

# ROCKHOUND NEWS

MAR 1992

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



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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

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Corresponding Secretary	Donald Lohrer	482-2914
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### MEMBER OF:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

LOOK AT YOUR MAILING LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER. A RED DOT MEANS THAT YOU HAVE NOT PAID THIS YEAR'S DUES OF \$3.00. YOU MUST PAY NOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR MEMBERSHIP. A check may be sent to Bessie Rogers, 2222 W. Marshall Rd., St. Johns, MI 48879 or pay Bessie at the March meeting.

#### MARY'S MEMO TO THE MEMBERS

The members who went to Grand Rapids for the field trip were "in the dark." OK, no more bad attempts at being a sit-down comedian. Read George's report on the success of this trip.

The March meeting is suddenly a few days away. Please look through your collection for goodies for the silent auction; and while you are at it, look for stuff for the children's table. Come prepared with money, money, money and bid, bid, bid!

#### MARCH PROGRAM: THE SILENT AUCTION -- Bettie Patterson

The March meeting will include our annual Silent Auction. Bring your rock hobby related items you would like to sell. You may keep all the profit for yourself or may donate a share to the club.

Be sure to bring plenty of small change for you purchases!

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT -- Don Lohrer

Get well wishes were sent to Cora Card who had surgery and to John Takis. John had a quadruple bypass last month. We also sent good wishes to Florence Hill who received severe abrasions and bruises in a nasty fall the last of February. Florence is at home and recovering nicely at this time. We wish them all the very best.

We send our deepest condolences to Archie Ammerman. Archie's father passed away late in February. We all share his grief at this time of sorrow.

While you're looking for things for the silent auction, remember to watch for tumbled stones for critters for the kids' table at our show. They don't need to be gem quality. A few pits and wrinkles give the little beast a personality all its own. Bring them to any meeting or call me. My sexy little truck and I will be glad to pick them up.

Respectfully, Don Lohrer

Corresponding Secretary and Critter Creator

#### NEW JUNIOR MEMBER, ANN MARIE SMITH, WINS HONORS

On Saturday February 29, Ann Marie Smith a 7th grader at Holy Cross Middle School in Lansing and a new member of CML&MS, won 3rd place in the Regional Science Olympiad Rock, Fossil and Mineral Event. There were 19 middle schools entered in the competition, which was held at Lansing Community College. Our CONGRATULATIONS to Ann Marie!

EDUCATION -- Florence Hill

The mineral for study this month will be dolomite. Be sure to bring your favorite specimens for others to examine.

Our member Diane Baclawski was very busy at the Science Day at Meridian Mall in the MSU geology department section. Her dinosaur tracks display drew some fascinated viewers.

Down in New Boston, Texas, Walter and Sharon Davis do a rock talk each spring at the neighboring school, and give out rock collection cards to the children -- about 125 of them!

Children's Table - Now is the time to go through your rock boxes and sort out your surplus for the children's table. And keep you eyes open for those attractive pebbles for the Pebble Pond!

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP REPORT - George Heaton

Our field trip to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. in Grand Rapids attracted 10 of our members which is about average participation for our field trips. A good amount of pencil ore was collected for the children's table with much thanks to Dave and Jean Ann who carried out more than the equivalent of a large bucket full themselves. Their efforts were greatly appreciated. We did not find very much good window pane selenite this time. George Heaton collected a few mediocre selenite crystals. Dave Piotrowski spent some time exploring and tapping the mine ceiling in an effort to find a new crystal locality, but I don't think he was successful.

MARCH FIELD TRIPS -- THERE WILL BE TWO - George HeatonTHE FIRST FIELD TRIP: DUFF QUARRY, MARCH 21

I have scheduled a field trip to the Duff Quarry at Huntsville, Ohio for Saturday, March 21. We will meet at the quarry office at 10:00 am on Saturday morning and have permission to stay until 3:00 pm. 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 the 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 Hunstville, Ohio. LOOK FOR A MAP AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER!

SECOND MARCH FIELD TRIP -- FOSSIL FLING, MARCH 28

Our second March field trip will be to the 2nd Annual Fossil Fling sponsored by the Gad-A-Bout, a small weekly newspaper which publishes out-of-doors type news about the southern Indiana area. It will meet at the Treaty-Line Pioneer Village at 10:00am where there will be informal discussions on fossils of the Whitewater Valley from 10:00am to Noon, followed by a lunch period, noon to 1:00pm. You must bring a sack lunch or eat at a local restaurant. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided by the Gad-A-Bout. Following lunch there will be field trips to various fossil localities in the area. There are several large road cuts in the area that are very good for collecting fossils. This area south of Richmond Indiana is world famous for Ordovician fossils.

Treaty-Line Pioneer Village is located at the north end and west side of Brookville Reservoir south of Richmond Indiana. One way I might suggest to get there is to take I-69 south from Lansing to Rt. 35 just north of Muncie Indiana. Take Rt. 35 East and then south around Muncie and Southeast to Rt. 1. Go south on Rt. 1 to Connersville. At Connersville take Rt. 44 east about 6 1/2 miles, then take another road south. I am sorry that my Indiana county maps do not give names or numbers to county and township roads, but this should be about the 5th south direction road you will come to and one mile beyond the Union Co. line. You go south about 2 1/2 miles and turn left (southeast). Go southeast about 1 mile to the Treaty Line Pioneer Village and Fossil Fling just before crossing the Dunlapville Causeway. AGAIN, LOOK FOR A MAP AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER!

① Mt Pleasant Rd

Dunlapville left

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUBSCRIBING TO THE LAPIDARY JOURNAL?

The Lapidary Journal has long offered rock clubs a share in their profits. If your subscription is sent in through the club, CML&MS may keep \$6.00 of the annual subscription rate or \$10.25 from a two year subscription. If you are interested, you may give your check (made out to CML&MS) to Treasurer Richard Miller: \$24.00 for one year or \$41.00 for two years.

Please note, your cost remains the same whether you order yourself or through CML&MS. The difference is in where the profits go-- to Lapidary Journal or to our club.

CLUB BANQUET

Start planning now for the club banquet to be held May 21 at the Okemos Masonic Hall. Once again we will have a delicious dinner of chicken and all the fixings! Tickets will be available at the April meeting, \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children of members.

MINERALS IN THE DARK - Eleanor Snyder, The Petoskey Stone, March 1992 (Oakland County Earth Science Club)

For a long time the property of minerals glowing with visible light under the bombardment of invisible rays, or glowing in the dark after being exposed to a source of invisible radiation has been an interest of mineral collectors. We all enjoy the special fluorescent displays in many museums and at mineral shows.

What causes this phenomenon? According to The World Book Encyclopedia fluorescence is defined as a "property of certain materials which allows them to modify the light they absorb and to radiate light when they are exposed to invisible radiation such as ultraviolet rays." Different sources of ultraviolet light produce either short-wave ultraviolet light or long-wave ultra-violet light. Some minerals respond to one or the other; others respond to both long and short waves, but with a different response to each kind of light wave.

When the source of illumination is removed, most fluorescent substances stop giving off light. Some however, such as some diamonds, glow for a long time in the darkness after absorbing the ultraviolet light. This phenomena is called "phosphorescence."

In the September/October 1982 issue of Rocks and Minerals we find that most minerals that are known to fluoresce will not do so in a pure state. They require the presence of specific impurities called activators. Manganese is the most widespread and significant activator. It is responsible for the red fluorescence of calcite, green of willemite, the yellow of esprite and many others.

Some minerals which fluoresce are fluorite, calcite, chalcedony, willemite, zincite, barite, diopside, prehnite and aragonite. Franklin, New Jersey is the most famous location for fluorescent minerals in the United States and a exciting place to visit.

JEAN ANN'S NOTE -- Last fall's field trip to Lime City Ohio yielded fluorescent calcite and fluorite; and, phosphorescent fluorite. Perhaps George will take us back again this year?!

RHODOCHROSITE -- Via The Exchangite, Crystal Gazer & others

The name rhodochrosite refers to the color. In Greek, rhodo means rose red. Rhodochrosite is a colorful gemstone. It is not too plentiful, but it can be found at the larger gem & mineral shows. It is a manganese carbonate ( $MnCO_3$ ), and it is an important ore of manganese. This mineral is found in Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungary, USSR, USA (Montana) and Argentina. The gem quality rhodochrosite comes from high in the Andes near San Luis, Argentina. This deposit of rhodochrosite was formed as stalagmites in the old silver mines of the Incas. They were abandoned in the 13th century.

Rhodochrosite makes beautiful ladies jewelry. The raspberry red base color with pink wavy bands is quite striking. It was said that it was Mamie Eisenhower's favorite gemstone.

Lapidary wise, it is not hard to work -- just work slowly and carefully. It's hardness is 4 on the Moh scale. Grind to shape and dome the cabochon on a 220 grit wheel using plenty of water. It is easy to grind away too much, so when you are close to the desired size, check often with a template. Sand carefully on a 220 grit sanding drum or dish using water; but not too long, or you will deform the cabochon. Proceed to sand with 400 & 600 grit sanding cloth. Sand just long enough on the 400 to get the scratches out. Prolong your sanding on 600. Prepolish on a worn 600 (1200 does wonders.) Polish on leather using Linde A. Mount it in a silver colored mounting, and you can then show off a rare beauty.

SHOP TIPS: (From the Flint Rock & Gem Club Newsletter, Dec. 1991)

One of the most useful and versatile tools on your workbench should be an orangewood stick. This tool is sold for the purpose of working on the cuticles, and is available in all cosmetic departments. The orangewood stick is soft enough not to mar gold or silver, yet hard enough to use as a pushing tool. This tool also will not scratch gems and it reaches into almost impossible places. via The Glacial Drifter & others

**Trimming Slabs:** Use a glass cutter to do your trimming of slabs. It saves your diamond trim saw blade for more detailed work. The glass cutter to use is the one with a carbide wheel, not tungsten. Put a good solid handle on it and you can bear down hard; then use a pliers to break the slab along the scored line. via The Rockpile & Tropic Topics

Sterling silver articles can be given a frosted finish by roasting the article in an oven for 20 minutes at 300 degrees F. This changes the surface copper in the silver to copper oxide, which may then be dissolved in sulfuric acid, leaving a pure, matted silver. via The Glacial Drifter & others

**Silver Snips:** If you use 1/3 lacquer and 2/3 thinner, you can dip polished silver articles in it and the polish will last indefinitely. This coating also keeps silver from staining the skin, as it manages to do for some people. via The Rockpile & Backbender's Gazette

When you get too much solder on a spot when making jewelry, and try to file it off, the process takes quite a while. To get rid of the excess solder without filing, take a narrow strip of silver 1/8" wide by 3/4" long and cut a slit in one end. Heat the piece with excess solder on it and touch the cut strip to the excess solder. The excess solder will flow up the cut. Via the Rockpile & others

DO YOU REMEMBER JAN AND MAGDA?

At New Year's the club received a note of greeting from former members Jan Hutny and Magda Hutna. Jan and Magda, father and daughter, were active members of our club from approximately 1988-1990 while Jan was studying here at MSU. Their address in Poland is: Magda Hutna & Jan Hutny

ul. Scinawska 34m1  
53-628  
Wroctaw, POLAND

CALENDAR

March 19

March 20

May 21

June 27-28

October 23-25

August 8-15, 1993

Regular Meeting & SILENT AUCTION  
Show Board Meeting, 7:00, at the home  
of Bettie Patterson  
Club Banquet, Okemos Masonic Temple  
MGAGS Rockhound Seminar, Mott Community  
College, Flint  
OUR SHOW, theme "Out of the Earth",  
Marshall St. Armory  
MWF Field Trip Convention, Cu Country!!!

UPCOMING SHOWS

March 21

April 3-5

April 8-11

April 10-12

April 17-19

May 2-3

May 2-3

May 15-17

June 19-21

July 23-26

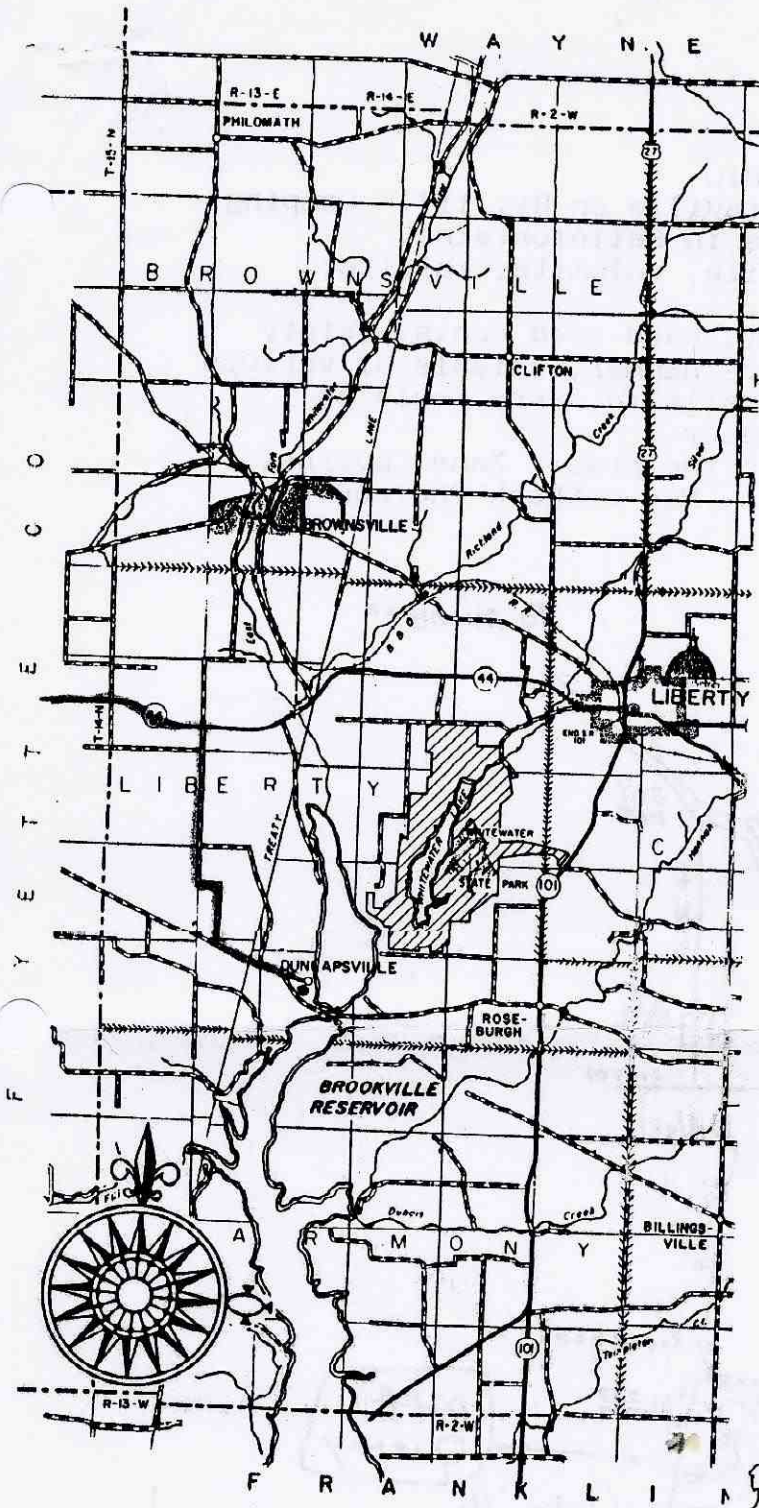
Metro Rock Swap, (Dearborn Club) Sheridan  
Community Center, Pardee Rd, Taylor 10am -5pm  
Flint Rock & Gem Club SHOW  
Fri & Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 8am-5pm  
Indian Mounds SHOW, Eastbrook Mall  
Grand Rapids 10am - 9pm  
Mt. Clemens SHOW, Mt. Clemens Community  
Center, 300 N. Groesbeck; Fri & Sat 10am-8pm  
Sun 11am-6pm  
Michigan Gem & Mineral Society (Jackson) Show  
Michigan Center Eagles, 302 5th St., Michigan  
Center. Fri 12-9pm Sat 10am-9pm Sun 10am-5pm  
Kalamazoo Show, Kalamazoo Fairgrounds, \$2.00,  
Fri. 10am-6pm Sat 10am-5pm  
Cincinnati Show, \$4.00 or 2 day pass \$6.00,  
Cincinnati Gardens 2250 Seymour Ave,  
Sat 10am-7pm Sun 10-5  
Dearborn Show, Dearborn Civic Center,  
Michigan & Greenfield, Fri 5-10pm  
Sat 10am-8pm Sun 11am-5:30pm  
Lawrence Co. (Indiana) Rock Club Show/Swap  
Monroe Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, Fri 10am-9pm,  
Sat 8am-9pm, Sun 8am-4pm  
Combined AFMS & MWF Show, Brunswick High  
School, Brunswick Ohio



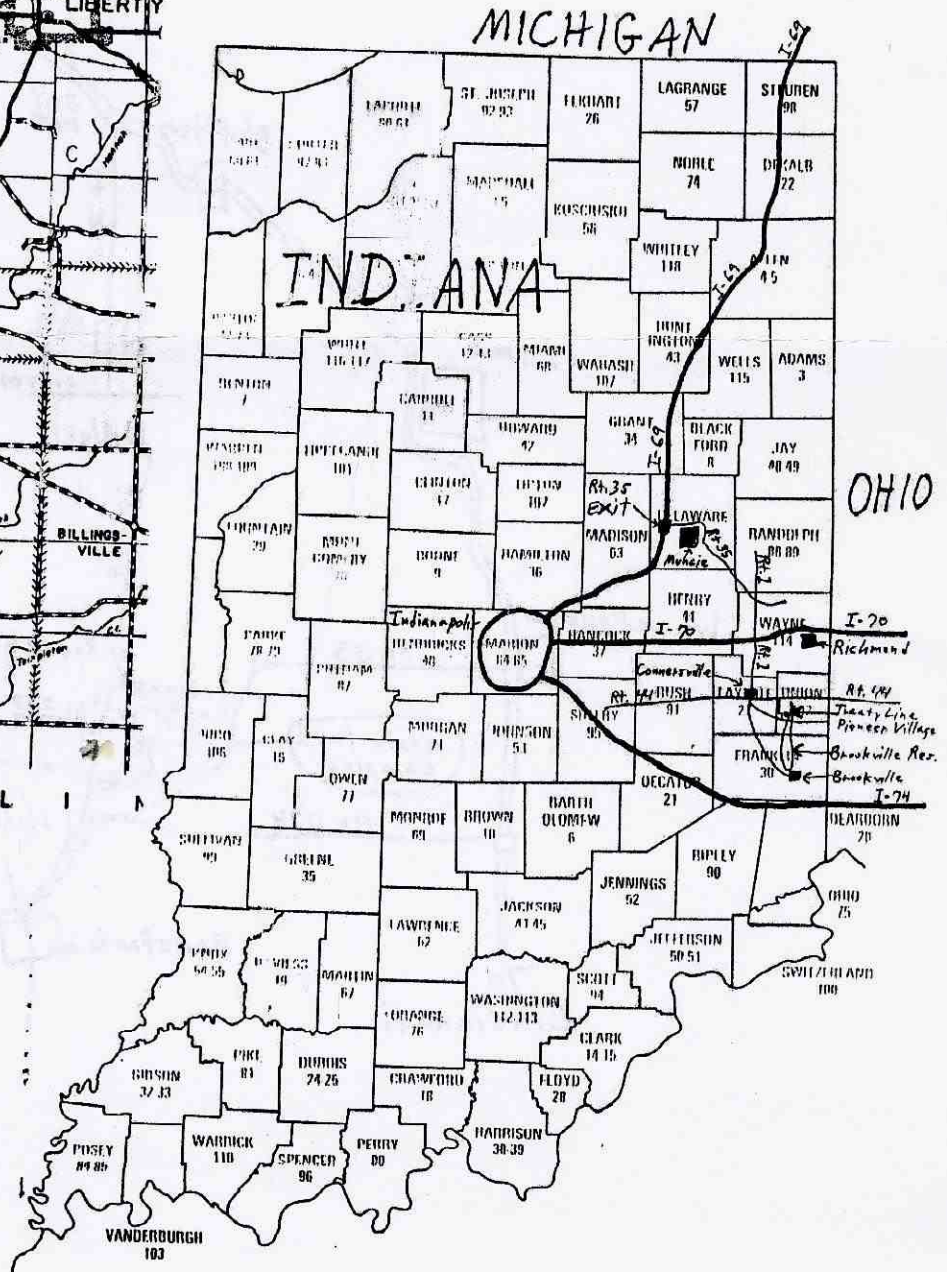
# FOSSIL FLING

(SPONSORED BY THE GAD-A-BOUT)

March 28, 1992



## Union County



DUFF & SON QUARRY, HUNTSVILLE OHIO

About 2 miles north of Huntsville on Rt. 117. Camping available at Indian Lake; motels in Bellefontaine.

Minerals to be found: pyrite, dolomite, calcite, sphalerite, and fluorite.

Equipment needed: hard hat, hard toed boots, safety glasses or goggles, 2-3 lb. crack hammer, chisels of various sizes, sledge hammer 8-10 lb., pails to carry tools or specimens, boxes and wrapping paper.

Other points of interest in the area: Zane Caverns, Ohio Caverns, Mac-O-Cheek Castle, Mac-O-Cheek Chateau.

