

**NEXT MEETING: April 18, North School**

**Mineral of the Month:**

**PROGRAM: "Evolution of Whales" Dr. Mark D. Uhen**

**Curator of Paleontology & Zoology, Cranbrook Institute of Science**

**REFRESHMENTS: J-Q please bring goodies.**

**WHALES** -----Where did they come from? Who did they evolve from? Who are their present land dwelling relatives? Did they ever live in the Great Lakes area? Has anyone ever found or identified a fossil whale bone? Come to the April meeting and find out some answers.

Dr. Mark D. Uhen, the Curator of Paleontology and Zoology at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, will be our speaker at our April meeting. He has done extensive research on the evolution of whales and will share his findings with us.

Come to the meeting and have a 'Whale of a time!'

Milt

**APRIL FIELD TRIP TO BLUFFTON OHIO** – George Heaton

Our April field trip will be to the Bluffton Stone Co. quarry at Bluffton Ohio on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the quarry office at 7:30 am on Saturday. All filed 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, and a pry bar and sledge hammer of 8-10 lb. size are often useful. Also don't forget wrapping paper and boxes for packing specimens.

Minerals to be found include fluorite, dolomite and sphalerite. To get to the Bluffton Stone Co. Quarry take I-75 south in Ohio to the second Bluffton exit, exit 140. Just before the exit you will see the quarry next to the highway. Take exit 140 and turn right. Go a short distance to Harmon Road and turn right on Harmon Rd. Take Harmon Rd. to the next street, turn right and cross a railroad track and you are at the quarry.

**BANQUET TIME: MAY 16!** -- Connie Snepp

The club banquet will be held on May 16, 2002 at the Masonic Center in Okemos. The Social Hour starts promptly at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30. The menu was selected at the March meeting and will be chicken, mashed potatoes, biscuits, gravy, green beans, toss salad and pie.

Our speaker for the evening will be nationally published micro-mount photographer and enthusiast Dan Behnke. The topic of his presentation will be "The Mines and Minerals of Cornwall England." Even if you choose to not attend the banquet, you are welcome to join us for the talk.

Ticket prices are \$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children 12 and under. Wayne Zittel (351-1107) is handling ticket sales which will be available at the April Meeting. The deadline for buying

**Banquet, cont.**

tickets is May 6. **We must have money at the time of your reservation.** This may be sent to Wayne Zittel, 3401 Walker Rd., Lansing MI 48906-3205 if you can not make it to the April meeting.

We are having displays as usual; if you are interested please contact Grit Turner at 694-9596. If you have specimens or other hobby related items that you would like to donate as door prizes, you can give them to me at the April meeting or bring them wrapped to the banquet.

Mary Kay and Lyndsey Bean will be in charge of the refreshment table. The club supplies the punch, crackers and some spreads. Members are asked to bring favorite snack foods to add to the fare.

**DIAMOND CORRECTION THANKS TO CLUB SLEUTH!**

Member Marge Collins e-mailed the following note:

A word about the about diamonds from Crater of Diamonds State Park included in a recent issue "I forwarded a copy to Jennie Smith who put together the program 'Diamonds' that is now in the

MWF Program Library, wondering if she had seen the info. The stated size of the diamond found (42 carat) was so astonishing that she called the Park to verify. They said the largest diamond found last July was **2.42 carats**. So it seems that someone inverted the numbers and missed a decimal point! She (Jennie) did not mention whether the figures for the monster found in 1924, dubbed 'Uncle Sam,' was really 40 carats or 4.0 carats! Even so that is a large diamond.

(I have not checked out their web site to see if any of this info is posted there)

### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT**—Mary Gowans

A get well/thinking of you card was sent to Mary Kay Bean as she recovers from a recent surgery and awaits test results.

### **MARCH FIELD TRIP- DUFF QUARRY** – George Heaton

We had twelve people show up for our field trip to Duff Quarry near Huntsville Ohio on Saturday, March 23. We had six from our Lansing club and six members of Friends of Mineralogy. Our weather was a little cool and windy, but bright and sunny. The bright sun is always a big help in locating the pyrite. The collecting was mediocre in the upper level since there were no recent blasts on that level. The quarry spends most of their time working the lower level now. The lower level has been worked all the way to the east wall and now when they blast there they take the whole wall down from the top of the upper level to the bottom. This includes the more productive upper rock layers and the less productive lower layers into one large blast pile on the lower level. There was a large blast pile in that area, but we were asked not to go there until the quarry quit work at noon. When noon came we went to collect in the lower level where we did find better collecting. I believe all of us found at least a few good specimens. Roger Laylin found a nice sphalerite specimen. Even George Heaton found several nice pyrite specimens and some dolomite crystals for the Children's table.

### **Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society Membership Meeting March 21, 2002**

The March general membership meeting was called to order by President Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski at 7:44 p.m. at the North Elementary School.

There were no guests or visitors present. President Jean Ann announced that Bettie Patterson was stepping down as Liaison Officer, a position she has served in for 32 years! Membership gave Bettie a hardy applause of thank you for her dedication and a job well done.

Vice President Milt Gere mentioned that a “show title” (show theme) was discussed at the potluck; “Something Special from the Earth” as a possibility. Pass on any ideas to Milt.

Recording Secretary: Last month’s (Feb. 21) minutes published in the March newsletter.

Treasurer: Alan Hukill reported on the transaction activity and balance of funds in club account.

Director Gail Hopkins announced that she would like have an idea of potential donations for the show raffle, so that the items can be printed on the tickets.

Liaison Officer: Bettie Patterson had a couple of comments on articles in the American Federation newsletter; Ishpeming swap would be in a different location this year; and, be careful when purchasing specimens on the internet. Bettie read a delightful poem titled “Minerals-R-Us”.

Field Trip: George Heaton reminded folks that the field trip is Saturday, March 23. Meet at 10am at the Duff Quarry.

Education: Margaret Green announced that the Mineral of the Month was Beryl and there was a display set up for folks to look at; also Bettie Patterson had a variety of Beryl specimens for folks to look at.

Display: Grit Turner provided show updates (flyers on front table). Door prizes were won by 1) Milt Gere; 2) Marshall Gordon; 3) Margaret Green and 4) Sue Casler.

CML&MS Show Update: Four individuals will serve as co-chairs for Show. Board voted not to have dealers at the Friday morning children’s tour.

Committee Report: Banquet Chairperson, Connie Snepp requested some assistance for the refreshment table and table decorations. Purchase tickets for the banquet from Wayne; tickets are \$7.50/Adult and \$3.50/Children. The all important voting on the menu took place and the results were as follows: Chicken, Green Beans and Tossed Salad.

New Business: Mary Gowans mentioned that there is an article in the Smithsonian Magazine on the huge selenite crystals found in a cave in Mexico. It was also noted that there is an article on that find in the Rock and Gem magazine.

PROGRAM for tonight is the SILENT AUCTION

Kara Miller moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Neil Snepp; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Casler, Recording Secretary

**AFMS Scholarship Foundation Announcement AFMS News 4/02**

March 1, 2002

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation, has discovered an apparent significant shortage in the Foundations funds.

In order to establish irrefutable evidence of the financial status of the fund, an outside CPA will be engaged to review the past records of the organization and confirm the findings of an internal audit conducted by the audit committee.

This action is considered necessary to bring current the foundations records to the date of November 1, 2001, the beginning of the current fiscal year. This will establish a bench mark of responsibility for the new incoming officers, and if the shortage is confirmed, to fix responsibility of the apparent shortage. This confirmation of the current status would also provide additional options for future action by the Board of Directors including any necessary By-law revisions which are currently under consideration by a committee.

This committee of current and past AFMS Officers and Foundation Officers and Directors met in Tucson, Arizona in February to examine the internal audit and to provide guidance to the Foundation's current Officers and Directors as they proceed, The Officers and Directors of the

AFMS Scholarship Foundation wish to assure the Regional Federations and their members that a complete report on the findings will be presented as soon possible.

**AFMS Scholarship Foundation, cont.**

In the meantime be assured that remedial actions are being taken to keep the Foundation and its goals and aspirations ongoing and viable and to protect the Foundations' assets.

Members having any questions or concerns should contact one of the Officers of the Foundation

*AFMS Scholarship Foundation*

*Jon Spunaugle, President  
Steve Weinberger, Vice President & AFMS President  
Arlene Burkhalter, Treasurer  
Ruth Bailey, Secretary*

**It's A BIG Stone !***from Jon Spunaugle, AFMS Scholarship Foundation\_AFMS News 4/02*

Weighing almost 6,000 carats, the "Dare Devil" really is a big faceted stone. When you hold it in the light and turn it ever so slightly, it flashes a brilliant variety of colors - salmon, lilac, yellow, red...

Cut by the Dare Devil Faceters, members of the Intermountain Faceters Guild, the stone has been donated to the Scholarship Foundation and we are offering you a chance to own it. It's a salmon colored cubic zirconia and it really is an impressive item. It's been valued at several thousand dollars.

By purchasing a ticket, or several tickets, you might just be the lucky person to take the Dare Devil home with you. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. They may be obtained at one of the upcoming Regional Federation shows (Rocky Mountain, Eastern, California or Northwest/AFMS) or by sending your check, payable to "AFMS Scholarship Foundation" to:

Jon Spunaugle  
1000 SE 144th Ct  
Vancouver, WA 98868-70333.

Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your ticket order along with your name, address and phone number, so that the receipts may be returned to you. The drawing to determine the lucky winner will be held at the NFMS/AFMS Convention in Port Townsend this July. You need not be present to win.

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation needs our support now more than ever and this is one way in which you can show that support...and perhaps own a fantastic faceted gem.

### **International Relations from Jack Nelson, Chairman AFMS News 4/02**

Trading with other rock, mineral, gem and fossil collectors and micro-mounters in other parts of the world can be a most wonderful experience. It can let you meet and learn about new friends and their interests and can improve your collections. It can also give you the satisfaction of sharing some of your good specimens with others. Through a friend, I learned of a micromineral collector in Australia in 1999, who has turned out to be a good friend and frequent exchanger of terrific micromineral specimens. For example, he sent me a specimen of ulrichite, a beautiful, tiny acicular green mineral (Calcium copper uranium hydrate phosphate) that was found in only one known locality in the world, (Lake Boga Granite Quarry in Victoria, Australia) that is now depleted of that mineral. That was very exciting. We have been exchanging news, information and specimens since early 1999. I tell you this only to let you know that, now with E-mail so

much a part of our lives, the whole international community has, in effect, become neighbors. I can now happily count a dozen friends in other countries with whom I have exchanged specimens and with whom I also frequently "talk".

I met all of my foreign (and many of my U. S. friends through membership in a number of "mineral", "micromounting" and "fossil" type Internet lists or discussion groups whose nearly 2,000 members include many from many foreign countries. There are many such groups to choose from). What a wonderful way to promote good relationships despite some of the difficult political barriers that exist in the world.

Below are some very good and useful web sites you can explore and next month I will give you a partial list of some of the good Internet lists or discussion groups I mentioned above.

### **International Relations, cont.**

Canadian Directory of Rock & Mineral Associations <http://pangea.usask.ca/~dfs846/rmac/>,

Mont St Hilaire Web Page <http://www.ssc.on.ca/mandm/mshhome.html>

New Zealand Mineral Group <http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~pincha/minerals.htm>,

Canadian Rockhound Internet Magazine <http://www.canadianrockhound.com/>,

Mineralogy Club of Antwerp, Belgium (A great resource!) <http://www.minerant.org/>,

AltaVista Translations (Will translate many web sites in foreign languages)  
<http://babelfish.altavista.com/translate.dyn>.

Talk to you next month!

[Ed. Note: You can reach Jack at <nelsonja@erols.com>]

### **Crackle or Click?** *from Mel Albright, AFMS Safety AFMS News 4/02*

All rockhounds work with tools that are powered by electricity. And I'm sure we all trust their safety.

But - things do wear out. There are manufacturing errors. Shorts do occur. Things can go wrong. In today's world of triple case tools, we all assume that the tool is safe even if something goes wrong inside. Too bad it's not always true.

Electric tools can shock you. The shock may be small if you are not grounded or if you do not complete a circuit.

If the floor is wet, you may be grounded. If there's a water or gas pipe around, you may be grounded. If you're wet, you may be grounded. If you have the wrong shoes on, you may be grounded. If you're in the swimming pool and touch an electric appliance - you're it. All this is to say that you cannot bet your life that you are NOT grounded.

To complete a circuit means you are connected between the two power lines of your electricity supply or between the power ground and a charged line. With old tools, you may remember a tingle or worse when you held or touched a tool or electric appliance. When two wires in an electrical lead touch, there is a new circuit formed and sparks fly.

If you ignore all this and go merrily on your way, you may never have a problem. Or, tomorrow you may get a charge of electricity that knocks you down or even kills you.

There's a great way to be sure no one is ever hurt by an electrical shock. It is a device called a ground fault interrupter. This device is built to detect when there is a sudden increase in the power going through a circuit and will break the circuit when one occurs. This means when you short something out, you'll hear a click rather than hear a sizzle or a crackle or be hurt by an electrical short.

There are two types of GFI available. One type replaces the switch in your circuit box and protects everything on that circuit. These are best, but must be installed by an electrician. Definitely not do-it-yourself. The other is a small unit that replaces the wall socket unit you use to plug something into the wall. If you know how to change these, it can be a do-it-yourself project to install one. You may have seen one of these if you have stayed in a fairly modern motel. Every motel/hotel bathroom plug now has a GFI. You'll see the usual sockets and a small re-set button.

Get GFI installed wherever electrical tools are used or even for the whole house. IT CAN BE LIFE SAVING - YOURS!

WARNING - these don't work right on the old fashioned two wire, ungrounded electric circuits in old houses. That makes a re-wiring job on an old house an excellent idea since old wires short in the walls.

## **CLUB CALENDAR**

April 18 Regular meeting, North School, 7:30.

April 27 Field Trip: Bluffton Quarry, Bluffton Ohio

May 2 Board Meeting, Meridian Twp. Service Center, 7:30

May 16 Club Banquet

## **Spring/Summer Show Dates**

April 12-14 Mt. Clemens Show. Mt. Clemens Community Center, 300 N. Grosbeck Hwy, Mt. Clemens

April 20-21 Blossomland Club Show. Sat. & Sun. 10-5. Berrien County Sportsmans Club, 2985 E.

Linco Rd, Berrien Springs (off US 31, north of Berrien Springs.) Info call: Joan Gardner

616-428-6499 during show 616-429-3792..

April 20-21 Cincinnati Show. Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5. Cincinnati Convention Center 525 Elm St. (5<sup>th</sup> & Elm Sts.) Cincinnati OH. \$1 off admission coupon available at club mtgs.

May 3-5 Kalamazoo Show. Fri 4-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5. Kalamazoo Cty. Fairgrounds.

Exit 80 off I 94. Featuring 8,000 lb. copper boulder, 10 ft x 4.5 ft x 1 ft

May 31-June 2 "Dearborn Show." Fri 5-9; Sat. 10-8; Sun. 11-5:30. Allen Park Civic Arena,

15800 White, Allen Park MI

May 31-June 2 "State Line" Club Show, Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon Ohio

June 21-23 Bedford/Bloomington Show & Swap. Fri. 10-7; Sat. 8-7; Sun 8-4. Monroe Cty.

4-H Fairgrounds, Bloomington IN

June 29-30 MGAGS Rockhound Seminar. Roscommon Middle School. For info contact



Katy Brown 734-421-8159

Aug. 4-11 "Keweenaw Week" Copper Country Club. Field trips, speakers, swap, show. For

info: Steve Whelan (906)337-2599, [swhelan@up.net](mailto:swhelan@up.net) or [www.ccrmc.info](http://www.ccrmc.info)

August 16-18 Midwest Faceters Guild Seminar. Mott Community College, Flint MI. Class size

limited, register early. Contact Harold "Arizona" Rice (810) 463-5972 [azrice@wwdb.org](mailto:azrice@wwdb.org)