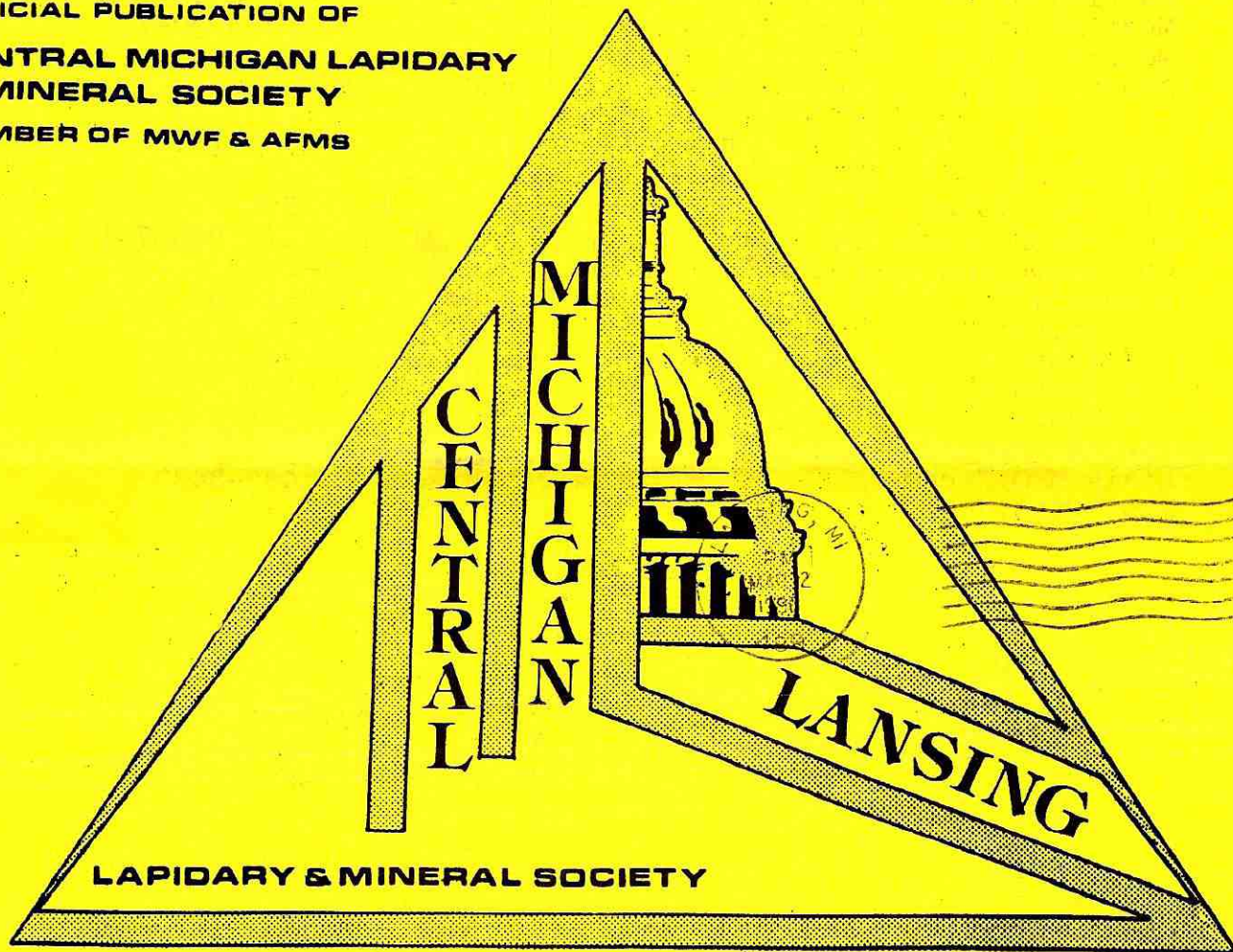


# ROCKHOUND NEWS

MAR 1990

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



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14933 Brown Rd..  
Lansing, Michigan 48906

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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, peletonology 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

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Education	Florence Hill	349-3554
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### MEMBER OF:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies  
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NEIL'S NOTES

February proved the cliché about Michigan weather. The change, however, was not in our best interest. After several changes of locations, we thought the demonstration night was set. It was not to be. Thanks to the efforts of Florence, the demonstration night has been rescheduled to March 29. This is the fifth Thursday and should not conflict with other regular events. I hope all will be able to participate in this event. There are other opportunities for your participation discussed elsewhere in the bulletin.

Field trips are again in order. George has a number of trips planned. We have always had good times on these trips. As you collect, remember the needs of the children's table at the show. We need materials. Last year I said "TONS." George thought that was a bit excessive! So — "lots" of good materials, identified as to type and location will be welcome.

Wm. Rogers has agreed to serve as Show Chair for 1990. 1989 was a good show. 1990 can be even better if we continue to work together. Please give Red your assistance and cooperation.

Mark May 17 on your calendar. This will be our annual banquet. More details will follow.

As we begin the third month of our year, we still have members with unpaid dues. We don't want to lose you. We value your friendship and contributions to the club. Our members are dispersed over a large area, and it is sometimes difficult to keep up with all of you. If you move, change address, become ill, have good fortune (or know of other members who do) let your officers know. If you don't know who to tell, tell me.

As so, as you look at the new fallen snow, remember spring is one day closer! Until then.....

Best Wishes,  
Neil

HOSPITALITY NEWS

A big thank you to all the members who have contributed goodies for the hospitality room at our meetings. Will the following members please bring treats for the March meeting:

Doris Aven,  
Sally Barber,  
Mary Crosby,  
Mary Gowans, and  
Bessie Rogers.

Thank you,  
Marie Lewis

SILENT AUCTION NEWS from Gordon Lewis

Some additional information for you which will hopefully remove some of the mystique surrounding our March silent auction for members. If you sell something, the money is all yours, IF you remember to put your name or other personal identification at the bottom of your auction slips.

Our volunteer cashiers will be tearing off the bottom part of auction slips, taking the money from the buyer, and giving the money to the person identified on the bottom of the slip.

If you plan on being a buyer, please plan ahead and bring change and small bills. This is supposed to be a "fun" program, so please plan on being a seller or buyer, or both.

DUES ARE DUE

Because there was no February meeting, I will still be taking dues through March 15 (meeting night.) Then, I will be putting the 1990 Directory together. If I do not have your dues, you will not be included in the directory.

Send checks to me, made out to CML&MS.

Thank you,  
Bessie Rogers

PLEASE SAVE STYROFOAM EGG CARTONS!!! Our club "recycles" these styrofoam cartons into mineral kits for the kids' table at the show. However, in these days of environmental awareness, many stores are switching back to cardboard egg cartons -- with ventilation holes. You can do the club a favor by stocking up on styrofoam cartons while they are still available. You can bring your cartons to Florence Hill at any meeting.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT

The society sent get well wishes to Leora Laylin who had surgery on her shoulder; and, to John Hopkins, who fell at home and later had a stroke while in the hospital. We also sent a bit of cheer to Jack Shinneman, thought to be holding his own following a series of chemotherapy treatments. We wish them all the very best.

Boy! February was a complete washout. Everything that I had planned for the whole month was buried under snow or ice. Let's eliminate February and add a couple weeks to the January thaw (sloppy but endurable) and add the other two weeks to an early spring!! I think I've got cabin fever and have been watching too much T.V. I have tulips beside the house peeping up under this last snow! If they can stand it, so can I! See you at the meeting.

Respectfully;  
Don Lohrer

#### MARCH FIELD TRIP TO HUNTSVILLE, OHIO — MARCH 17

The field trip for March will be to the Duff Quarry at Huntsville Ohio on Saturday, March 17th. We will meet at the quarry office at 10:00am on Saturday morning. All field trippers must wear a hard hat, hard toed boots, and safety glasses or goggles. Tools needed are: chisels in both large and small sizes, crack hammers of 2-3 lb. size, pry bar, and, a sledge hammer of 8-10 lb. size is often useful for breaking large rocks. Also, don't forget wrapping paper and boxes for packing specimens. Minerals to be found include bright, lustrous pyrite crystals of unusual crystal habits, dolomite, sphalerite, calcite and fluorite.

The November-September 1987 issue of the Mineralogical Record has an article about Duff Quarry and its minerals, with photos and line drawings of the various crystal habits of pyrite found there. If you do not subscribe to this journal you might check our club library.

To get to Duff Quarry, take I-75 South in Ohio to Rt. 235. Go South on Rt. 235 through Ada, Alger and Roundhead. Then South on Rt. 117 to Duff Quarry on your left, just before coming into Huntsville. Allow 4 hours driving time from Lansing to Huntsville, Ohio.

#### GRAND RAPIDS FIELD TRIP — FEB. 24

Our field trip to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. at Grand Rapids attracted eleven people who were willing to brave the cold, wind, snow and very poor driving conditions. Dave and Jean Ann Piotrowski and Gordon and Marle Lewis collected some good Selenite crystals as a reward for their efforts. George Heaton collected pencil ore.

RULEMAKING BEING SET FOR FOSSIL COLLECTING ON PUBLIC LANDS

On December 3, 4, & 5 the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) called a conference in Boulder, CO to negotiate new rules for collecting fossils on public lands. Conference representative included BLM, Forest Service, US Geological Survey, National Park Service, Utah State Geologist, Denver Museum curator, two paleontologists, two vertebrate paleontologists, two commercial collectors and three amateurs. The amateur representatives invited were John Boland - AFMS Legislation, John Alf - RMF Public Lands Advisory and Glenn Crossman - MAPS.

The National Academy of Science committee published a report in June 1987 with ten recommendations to Federal agencies with land management responsibilities. This conference was called to help draft regulations which will take into account the interests and concerns of all those who would be effected. The ten NAS recommendations were in brief:

1. A uniform national policy should be adopted by all federal agencies...
2. Each state should adopt a policy for state-owned land...
3. All public land should be open to fossil collecting for scientific purposes, ...except for quarrying and commercial collecting, no permits are required to surface collect when using hand tools...
4. Fossils of scientific significance should be deposited in institutions where there are established research and educational programs in paleontology...
5. Commercial collecting of fossils from public lands should be regulated to minimize the risk of losing fossils and data of importance to paleontology...
6. Private landowners should follow the guidelines...that commercial collecting of fossils be undertaken with thorough scientific oversight...
7. Blanket paleontological inventories...should not be taken routinely...on all public lands...
8. Land managers or developers who require scientific guidance should initially seek advise from the US Geological Survey...
9. The Dept. of Interior...should...establish national landmarks...(on both public and private lands) to protect scientifically important fossils
10. The paleontological societies...should establish broadly based education programs ...on research needs (this includes programs with amateurs and the public at meetings and shows)

For the conference, a large report was prepared to outline to the participants all of the support given by the amateurs to the professional paleontologists. It described the volunteer work by amateurs at museums, specimens given or loaned for study, and financial aid to graduate students annually. The federal agencies' representatives were impressed at the extent of support supplied. A good communication link was established and a pledge of communication transfer each way, was given...

The final draft of the regulations will be published by mid 1990 in the Federal Register and we must be ready to comment within 60 days. Additional information on the final form of the above 10 recommendations will be discussed in future issues of the AFMS Newsletter.

John Boland, Chair Conservation/Legislation Committee  
AFMS Newsletter, Feb. 1990

#### EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE — Florence Hill

Good news! We are still going to have a Demonstration Night? So much interest was shown, not only by our members but also by prospective visitors, that the program has been rescheduled. We now have March 29, the 5th Thursday of the month reserved at the same location, Wardcliff School on Wardcliff Drive, East Lansing. Look in your February News for directions. The Okemos Community Education department will again help to publicize the event. All demonstrators who planned to come that ill-fated Feb. 15 are urged to try again. And if you have just now decided you would like to "show your stuff," just call Neil, Grit or Florence. Come anyway! (Set up time for the Flint Show is 4 to 9 pm Thursday or before 10:00 am Friday the 30th. So that should not stop anyone from doing both.)

Our participation in the Michigan Science Teachers' Convention on February 17 was also cancelled because of the weather.

The weekend of March 17 & 18 should be a busy one for club members. In addition to the field trip, we have been invited to participate in two area events. One is the Dinosaur Days at the MSU Museum. Specifically, we have been asked to put on a fossil exhibit. Hours of the activity are 1 to 5:00 pm both days. Parking close to the museum will be reserved for us. Call Florence, 349-3554, for details.

The other event on March 17 & 18 is the Fenner Arboretum Maple Syrup Festival, which will be held from 11:00am to 4:00pm both days. Our members who work with natural materials are invited to show and/or demonstrate. Selling is permitted. Ask Don Lohrer how this works out. Call Leora Laylin, 349-3249, for further information. (Sorry, George. Those invitations are to events out of our planning!)

CML&MS will again offer a special incentive to 4-H'ers to become interested in the rocks and minerals project. We

will continue to match the premiums awarded in this division at the Ingham County Fair.

The mineral of the month is rutile, titanium oxide ( $TiO_2$ ). David Piotrowski will give the 5 minute talk. Please bring any specimens you have of this interesting material for all of us to see.

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A letter received from Clarence Kirkby from Alamo, Texas adds to the number of instances of Clarence and Gladys's spreading the good news about the rock hobby: --Sept. 14, 1989 Clarence and Gladys gave a mineral program to Senior members of the Jackson Moose lodge. 67 members were present and many questions were asked. --Oct. 2, 1989 they repeated the program for 100 members of the Michigan State Employees Retirees' Club. --Jan. 30, 1990 they gave a program to the Seventh Day Adventist Elementary School in McAllen, Texas. This led to a special acquaintance with an interested family, the Torres', and a rock collecting trip with them near Roma, Texas. They collected RioGrande agate, red and yellow moss agate, petrified wood, petrified oyster shells, jade, jasper, selenite, and banded chert! Whew! Clarence and Gladys have been asked to prepare a rock collection for the school, which they will do this fall.

They also visited Frank and Frances Swagart in Mission, Texas and attended the rock show in the park where the Swagarts live.

So you see our club founders have never lost their love for rocks, nor their ability to interest others in them.

Not strictly in our hobby line, but well worth mentioning -- Grit and Alice Turner have recently spent a week in South Carolina with a group from their church, repairing a building damaged by the hurricane. Grit and Alice regularly give their time in similar service each winter.

#### MIDWEST FEDERATION ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

You may recall that in the spring of 1989 there was some debate as to changes in the management of the endowment fund. A permanent committee to manage the fund was established at last June's convention. The following news has been issued by the committee chair, Larry Costigan(MN):

"The Endowment Fund was established to insure that in the future as well as for the present there will be monies available to be used for projects approved by the MWF Board of Directors and ratified by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting at an Executive Committee meeting. However, only the interest may be used for projects as well as administrative expenses. The final Operation Procedures were approved by the Executive Board on Friday October 13, 1989 at Springfield, MO..."



WORDS OF WISDOM — The Happy Hounder, Feb. 1990 (Muncie, IN)

"For transporting material from one part of the country to another, rockhounds are almost as good as glaciers."

--Clean geode crystals with EFFERDENT (denture cleaner.)  
Let stand overnight.

--Add a couple of envelopes of Knox gelatin to each step of grinding, and during the final polish as a thickening agent. This will keep the grit and polish in suspension and gives better tumbling action.

LOUISIANA OPAL

Yes, precious opal from Louisiana! The first finds were a few years ago. These are flecks of opal colors captured in a quartzite matrix and are properly termed "matrix opal." The first finds were not very exciting. However, as the men who discovered this opal worked the area, they kept finding better and better material. Now they are getting a hard, solid quartzite with pinfire patterns throughout. It is not like anything I have seen elsewhere in the world. The closest type is the Andamooka matrix. However, this material is far too dense to treat.

It comes slabbed and shows blue/green pinfire on a grey quartzite. I am not suggesting that this opal is the quality of the Australian opals you are familiar with, but it will cut beautiful and very unusual cabs.

M.M.S. Conglomerate, Feb. 1990

MOTHER COLLECTS BEAUTIFUL ROCKS — Capper's, 1-16-90, p.24

My mother was a remarkable woman. Born in Vermillion, S.D., reared in Nebraska, she was of real pioneer stock. She made do with what she had...

Through it all, Mother always found time to paint a lovely picture, appreciate nature and above all, pick up rocks. Famous last words echoed from my lips: "I'll never do that!"

When my mother left this world, there were little cans full of rocks everywhere, in and under the cupboards, in the refrigerator, under the beds and in every nook and cranny. If you were to come to my house today, you would find cans of rocks: rocks displayed on several shelves, a board covered with delightful fossils wrapped in plastic beneath my bed. There are rocks selected with utmost care to be made into jewelry. My rock equipment in the basement will cut the rocks gathered in Texas. Oh, those beautiful Texas agates!

I also find time for arrowhead hunting and for painting a picture now and then. I vowed I would never do these things, but my vows are broken more every Colorado day.

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS

- March 15 Regular meeting and Silent Auction
- March 17 Field trip, Duff Quarry, Huntsville, Ohio
- March 17-18 Dinosaur Days, MSU Museum
- Maple Syrup Festival, Fenner Arboretum
- March 29 Demonstration Night, Wardcliff School
- April 5 Board Meeting
- April 19 Regular Meeting, MSU Planetarium
- April 28 Field Trip, Arkona, Ontario (fossils)
- May 27 Field Trip, Bowmanville, Ontario (trilobites)
- June 3 Picnic at Red and Bessie Rogers' place

SHOW DATES — Spring 1990

- March 24 Dearborn Swap; St. Martha's Hall,  
18200 Oakwood, Dearborn; 10am - 5pm
- March 30- Apr. 1 Flint; Williams School, 3501  
Minnesota Ave.; F & S 10-8; S 10-5
- April 4 Oakland Co. Earth Science Club  
Auction - Estate Sale
- April 7-8 Indian Mounds Show, Eastbrook Mall,  
28th Street, Grand Rapids
- April 6-8 Mt. Clemens; Community Center, 300  
N. Grosbeck; F & S 10-8; S 11-6
- April 20-22 Jackson; Sports Arena, 1300 W.  
North St.; F 1-9, S 10-9, S 10-5
- April 21-22 Columbus, Ohio
- May 18-20 Dearborn
- June 22-24 Bedford (Bloomington) IN Swap
- June 23-24 MGAGS Rockhound Weekend (seminar)  
Traverse City, MI
- July 14-17 MWF Federation Show/Convention  
Evansville, Indiana