

OBLIGATORY NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

As usual, after putting together the newsletter, I don't feel the need to add much in the way of presidential commentary. Just please, please, please keep reading.

The only item that I think I should address here is the board's emergency decision (3/12/96) to change the date of our club banquet from May 16 to May 23. It was the consensus that keeping our ideal location and the terrific food provided by the Masonic Hall in Okemos was more important than the date. Where else can you get such a meal for around \$7.00 a person? Lee Olson, Marie Lewis & Lila Stevens are in charge of the event and will have more details at the meeting. I'm still working on the speaker.

MARCH REFRESHMENTS: IF YOUR LAST NAME BEGINS WITH A-M, PLEASE BRING SOME GOODIES.

MARCH PROGRAM: ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION (jawp)

This is your annual chance to clean the workshop and part with some of your excess rocks, minerals, findings, tools, etc. Anything hobby related is acceptable. The auction involves heated bidding wars and light footed leaps around the table, hoping to add something new to your own collection. It's sort of the annual migration of materials from one rock house to another. Gordon Lewis will be in charge of this event.

IF YOU HAVE THINGS TO SELL: Bid slips including a brief description of the item, your name, and the minimum bid need to be attached to each item you wish to put up for auction. BE SURE TO FILL OUT THE TOP & BOTTOM PORTION OF YOUR TAG! Failure to do so makes it nearly impossible to get the money in the proper hands. Gordon will have plenty of tags available at the meeting. **All** money goes to the person who sells the item, not to the club.

HOW TO BUY: Bring lots of small denomination bills and change, a few bigger bills might come in handy as well. Hard core bidders may want their own pencil. No bids may be placed before the auction begins. You must begin with the stated minimum, and increases must be at least 10 cents. At the sound of the horn, all bidding must stop. **THE ITEM GOES TO THE LAST COMPLETED BID.**

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR OWN COPY OF THE MWF DIRECTORY? (jawp)

The MWF directory is a handy publication listing all of the year's shows & special events. It is also the best way of contacting members of other rock clubs, and thus getting the scoop on local collecting opportunities, as you travel throughout the Midwest. Normally, this publication is \$2.50 plus postage.

Neil Snapp is willing to pick up copies at the spring federation meeting, buying there in lots of 10 brings the cost down to \$2.00 each, no postage. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY, PLEASE LET NEIL KNOW BEFORE MARCH 25!**

CRITTER MAKING WORKSHOP, SATURDAY MARCH 30TH AT TURNER'S HOUSE. CALL ALICE FOR MORE INFO IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP: 694-9596.

MARCH FIELD TRIP: CORYDON INDIANA, SATURDAY MARCH 23 -- George

Heaton

The field trip for March will be to the Corydon Crushed Stone Co. Quarry near Corydon Indiana on March 23. The Corydon quarry is known for its beautiful pink dolomite crystals and some very nice calcite crystals. Purple fluorite is sometimes found with the pink dolomite. We will plan to meet at the quarry office at 11:30 am on Saturday. (This part of Indiana is on the same time as MI.) Corydon is located very near the bottom of Indiana and is a long drive from Lansing, probably at least 9 hours. To be at Corydon Quarry at 11:30 am on Saturday, you may want to plan to leave Friday afternoon or night and travel most of the way.

After our visit to the quarry on Saturday we can also visit an interesting road cut on Rt. 56 between Salem and Scottsburg in Washington Co. on Sunday morning before heading home to Lansing. This road cut is large and contains quartz, dolomite and calcite geodes. The calcite crystals here are especially attractive.

To get to Corydon you can take I-465 South to I-65 and go south on I-65 almost to Jeffersonville IN which is located on the Ohio River across from Louisville KY. At Jeffersonville you can take I-64 east to exit 105 at Corydon and Rt. 135. Go north on Rt. 135 about 1/4 mile to the first road to the left. You take this road west to the quarry, which will be on your right. There are motels and restaurants near the intersection of I-64 and Rt. 135. There are also motels in Scottsburg and one in Salem.

HELP NEEDED FOR MSU MUSEUM ID DAY -- Neil Snapp

Help needed?? Low pay, frustrations, challenges, public appreciation. The MSU Museum is hosting an identification day at the museum auditorium on March 31, from 1-4 pm. Last year several club members assisted in the identification of rocks, minerals and invertebrate fossils. Other museum staff worked on bones, vertebrates, teeth, Native American artifacts, etc. etc.

It was a very busy day-- folks were lined up outside before the doors opened!! We earned a lot of goodwill and P.R. for the club. We have been asked by Dr. Al Holman to assist again this year. We need several people to help with the same areas as before plus shells. I will be unable to assist this time as I will be at the MWF Spring Executive Committee Meeting in Illinois. So, please let me know if you can help so I can let Dr. Holman know and make arrangements for parking permits- hopefully. Thanks for helping.

MSU MUSEUM UPDATE -- Neil Snapp

A new MSU Museum has long been needed and talked about for several years. Some slight movement forward is taking place. The proposed site for the new facility is gradually being vacated by the current tenant. The new museum has been moved onto the list of capital projects. Plans are being made for fundraising-- some funds have already been raised.

The Museum Associates has begun a series of "visioning" meetings, asking community members what they would like to retain from the present and what the new facility should encompass. I attended the first of these meetings and made a plea for earth/geological sciences in a broad form. If club members have thoughts on the future museum, please share them with me or with the Director, Dr. Dewhurst. We need to have

input now, in the early planning stages.

SEEKING A STAMP COLLECTOR.....-- Neil Snepp

One of our members indicated an interest in collecting sheets of U.S. stamps. I have a sheet of MNH ten cent mineral stamps for sale. Also some other MNH stamps, proceeds to the Midwest Federation Endowment Fund. Please contact me.

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBER (jawnp)

Welcome to Pram Booncharoen. Pram is an engineer who enjoys mineralogy, fossils, geology and lapidary work. His address: 3815 Hemmingway, Okemos MI 48864.

SHOW NEWS, YES OURS-- Roger Laylin

We wish to thank Marvin Oestrlr for the donation of 200 plus pounds of petoskey stones and slabs for use in our polishing kits and at the polishing demonstration area. Rich and Lila Stevens brought back a "few" pounds of chalcedony and other New Mexican minerals for the show as a result of their winter trip. Grit and Alice Turner also traveled west and ended up with 375 pounds (Grit weighed it all), some of which will end up on the kids' table as well.

However, this doesn't mean that the rest of the club is off the hook. We still need more styrofoam **egg cartons** (Florence stressed that she does NOT need hundreds of them, but could use a bit more.) and minerals to put in them. **Minerals for the egg cartons** should be about **quarter sized**, and need to be in **lots of at least 60 of a kind**.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP REPORT -- George Heaton

Our February field trip to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. in Grand Rapids Michigan on Saturday, Feb. 17th was very well attended. I can only guess at the size of our group since there were two other clubs there besides ours and everybody got mixed up and some of our people may have gone down the elevator at different times. I figure there must have been at least 15 plus maybe a few more in our group. Royal Olson's program at our February meeting must have sparked a lot of interest in collecting alabaster. I believe quite a bit of alabaster and "pencil ore" was hauled out of the tunnels that day.

SOCIETY LOOSES ANOTHER MEMBER, "MAC" McMAHON (jawnp)

Life member, "Mac" McMahon passed away Thursday, March 7. Mac was a talented lapidary, best known for his beautiful works of silver inlay, intarsia and spheres. A good many folks in the club have one of Mac's creations in their collection. Mac & Mary were also avid field-trippers, regularly attending the Red Metal Retreat in Houghton.

Mac and his enthusiasm for our hobby will be missed. We offer our sympathy to Mary and their family.

HELPFUL HINTS via Tulip City Conglomerate 1/96 via several others

1. Tin oxide will not work as well in your coffee as Cremora.
2. Most good specimens can be dug up only during a good rain or snowstorm.

3. All worthwhile gemstones are a good 5 miles away at the end of a dirt road, at about 8,000 feet elevation.
4. If you can't identify a mineral, call it jasper. No one else will know either.
5. Don't store tumbled stones in a candy dish.
6. There are approximately 135 ways to polish jade, most of which don't work.

EDUCATION REPORT -- Margaret Green

-- The mineral of the month is barite.

-- **Education Outreach Opportunities.** Three science nights are coming up in April. Sign up sheets for demonstrations will be available at the March meeting, or interested parties may call Margaret. **A note of encouragement for new members:** Please seriously consider attending one of the school science evenings as an observer if you feel hesitant about attending as a participant. Youngsters are very welcome.

-- **Thanks Yous.** Working more or less chronologically backwards, kudos to the following folks for being so generous with their time and energy on behalf of the club. At the Michigan Science Teacher's Assoc. Convention: George Heaton, field trips; Florence Hill, clubs; Gail Hopkins, cabs; Alan Hukill, minerals & rocks; Lee & Royal Olson, quartz; Margaret Green, classroom visits.

To Marvin Oesterle for doing a day's work at Mason Elementary school speaking about rocks and minerals.

Margaret Green presented a one hour lecture at the Eaton Co. Youth Detention Facility about Michigan Economic Geology.

Mucho kudos to the individuals who presented one hour lectures at the Fenner Nature Center this winter: Grit Turner, Margaret Green, Royal Olson, Bettie Patterson, Gordon & Marie Lewis.

And, belated thanks to the presenters at the Okemos Science Day in January: Grit Turner, Florence Hill, Margaret Green, Neil & Connie Snapp, Royal & Lee Olson.

-- **Feedback.** I would like some feedback from the members about our un-official educational program. Is it working for you?

A GEOLOGY PRIMER via The Petoskey Stone 3/96 via Coral Geode 2/96

Geology is mostly about rocks. There are three main kinds of rocks: ignominious, sedentary and metamorphic. Ignominious rocks can be taken for granite. Sedentary rocks are mostly chalk, which comes in cliffs, or small round sticks, and sandstone about which the less said the better. Metamorphic rocks are more interesting. One kind is marble which come in little round balls, flat slabs and shapes that look like naked people without arms which are kept in museums. Another kind is slate which is for geologist to write on with chalk. The only other kind worth mentioning is steatite, or soapstone, which is found in the shape of ashtrays and old-fashioned sinks. The other kinds are, mostly, a lot of schist.

Stones come in a lot of different periods. These were invented by geologists, and they are the only ones who can remember which is which. The only one I can remember is the Plasticence Period, which is when man first learned how to model and get oil stains on his rompers.

You have to sort of get used to geologists. At first they seem to have nothing but rocks in their heads, and when they talk about beds, they don't mean what you think. But

underneath they are almost normal. When they go on a field trip with little hammers, they sit around the evening fire on their terminal moraines and sing just like anyone else. Songs like "Lava Come Back to Me," "Shale be Cambrian Round the Mountain," "You'd be so Gneiss to Come Home To," and, "When the Chalk is on the Greensands, I'll come Huronian Back to You in my New Red Marl."

When you meet a geologist, be nice to him, he may be somebody's mammal.

MISCELLANEOUS OTHER NEWS FROM THE BOARD MEETING (jawp)

-- Voted to invite the **Midwest Federation Executive Committee** to have their fall meeting at our show.

-- Bessie & Red Rogers recently unearthed a **mini-fluorescent booth** while doing their spring cleaning. Bettie Patterson will bring it to the silent auction so that folks can check specimens. If you could use this gizmo to aid in a presentation, please contact Bettie, 482-3437.

SOME GOOD FOSSIL COLLECTING LEGISLATION IN THE WORKS

via MWF Newsletter, March 1996

CLUB CALENDAR

March 21 Regular meeting, 7:30 North School. SILENT AUCTION.
LAST NAMES A-M PLEASE BRING FOOD.
March 23-24 Field trip. Corydon Quarry & Scottsburg/Salem roadcut INDIANA
April 4 Board meeting, 7:30 Meridian Service Center
April 18 Regular meeting, 7:30 North School. Native American Artifacts.
MAY 23*** CLUB BANQUET, Okemos Masonic Hall. Note change of date.

SHOW CALENDAR

March 23 Metro Rock Swap (Dearborn Club). Democratic Club of Taylor,
23400 Wick Rd., Taylor (just East of Telegraph). 10am-5pm.
Free.
March 23-24 DesPlaines IL Show. Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center,
2222 Birch St., (just west of River Rd. off Touhy) Des Plaines IL.
April 3-6 Indian Mounds Show. Eastbrook Mall, 28th St., Grand Rapids
May 4-5 Kalamazoo Show. Fairgrounds County Center Bldg., Lake St.
Fri. 4-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Donation \$2, under 12 free.
May 4-5 Cincinnati Show. Cincinnati Gardens, 2250 Seymour Ave.
Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5. Adults \$5, both days \$8, kids 6-15 \$1. free parking
May 10-12 Flint Show, Flint IMA Sports Arena
May 17-19 Dearborn Show. Dearborn Civic Center, Michigan & Greenfield.
Fri. 5-9, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 11-5:30
June 21-23 Bloomington Show & Swap, Bloomington IN
June 29-30 MGAGS Rockhound Seminar, Alpena Community College.
July 19-21 Sudbury Gem & Mineral Show, Sudbury Ontario
July 26-28 Geodeland Earth Science Clubs & MWF Show & Convention,
Macomb IL
Aug. 5-9 Red Metal Retreat
Sept. 6-8 Muskegon Show. Doo Drop Inn, 2410 Henry St., Muskegon.
Fri. 6-9, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5