

CMLMS
15785 Park Lake Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

**TIME VALUE
FIRST CLASS**

Rockhound News—April, 2015

Official publication of the
**Central Michigan Lapidary and
Mineral Society**
Affiliated with MWF and AFMS



Rockhound News

This bulletin is the official publication of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of greater Lansing, Michigan. It is published 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 and celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2007.

Meeting place: Masonic Center, Hamilton Street, Okemos, MI
Regular meeting date: Third Thursday, except July and August

Meeting time: 7:30 p.m., doors are open at 7:00 p.m.

Annual Dues: Adults \$10.00; Families \$15.00; Students under 18 \$2.00

Board meetings: First Thursday, except July and August; 7:00 p.m., Okemos Library

OFFICERS 2014

President	Sue Casler	517-694-1233 caslers@michigan.gov
Vice-President	VACANT	
Recording Secretary	Jan Sjoquist	517-543-1464 sjoquist@sbcglobal.net
Corresponding Secretary	Theresa Hubbard	517-203-9620 thrshubbard@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Elaine Beane	517-272-9661 gebeane@comcast.net
1 Year Director	Lyle Laylin	517-488-7908 lyle18@gmail.com
2 Year Director	Nate Krupp	517-626-1136 nathan.krupp1@gmail.com
3 Year Director	Gaylord Brooks	517-394-7211 rockinme60@gmail.com
Roster Secretary	Ernie Aughenbaugh	989-224-7619 esaslapidary@gmail.com
Liaison Officer	Alan Hukill	517-641-6125 facetman60@yahoo.com
Past President	Elaine Angstman	517-282-9775 eangstman@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2013

Membership	Elaine Angstman	517-282-9775 eangstman@hotmail.com
Field Trip	Dan Sine	517-381-0805 daniel.sine@opm.gov
Publications	Roni Sionakides	517-482-5986 rsionakide@yahoo.com
Display	Jan Sjoquist	517-543-1464 sjoquist@sbcglobal.net
Education	Kara Miller	517-882-1565 karamille@gmail.com
	Jenny Martin	517-394-4133 happysingle2007@gmail.com
Outreach	Mary Gowans	517-351-6135 gowans@msu.edu
Library	Lee Laylin	517-349-3249 l.r.laylin@gmail.com
Finance	Gordon Lewis	517-349-2263 g.m.lewis@mindspring.com
Show	Roger Laylin (<i>pro tem</i>)	517-349-3249 l.r.laylin@gmail.com
Web Master	Lyle Laylin	www.michrocks.org

Permanent Mailing Address

15785 Park Lake Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

www.michrocks.org

Affiliated With

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

<http://www.amfed.org/mwf/>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

<http://www.amfed.org>

ROCKHOUND NEWS

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 16, 2015

PROGRAM: Glacial Geology of the Great Lakes

REFRESHMENTS: Members with Initials A - L Please Bring Goodies

Location and Time: The CMLMS membership meeting will be held on April 16, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., at the **Masonic Center, Hamilton Street, beautiful downtown Okemos, 2175 Hamilton Street.**

Calendar for Winter 2015 and later

April 16, 2015 - 7:30 p.m., membership meeting, Glacial Geology of the Great Lakes

May board meeting - May 4, 2015, Monday, 7 p.m., Okemos Library

May 21, 2015 - Annual Banquet, see Ernie Aughenbaugh for tickets

June board meeting - May 28, 2015, Thursday, 7 p.m., Okemos Library

June 18, 2015 - 7:30 p.m., membership meeting, show work Bee & Roger Laylin on running a show

July/August - summer break

MAY BANQUET

Banquet date is May 21, 2015, 5:30 social hour, 6:30 dinner. Please bring a snack for the social hour. The speaker will be Patty C. Rice, Ph.D. Author: *Amber: the Golden Gem of the Ages*. Members are encouraged to bring guests and a display of amber or fossils. Tickets are now available - \$10 adults, \$5 children. Contact Ernie at esaslapidary@hotmail.com or 989-224-7619, or at the membership meetings.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The Vice-President's position is vacant. Let President, Sue Casler, or a board member know if you have any ideas for speakers, or other programs.

April 16, 2015 - Presentation of Glacial Geology of the Great Lakes by society member Diane Baclawski.

May 21, 2015 - Annual Banquet. Speaker Dr. Patty C. Rice on amber.

June 18, 2015 - Roger Laylin on "How to Put on a Show," show work bee.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME

Heather D. Proctor, Kelvin D. Malloy and Kelvin D. Malloy, Jr.

Message to Members Who Have Not Paid Dues

If you have not paid dues for 2015, as of May 1, you will be removed from the club mailing list and will be unable to go on 2015 society-planned collecting activities/field trips. This will be your last copy of the *Rockhound News*. If you are receiving a paper copy and have a red check on the label this will be your final issue. Also, if you receive your newsletter or any other notifications by electronic means, PLEASE NOTIFY THE BOARD IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE IN YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS.

Library News

Librarian, Lee Laylin, asks that everyone who has checked out books from the library turn them all in by the June Meeting.

Message From Show Chairman, Roger Laylin

ROCK SHOW needs help. Kris Wood our most able Raffle Chairperson for the last several years asks that she be replaced because of health issues. She expects to be available for advise and some help at show time. We need one or two members to **VOLUNTEER** to take over the duties of this Fund raiser. Please speak to me for an explanation of the work.

Roger Laylin, Show Chairman

CLUB NEWS

Outreach Committee: Always in need of volunteers to help with school science fairs, talks and presentations at schools and other organizations, and educational opportunities. Contact committee chair Mary Gowans to lend a hand. gowans@msu.edu or 517-351-6135.

1. Fairview Elementary School Science Night, 6-8 p.m., 5:30 setup. Featuring careers. Please let Mary know if you can help out.

Field Trips! IMI (Irving Materials Inc. - Indiana Quarries) has made one day available for collecting at their popular collecting sites which include Sellersburg, Pipe Creek Junior, Pendleton, and Cordon.

1. **Sellersburg** Saturday, April 11th, from 10 am to 2 pm, 1019 East Utica Street, Sellersburg, IN 47172. Sellersburg is near Kentucky which is 306 miles from Lansing (and in a different time zone), mostly freeway so about six hours drive give or take. It is a fossil quarry with Silurian age fossils in the Waldron Shale. That would be an early wakeup (5 am) due to the hour time change - to be there at 10 am leaving around 2 pm getting back to the Lansing area around 9 pm without stopping only for gas.

2. **Pipe Creek Junior** Saturday, June 20th, from 10 am to 2 pm, 6377 West 600 S, Swayzee, IN 46986. Fossils and Calcite.

3. **Pendleton** Saturday, August 8th, from 10 am to 2 pm, 5002 S. State Road 67, Anderson, IN. Calcite crystals, white and amber, some sphalerite.

4. **Corydon** Saturday, September 12th, 10 am to 2 pm, 1100 Quarry Road NW, Corydon, IN 47112 (north of Louisville, KY). Pink dolomite crystals in small vugs with occasional fluorite.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED: Hardhat, work type shoes, safety glasses

AGE: Must be at least 16 years of age

BRIEFING: Site-specific presentation will be administered prior to collecting
SIGN WAIVER: Each person will be required to sign a liability waiver
Please inform me if you are planning to attend. Thanks!
5. **Paulding, Ohio**, June 13, 8 am - 1 pm, 11435 Road 176. Fossils.

See Dan Sine to sign up and for more information. Cell phone 517-316-5713 or daniel.sine@opm.gov. Dan would like to set up an email list of all who plan to go on the field trips. Please contact him if interested in getting emails as field trips are set up.

Minimum age for a quarry is 12. No children under 12 will be allowed at the quarries (their rule). Trips to other collecting sites may have no minimum, or maximum, age requirement. Safety rules in the **Field Trip Guide** are posted at the society website. They should be reviewed, printed out and **taken to every field trip**. Also, insurance coverage for the field trips by the Federation is very limited. It provides only for damage that members might do on-site. There is no personal injury coverage; no coverage underground. Coverage is only for members, so our policy is that field trips are only for members. Members should review this insurance information on our website. Let Dan know of any other locations and contact information that you may know about and would like to visit. Dan does a fabulous job getting these field trips lined up for club members so please take a moment to thank him personally for all his work.

BUS TRIP TO CRANBROOK MUSEUM

Bloomfield Hills, MI, Saturday, September 26, 2015, 10am to 5pm, departing from Frandor.
Transportation: Dean Trailways, mini-coach (29-passenger limit).

Join fellow members of CMLMS on a fall road trip to see the magnificent mineral collection at Cranbrook Science Center. We will charter a Dean Trailways mini-coach.

Cost depends upon our final numbers and possible discounts. If we have 25 people, the bus would cost \$28 each PLUS admission of \$10 for an adult or \$8 for a senior or a child. (Payment should be made in August when cost is finalized.)

If you are interested, please sign up at the next meeting or email:
sjoquistj@sbcglobal.net
Space is limited to 29 members; we have 20 people signed up now.
Children over the age of 10 are welcome with an adult.

Cranbrook founder George Booth started his mineral collection in 1926 with only a few hundred specimens. Since then, it has grown to more than 11,000 specimens, including 300 minerals from Michigan, such as gypsum, copper and halite. Right now, approximately 1800 specimens are on display in the Mineral Study Gallery.

**PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO—Check www.amfed.org/mwf
or our website www.michrocks.org**

**FoundMichigan, an online magazine on culture in Michigan—www.foundmichigan.org
Check out our website for items for sale. There are links to eBay and Craig's List.**

UPCOMING SHOWS

April 25-26 - Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, annual show, contact 330-753-7081 or gemboree@lookout.com for details.

May 1-3 - Kalamazoo, Michigan, annual show, contact Jerry VanNocker 269-979-3348 or www.kalamazoorockclub.org for details

May 2-3 - Sharonville, Ohio, near Cincinnati, annual show, contact Terry Huizing 513-574-7142 or www.geofair.com for details

May 16-17 - North Olmsted, Ohio, annual show, contact Martha Lamparyk 440-926-3680 or www.parmalapidary.com for details

May 22-24, MWF 75th Annual Convention, DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois

May 29-31 - Wauseon, Ohio, annual show, contact Doris Braezicki 517-263-1660 or www.statelinegms.com

CMLMS MINUTES

CMLMS, Membership Meeting, March 19, 2015

Call to Order: President Sue Casler called the meeting to order at 7:45pm at the Okemos Masonic Center.

Guests/Visitors: Alexis Voutsaras visited for the first time and is applying for membership.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The February Membership Minutes and the March Board Meeting Minutes were printed in the March Newsletter. There were no corrections. Mary Gowans made a **motion to accept the minutes**. Theresa Hubbard supported the motion and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Elaine Beane prepared a transitional treasurer's report which included January through March 14, 2015.

Announcements: 1. Sue Casler stated that the May banquet tickets are available and the banquet speaker will be Patty Rice who will be speaking on amber. Our April meeting will be a presentation about Michigan's Glacial Geology by Diane Baclawski. CMLMS received an invitation to the Tulip City Banquet for two members on Wednesday, April 29. See Sue if you are interested in attending. A delegate is still needed for the MWF Show/Meeting in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend.

2. Mary Gowans requested volunteers for the Fairview Elementary Science Night on Wednesday, April 15. The emphasis is on careers. Let Mary know if you can participate. The Laingsburg Middle School has a Science Night on the same evening as our April 16 membership meeting, so CMLMS will not be available.

3. Jan Sjoquist presented the sign up sheet for anyone interested in going to Cranbrook Museum by bus in the fall. The date has not been set as yet to assure that we have enough participants. The target is for September or October with a 10 am departure and a return by 5 pm. Jan shared a newspaper article about a designated historical site in Eaton County where 120 Native American artifacts have been found, some dating 5,000 years old. Jan also told about her trip to the Tucson show where she met Elaine and Jeff Angstman in February.

4. Wendy Rosier shared information and photographs of the Bruce Dice Mineralogical Museum at Calvin College in Grand Rapids. The minerals were impressive and the museum is worth a visit. The hours are limited, but special tours can be arranged.

5. Dan Sine, field trips: April 24, 10 am-4 pm, Grand Rapids Gypsum Mine.

June 13 (Saturday), 8 am-1 pm, Paulding, Ohio Quarry. Must sign in at 8 am. It could take

about 2.5 hours to drive to Paulding. We are on the waiting list for two other quarry trips.

Door prizes: Six prizes submitted by Dan.

Adjournment: Milt Gere made a **motion to adjourn the meeting.** The motion received a second by Sherry Sparks; the meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Program: Silent Auction.

Respectfully Submitted, Janet Sjoquist, Recording Secretary

CMLMS, April Board Meeting, March 31, 2015

Board Members Present: Ernie Aughenbaugh, Elaine Beane, Sue Casler, Mary Gowans, Theresa Hubbard, Alan Hukill, Nate Krupp, Lee and Roger Laylin, Lyle Laylin, Gordon Lewis, Jan Sjoquist, Roni Sionakides.

Board Members Absent: Elaine Angstman, Gaylord Brooks, Jennifer Martin, Kara Miller and Dan Sine.

Members Present: Bob Mosher and Dave Masarik.

President: Sue Casler called the meeting to order at 7:20pm at the Okemos Library.

1. The first item on the agenda was to act upon the membership applications that were previously tabled due to the lack of a quorum. Mary Gowans **made a motion to accept into membership Heather D Proctor, Kelvin D Malloy Sr. and Kelvin D Malloy Jr.** Alan Hukill supported the motion; a vote was taken and passed. Welcome to CMLMS!

2. Sue spoke about our 2014 scholarship winner, Tyler Ruchala who is doing an internship at the DEQ and will be going to further his education at Texas A&M.

3. Plans for future membership meetings: April, Glacial Geology by Diane Baclawski; May Banquet with Patty Rice about Amber; June work party and show details.

Treasurer's Report: Elaine Beane presented the January 1 through March 31, 2015 report. There are still bank issues pending as Elaine is working to correct contact information on documents. This requires multiple parties to sign in order to correct information.

Recording Secretary: The March Membership Minutes have been submitted and these Board Minutes should also be ready for printing in the April Newsletter.

Corresponding Secretary: Theresa Hubbard received information about the passing of Phyllis White. There is no membership record for Phyllis White.

Directors: Gaylord Brooks (3 yr.), absent, no report. Lyle Laylin (2 yr.), no report. Nate Krupp (1 yr.), no report.

Roster Secretary: Ernie Aughenbaugh: New membership applications were acted upon. Thirty-three (33) members have not paid their dues; discussion about dues notices and how long to carry non-paying members. A notice will be included in emails informing members about delinquency and the need to pay their dues by the end of April in order to receive the Newsletter.

Liasion Officer: Alan Hukill has not received a response to attend the Midwest Federation Show/Meeting in the Chicago area in May. He offered a reminder that expenses would be covered - mileage, hotel, and meals. The deadline to sign up is in April.

Past President: Elaine Beane, no report.

Membership: Elaine Angstman, absent, no report.

Field Trips: 1. Ernie Aughenbaugh for Dan Sine: IMI Indiana Quarries have opened these sites for club collecting:

Sellersburg: Saturday, April 11, 10am-2pm.

Pipe Creek, Junior: Saturday, June 20, 10am-2pm.

Pendleton: Saturday, August 8, 10am-2pm.

Corydon: Saturday, September 12, 10am-2pm.

Members must be at least 16 years old. There will be a site-specific presentation prior to collecting. Each member must sign a liability waiver and wear appropriate safety attire. Contact Dan Sine to sign up for these trips.

2. Cranbrook Museum, Mineral collection: Jan Sjoquist. Over 20 members have indicated their interest in a bus trip to Cranbrook. Reservations are being made for Saturday, September 26, 2015. We will travel on Dean Transportation's mini-coach that holds 29 passengers; leaving from Frandor at 10 am and returning at 5 pm. A discussion was held about CMLMS defraying some costs. Alan Hukill spoke about the restrictions of expenditures as a non-profit. Further study is needed and members will be presented with the cost of the trip. A group discount is offered by Cranbrook for a group of 20. Contact Jan Sjoquist to sign up.

Publications: Roni Sionakides gave notice that there could be an interruption in the newsletter because of the grave medical condition of a family member. She will prepare as much as possible; Lyle and Sue will step in if needed to finish the newsletter process.

Education: Kara Miller and Jennifer Martin: absent, no report.

Community Outreach: Mary Gowans: Fairview Elementary: April 15, 2015 with set-up at 5:30 and program from 6pm-8pm. Emphasis is on careers.

Mary expressed the concern about volunteers being burned out from doing all of the outreach. She was encouraged to respond to school requests by Lyle and Theresa because of their interest and commitment to education.

Library: Lee Laylin, no report.

Display: Jan Sjoquist will set up the Memorial Display at the Kalamazoo Show on April 30. Show runs the weekend of May 1, 2015, with the theme of Agates.

Finance: Gordon Lewis: will no longer be able to work on the MSU Scholarship committee. Gordon will work with Lyle Laylin and Jan Sjoquist to guide them through the procedure. Jan will contact Danita Brandt at MSU.

Web Master: Lyle Laylin, no report.

Show: Roger Laylin: has received a check from a dealer, flyers are ready. A volunteer is needed to oversee the raffle.

Old Business: Ernie has received a request to add a dealer at the show. We have twelve dealers now. Discussion ensued, but decision will be tabled.

New Business:

1. Theresa Hubbard suggested that membership trends be tracked.

2. Roni Sionakides states that we may want to consider consolidation of some of our committees. Ernie Augenbaugh detailed the rationale in the separation of the Roster/Membership position. Further decisions are tabled.

3. A different site may be needed for the Board Meetings. Because of the room demands at the Okemos Library, our Board meetings are unable to be scheduled on a regular basis, leading to confusion. May 4 is the next Board meeting; then the June Board meeting will be held on May 28.

Adjournment: Mary Gowans made a **motion to adjourn the meeting**. The motion received a second by Roni Sionakides. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Jan Sjoquist, Recording Secretary

Amber and its Impostors

by Patty C. Rice, Ph.D.

Amber is polymerized ancient tree resin (not sap) formed by dehydration, release of volatiles, buried under ground in relation with salty sea water over millions of years.

Amber's fossilization process:

During the amber fossilization process the resin retains the same organic substances as the original resin from the source tree. It is a polymerization process that began when the resin was exposed to air, microscopic organisms, and bacteria. During this time volatiles slowly escape from the sticky resin. This produces dehydration and shrinking as the resin forms long chains of molecules. As the metamorphosis continues, it changes from a tacky resin to a solid form. In order for this to occur, resin must endure extreme conditions such as pressure by the glacial covering and sever climatic changes over the ages. These changes result in submersion of resin under salt water and oxidation over millions of years. Baltic amber is considered to be from 40 to 50 million years old. This continuing gradual change is why the Polish scientists refer to amber as "a living stone" because the process continues to change its color from light amber to a darker color depending on the conditions even after it is polished.

Modern day scientists have an interest in finding the source of the original tree compared to modern trees. Using the mass spectrometer, they compare the spectra of the resin to resin of modern pine and other trees that produce insoluble resins. Most believe that Baltic amber (succinate) is related to *Agathis** trees similar to the Kauri trees that grow in New Zealand and Australia. Baltic amber contains a characteristic to 3 to 7% succinic acid. This characteristic is used to identify true Baltic Amber (succinate). Dominican amber has less than 3% succinic acid and is considered retinite amber that comes from the algarrobo, a *Hymenaea Courboril* tree, common in tropical regions of South America.**

The Polish Baltic Amber Industry has established rules for determining genuine amber from imitations of amber. The Poland IAA Committee classifies Baltic Amber (Succinite) by defining imitations in the following way:

1. Raw material, semi-finished products, or products made of surrogate cheaper material, which may be similar in appearance to amber, but different chemically and physically. A natural or modified sub-fossil resin; such as Colombian copal and New Zealand Kauri copal are recent resins usually less than a million years old. Some companies use machines to process these resins to make jewelry that appears very much like amber and they call the material "Divinity Amber" or even just "Amber."

2. Artificial materials such as glass, celluloid, polyesters, phenol resins, and others. These materials can often be detected by testing the hardness for glass, or using a hot point to test the melting and the odor of the heated "plastic" type impostors.

3. Baltic amber (succinate) pressed with addition of plastics or copal. Here again, one can use a hot point and/or microscopic examination. Pressed amber has a roiled appearance and you may see mold lines.

4. Small Baltic amber (succinate) grains imbedded in natural or artificial reins. This process is similar to the way chips of turquoise are imbedded in plastic. It is easy to detect with the human eye, because you can see the small pieces of real amber and matrix material around the small pieces. Sometimes the matrix is the same yellow color of the amber. However, for a new effect, matrix material may be white with yellow amber pieces showing. The last mentioned type is often called "white amber" and is used in pins and rings.

The largest factories for making pressed amber are located in the Kaliningrad region of Russia. They have perfected the process by grinding amber into a fine powder and extracting any impurities. Then, under heat and pressure, with the air excluded, the powder is softened and squeezed through a sieve type of plate. Then it is formed into large blocks or tube shaped pieces. These can easily be used for carving. Much of the carvings and framework pieces in the restored amber room are carved from this pressed material. In Russia, the pressed amber pieces made with blackened edges, which can be polished to show the clear yellow interior, are very popular and quite beautiful.

Both genuine amber and pressed amber will float in a saturated solution of salt water. That is why you can find it on the Baltic Sea coasts as it floats in the agitated seawater. This can be used as a test for amber beads. However, some plastics will sink (thermosetting plastics,) but there are also light plastics that float on plain water with no salt added.

The hot point test depends on smelling a piney resinous fume when true amber is melting. Some plastics will melt quickly and stick to the hot point. They usually have an acrid odor or even a sweet smelling odor.

**Agathis australis* is the largest tree in the Araucariaceae and the third largest conifer, after Sequoiadendron and Sequoia (Robert Van Pelt) Araucariaceae (e.g., Norfolk Pine, Monkey Puzzle, Kauri Pine).

***Some report a different source: Strangely, the amber tree's closest living cousin is not the algarrobo tree, Hymenaea courbaril, common on Hispaniola and throughout South and Central America, but rather Hymenaea verrucosa, found only in East Africa. (Source: Lucid Gems of Ancient Life by Werner, Louis / Americas (English Edition).*

SHARING

From Roger Laylin

NOTE: A former Club Vice President, Richard Lassen, was instrumental in the discovery of the site of this mine.

A BIT OF NEWS: COMPANY SECURES FINANCING FOR U. P. MINE

A Company that plans to develop a gold and zinc mine in Michigan's Upper Peninsula says it has secured financing to continue the process of obtaining permits. Aquila Resources Inc. say it has reached an agreement with Orion Mine Finance to provide \$20.75 million for the next stage of developing the Black Forty project in Menominee County. Radio Station WYKX-WDBC reports that the company has already spent more than \$60 million exploring a mineral rich volcanic belt in the southern U. P. Aquila took 100% ownership of the project last year. Communications director Robin Quigley says the company expects to begin constructing the mine by the end of 2016. The company expect to produce more than 15 million tons of ores that could include gold, silver, zinc, copper and lead.

Taken from the *Detroit Free Press* February 5, 2015, via *The Rockpile*, April 2015