Saturday, March 15th where we can search for treasures in comfort. Please note this trip will take place before our monthly meeting, so we can bring in and show off all we've found.

Interested in a carpool/convoy option? We'll be meeting at the Okemos (110 exit) Park and Ride lot at 10:00a.m. Questions? Concerns? Give a call: 339-0459.

Also note there will be the annual Dearborn swap the following weekend at the Democratic Club of Taylor. I hear that this is a great place for bargains, so maybe we will see each other there as well!

EDUCATION REPORT-- Margaret Green

February's mineral of the month will be gypsum. Gypsum manifests in many ways. Do you have an unusual form of gypsum? Please consider sharing your treasures at the February general membership meeting. In addition, there will be a five minute presentation about Michigan's well know "Triple Gyp" formation.

Open houses, this year's in-house education program, are off to a strong start. Larry Bourland hosted the first one in his remarkable classroom at the Charlotte Jr. High. When the lights went out, the "Black Hole" was something to see! Thanks, Larry, for your hospitality. Remember, the next open house is Feb. 28th at the Snepps. (I think they will leave the lights on so we can see the fossils.) The Education Committee would like to have a volunteer open house host for the month of March, please.

Out-reach educational opportunities abound. Please consider participation at one of the three Science Nights at the following schools: Ralya Elementary, Wed. April 23, 6:30-8:30 pm; Fairview Elementary, Thurs. May 8, 6:00-8:00; Murphy Elementary, Tues. May 13, 6:00-8:00.

Thank you to Florence Hill for presenting a "Michigan Rocks" talk to the fourth graders in Jan Fuzak's class at Wardcliff Elementary on January 22. Whenever teachers call me to arrange a classroom presentation, I am always told how much the teacher appreciates our efforts, how much the students enjoy our visits (especially because we bring beautiful and interesting rocks with us,) and what a good job our club members do. I am glad to take this opportunity to pass on the well earned compliments to the deserving. Mentioning our good deeds in the newsletter is more than good manners, it is the only way we have of documenting club activities for "brownie points" from on looking organizations, like the Mid-West Federation. If you have spoken at a school or for a group since the turn of the year, please let Royal or Jean Ann or myself know so we can add your efforts to our club's record. Also, if you have saved some thank you notes from the students you spoke to, please call me if you are willing to have them used in a display board.

Okemos Science is fun day was a fun day! The best part was seeing what the "student" membership of this club is capable of doing! Much thanks and appreciation for a job well done goes out to Magda Hutny, Lawrence Mouton, Kyle Shumaker, and Alexis Oesterle. In addition, these veteran members came out to support our youngsters and brought demonstrations of their own: Neil & Connie Snapp, Royal & Arlene Olson, Florence Hill and Margaret Green. Providing much needed relief for the weary, Phyllis White and Ed Drown substituted as exhibit watchers where they were needed. Kudos must also be extended to the parents of these youngsters for their support and encouragement: Marvin Oesterle, Chris & Rose Mouton, Boyd Shumaker, and Jan Hutny. THANKS EVERYONE FOR HELPING TO MAKE OUR CLUB PRESENTATION THIS YEAR AT THE OKEMOS SCIENCE IS FUN DAY SUCH A SUCCESS!!

A note to all student members of our club: Mark your calendars for the field trip to Grand Rapids. The date is Saturday, February 22. Royal and I are planning a student oriented "side trip" this year, so this is your golden opportunity to go! Parents, please call me ASAP for more details.

A personal note from me to you'all: I am taking night classes at L.C.C. this spring. Please feel free to call me anytime during the day at home if we miss each other at the meetings.

CLUB CALENDAR

- February 20 Regular meeting, North School, 7:30. R-Z bring refreshments.
Program: Rocks of the Michigan Basin, Bob Reszka
- February 22 Field trip: Michigan Natural Storage, Grand Rapids. 9:30
- February 28 Open house at Neil & Connie Snepps, 7:00-10:00 pm
- March 6 Board meeting, Meridian Twp. Service Center, 7:30.
- March 15 Club caravan to the Jackson Show,
- March 20 Regular meeting & Silent Auction
- Oct. 24-26 OUR SHOW: "Ruby Anniversary"

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES LOOKING TO 50TH ANNIVERSARY-- AFMS Newsletter Feb. 1997

In 1972 there was an event of significance to the AFMS. Their 25th Anniversary celebration was held at the Smithsonian in Washington. A 250 lb. cake with 48 cabs decorating it was the highlight....A total of 1,269 cabs was exhibited. The ceremony included presentation of the cabs to the Smithsonian permanent collection.

We are asking all clubs to send a cab representing their state or county by October 1997. It may be a state gemstone or a famous mineral from their particular area. Cabs should be about 40mm by 30mm - including freestyles...

We are asking for cabs from everyone. We would like to at least equal the 1,269 cabs collected in 1972. Please give the name and location of the material, your club name and/or the name of the individual who donated the cab. All donations will be acknowledged. They will be held for

use at a later date. Please send you cabs to: Diane Dare, 747 E. Blackford Ave, Evansville IN 47713.

MORE ROCKHOONDING ON THE NET summarized from AFMS Newsletter, Feb. 1997
Whenever a rockhound starts surfing the net, the first place they should go is Bob's Rock Shop - <http://www.rockhounds.com>. First, you should know that Bob doesn't sell anything. The place is really a magazine for all rockhounds put together and run by a "common as quartz rockhound" - Bob Keller."

Highlights of the site include: collecting information, show information, mineral photographs, hobby related software (including a free screen saver,) hobby primers, and links to other sites.

I will bring the full article to the meeting. Meanwhile, why not try the site yourself!

CROCODILES USE ROCKS FOR BALLAST! via Rockpile 1/97, Sooner Rockologist 12/70
Crocodiles swallow stones to correct an error that nature made in designing the big lizards. They're unstable in the water without artificial ballast. Every one of some 100 African crocodiles dissected by a scientist had rocks in the belly-- a phenomenon never adequately explained until the scientist completed careful measurement and weighing.

The stone loads ranged from one to two pounds in juveniles, to seven pounds in 15 foot long oldsters. These weights, lying low in the forward placed stomach, nicely counter-balance tail heaviness and rolling, two defects seen in infant crocodiles, which have to hang in the water at a slant and make limb movement to keep from turning over. Properly stoned, the maturing crocodile can glide level and steady at the surface, with only nostrils, eyes and a few back scales showing.

SHOW CALENDAR

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| March 8 & 9 | Roamin Club Auction. Schoolcraft College, Waterman Campus
Center Bldg, 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia. Sat. 11-6, Sun 12-6. Free. |
| March 14-16 | Jackson Show. Frat. Order of Eagles, 302 5th St, Michigan Center.
Fri. 1-9, Sat. 10-9, Sun. 10-5. Adults \$2, Teens .50 |
| March 22 | Metro Rock Swap (Dearborn Club). Democratic Club of Taylor,
23400 Wick Rd., Taylor (just East of Telegraph). 10am-5pm. Free. |
| April 9-12 | Indian Mounds Show. Eastbrook Mall, Corner of 28th St.& East Beltline (M-37),
Grand Rapids. 10am-9pm Free |
| April 11-13 | Mount Clemens Show. Mt. Clemens Community Center, 300 N. Groesbeck.
Fri. & Sat. 10-8, Sun 11-6. |
| April 26-27 | Blackhawk Rock Club Show. Discovery Center Museum, 711 North Main St.,
Rockford IL. Sat 10-5, Sun. 12-5. Admission \$1.00 |
| May 2-4 | 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 9-11 | Flint Show. IMA Sports Arena, 3501 Laper Rd (Center Rd. exit off I-69 to
Lapeer Rd.). Fri. 9-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 12-5. Adults \$4.00, 12-17 \$1.00. |
| May 16-18 | Dearborn Show. Dearborn Civic Center, Michigan & Greenfield.
Fri. 5-9, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 11-5:30 |
| May 17 | AE Seaman Mineral Museum Benefit Auction in conjunction with the Dearborn Show.
8:15-9:30 pm. All sale items from the Seaman Museum Collection. Everyone is invited. |
| June 27-29 | 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 28-29 | MGAGS Rockhound Seminar. Washtenaw Commmunity College, 4800 E. Huron
River Dr., Ann Arbor MI. \$10.00 per day, advance \$8.00 per day. See Grit & Alice |
| Turner for | more information. |

