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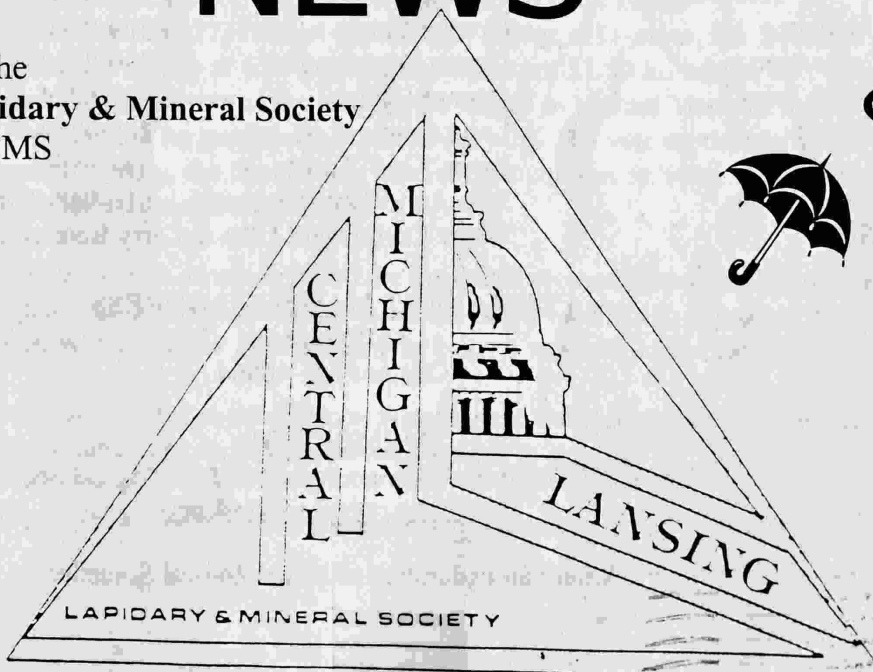


Neil & Connie Snapp
1325 Orlando Dr
Haslett MI 48840

ROCKHOUND NEWS

April 1999

Official publication of the
Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society
Member of MWF & AFMS



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 and August

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

Annual dues: Adults \$5.00, Students under age 18 \$1.00

OFFICERS 1999

President	Larry Bourland	543-6669
Vice President	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Recording Secretary	Mary Gowans	351-6136
Corresponding Secretary	VACANCY	
Roster Secretary	Wayne Zittel	485-2002
Treasurer	Alan Hukill	641-6125
1 Year Director	Ed Drown	347-5097
2 Year Director	Alice Turner	694-9596
3 Year Director	Gail Hopkins	886-6047
Liaison Officer	Bettie Patterson	347-8821

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
Membership	Rich & Lila Stevens	616-693-2733
Hospitality	Phyllis White	349-9159
Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
Education	Duane Jorgensen	339-2812
Field Trips	George Heaton	339-8914
Library	Lee Laylin	349-3249
Display	Irwin "Grit" Turner	694-9596
Publications	Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski	616-948-9589
Show	Roger Laylin, Milt Gere & Larry Bourland	

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4519 Seneca

Okemos MI 48864

MEMBER OF:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

<http://www.comean.com/rock/mwf>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

J-R please bring refreshments.
Program: Trilobites with Dr. Danita Brandt
& Mini Silent Auction

ATTENTION FACETORS & FACETOR WANNA BE'S: come join your fellow facetors
April 5, 6:30 p.m. at Guerazzi's Restaurant. Call Alan Hukill, 641-6125, if you want more information.

BOARD MEETING BRIEFS

- Wayne Zittel announced that this year's life members will be Bill Gardener & Agnes Baughan.
- Gordon Lewis reports that the clubs books have been audited & are in order as of Nov. 30, 1998.
- Bettie Patterson read a card from charter member Ethel Gasche, expressing her enjoyment of the monthly Rockhound News.
- HELP! Roger Laylin needs someone who is willing to **COORDINATE** the **SCHOOL TOURS** at our annual show.
- HELP! We need a new corresponding secretary! See Larry Bourland if interested.

PROGRAM REPORT-- Mary Kay Bean

I am pleased to announce that with the valuable assistance of Connie Snepp, we have secured Dr. Danita Brandt as our speaker for the general meeting on the 15th of April. Dr. Brandt is a paleontologist teaching and doing research work at Michigan State University, her specialty being trilobites. She will conduct a slide presentation as well as question and answer period at that time so please pass the word on to your fellow "fossil-lovers" so that we may welcome her as she so well deserves on this, her second program with the CML&MS.

Don't forget our mini silent auction following the regular meeting and bring a maximum of 10 specimens you're willing to finally part with.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE CLUB BANQUET-- Ed Drown

The Banquet will be held on May 27, 1999 at the Masonic Lodge in Okemos, the Social Hour starts at 5:30 p.m., dinner promptly at 6:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$7.50 for adults, \$3.50 for children 12 and under. See Ed Drown at the meeting for tickets or contact Marie Lewis (349-2263) by phone. The deadline for purchasing tickets is May 24. The vote on the menu will be held at the April general meeting, the choices are: entree: fried chicken or Swiss steak; salad: tossed or coleslaw; vegetable: green beans or corn.

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

A few more volunteers are needed to setup decorations prior to the banquet and to serve as refreshment-table hosts during the social hour. Please see me to sign-up.

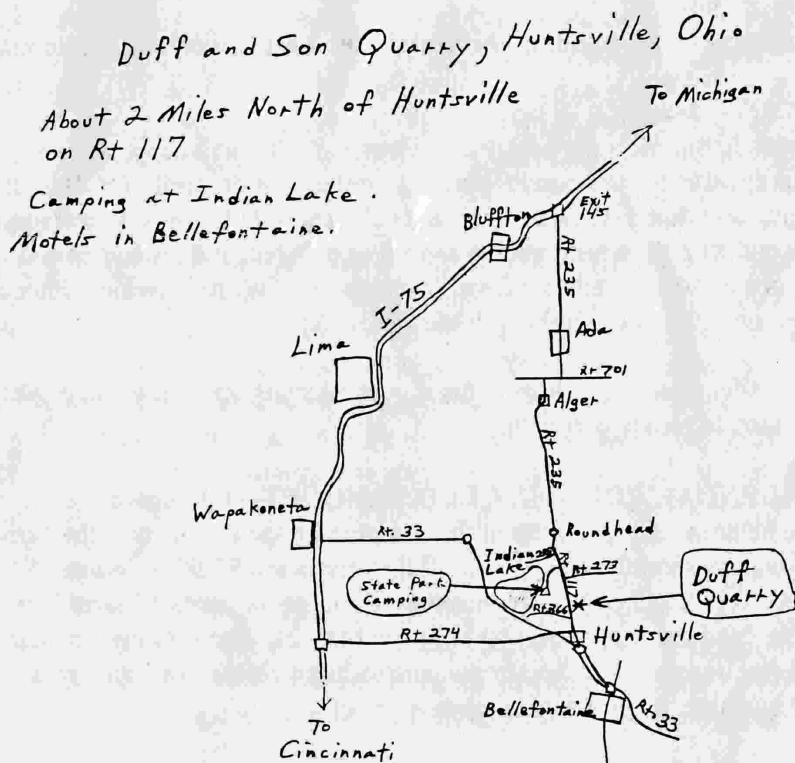
Larry Bourland will give details about the speaker at the April meeting.

FIELD TRIP TO HUNTSVILLE, OHIO APRIL 17-- George Heaton

The field trip for April will be to the Duff Quarry at Huntsville Ohio on Saturday, April 17. We will meet at the quarry office at 10:00 am 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, and a pry bar and sledge hammer of 8-10 lb. size are often useful. The sledge hammer and a long pry bar can also be used as a cane to help you back to your car should you happen to injure your foot or ankle. 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 it's 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. 117 to Duff Quarry on your left, just before coming into Huntsville. Allow about 4 hours driving time from Lansing to Huntsville Ohio.



Minerals to be found: Pyrite, dolomite, calcite, Sphalerite, Fluorite.

Equipment Needed: Hard hat, hard toed boots, safety glasses or goggles, 2-3 Lb crack hammer, Chisels of various sizes large to small, sledge hammer 8-10 Lb, pairs to carry tools or specimens, boxes and wrapping paper.

Other points of interest worth seeing in this area include Zane Caverns, Ohio Caverns, Mac-O-Chee Castle, Mac-A-Chee Chateau.

MINERAL OF THE MONTH ARAGONITE -- Duane Jorgensen

Who has been to Aragon, presumably the namesake area in Spain from whence aragonite gets its name? But, more importantly, if you have been there, did you see any, or collect any aragonite? Most folks don't think of aragonite as being very common, but in fact its about as common as pig's tracks in an oak forest at acorn dropping time. Aragonite being the low temperature-at-crystallization or precipitation form of calcium carbonate, makes it fairly common, but in forms most folks may not be aware of. Got hard water? Its in your pipes. Been to Florida? You've probably been stomping all over the stuff as it's a major component of the carbonate beach sand, and in fact without aragonite, the Bahamas and Bermuda and a number of other tropical islands wouldn't be tropical islands, but shallow spots in the oceans instead. Gather any shells? Yep, its in there too. Same goes for corals. Been spelunking lately? Yes, its there too, in the form of floss ferri, stalactites and ...mites, and a variety of other ...ites, dripstones etc.. Aragonite commonly form prismatic crystals and belongs to the Orthorhombic system, but when the crystals are twinned they appear to be hexagonal because the "prism" angle is 63 degrees 48 minutes, not much different from the Hexagonal system's 60 degrees. Yes, I'm still spelling degrees because I haven't figured out how to make the superscript degree symbol. Some of the finest aragonite crystals found "locally" were found in vugs in the weathered limestone outcrops along Highway 37 north of Bloomington, Ind. a few years ago, and were featured on the cover of an edition of "Rocks and Minerals" magazine sometime in the late 1960's. Most ardent mineral collectors have one or more of the splendid twinned crystal groups of aragonite from Morocco, and if you don't, you could have gotten a bunch dirt cheap at the recent "swap" at the Democratic Club, as one of the participant peddlers had boxes of them at \$.50 each or so. Guess it was O.K. if poor Republicans came too.

Funny thing about aragonite, it must not particularly care to be aragonite because even at low temperatures of 100 degrees or less it will convert to calcite, which says that it is metastable under ambient conditions. So, the real question for you mineral finders becomes "What have I found, will the true calcium carbonate form please identify itself?" Determining what you've found isn't really all that difficult. First try the famous scratch test to eliminate quartz etc.. Next, use a drop of vinegar. No fizz-no calcium carbonate. Yes there are other carbonates that may fizz in vinegar, but they're not common. If it fizzes, take the best crystal(just kidding) and crush or break it to see what the cleavages are. If you see the standard form carbonate rhombs, its calcite. If you have no rhombs, its aragonite.

Now the big question, what is aragonite good for or used for. If you live on a tropical island, you probably wouldn't be there without it, refer to above. Other than that it makes good cement raw material at times, aggregate if there is nothing better to use, and some is used for high brightness carbonate filler. In general aragonite is used for the same uses as calcite since they are chemically the same.

BIG MINERAL SALE: MAY 1 & 2, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
2450 W. Erie Rd., Temperance MI 734-847-6537
Exit 1 off US 23. Go east on Sterns, north on Douglas, east on Erie.
Material from New Mexico, Cave In Rock & Much More
Cash or Check Only

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY REPORT-- Mary Kay Bean for Arlene Olson
Lee posted a "get well" card to Milo Crosby during the month of March. Having spoken to Mary by phone this week, he continues to be in poor health. We hope, Milo, that you'll be springing back very soon!

Unfortunately, Lee Olson has had to relinquish her position as corresponding Secretary for this year due to a very serious fall which she sustained on the 27th of March. She is scheduled to have surgery on her right ankle on April 2nd and will remain there overnight if all goes well. I have been in contact with her daily and, from the Club, have given her a carved sodalite and carnelian parrot perched on a quartz crystal cluster, from the collection donated by God's Creations. Lee is in very good spirits; an inspiration to us all.

I visited Life Member, Lucy Dewey, this week at the Dimondale Homeward Bound unit and was assured she is making good progress after her surgery. I am told by a very reliable sources that Marie Lewis must follow her physicians advice more closely and remain off her feet a little while longer!

MARCH FIELD TRIP TO CORYDON INDIANA -- George Heaton

Only four people showed up for our field trip to the Corydon Crushed Stone and Asphalt Co. Quarry on Saturday, March 20th. Only one person, George Heaton, was a member of our club. The other participants were his brother, sister, and nephew. As usual on George Heaton's field trips the weather was perfect, being sunny, dry, and with comfortable temperatures. Those who didn't go due to various poor excuses or lack of faith in the weather missed out on a good collecting at both the quarry and the Rt. 56 road cut east of Salem. Both George Heaton and his brother did quite well at Corydon collecting some nice pink dolomite and calcite specimens. All four of us collected a good number of nice geodes at the road cut. Our Children's table will suffer due to the lack of participation by our club members since only George Heaton was there to collect and haul stuff for it.

SHOW CALENDAR

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|---------------|---|
| April 7-10 | Indian Mounds Show. Eastbrook Mall, Corner of 28th St. & East Beltline (M-37), Grand Rapids. 10am-9pm Free |
| April 10-11 | Midwest Federation Show & Convention. Veterans Memorial, 300 W. Broad St., Columbus OH. Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5. |
| April 16-18 | Mt. Clemens Show, Mt. Clemens Community Center 300 N. Grosebeck. Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-6 |
| April 23-25 | Blackhawk Show. Rockford IL. Colonial Village Mall. Fri. 10-9, Sat. 10-5, Sun 11-4. |
| May 1-2 | Cincinnati Show. Cincinnati Gardens, 2250 Seymour Ave, Cincinnati. Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5. |
| Apr. 30-May 2 | Kalamazoo Show. Fairgrounds County Center Bldg., 2900 Lake St. Fri. 4-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5. Admission \$2.00, under 12 free with Adult. |
| May 21-23 | Dearborn Show. NEW LOCATION: Allen Park Civic Arena , Allen Park MI. Fri. 5-9, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 11-5:30 |
| June 25-27 | Lawrence County IN show/swap. Monroe Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, Bloomington Indiana. Fri. 10-7, Sat. 8-7, Sun. 8-4. Camping \$6.00 per night. Free admission. |
| June 19-20 | MGAGS Rockhound Seminar. Southwestern MI College, Niles MI \$15.00 per day, advance \$12.00 per day. See Grit & Alice Turner for more information. |
| Aug. 8-16 | Red Metal Retreat. Houghton MI |

DIAMONDS, ENGAGEMENT AND WEDDING RINGS-- Betty Patterson

Have you ever given much thought about the history of the engagement and wedding rings?

Diamond, the birthstone for April was believed by ancients to restrain fury, cure epilepsy, free one from melancholy and insanity, give one good luck and good fortune. Today, it means love, fidelity and commitment.

The stories in history of intrigue, fidelity and infidelity, and love everlasting, are filled with diamonds in jewelry, adorning robes, crowns, tiaras, pins, necklaces and fingers, but fascinating. The evolvement of the engagement and/or wedding ring is most fascinating.

From very early times a circle was most important - to draw on the ground like a wall to keep evil spirits out and, later, to be made of grass, twigs or fur tied around the wrists, ankles, head, nose, ear or fingers to keep the life spirit in.

The early Celtic rings were woven from grass, sometimes were plaited with thin gold wire, and were given to a bride who wore it always, even into the burial fire. Probably this is how the Britons started the tradition of the love ring. When the man wooed a girl he gave his pledge of protection - "wed" was the name for pledge and, thus, the wedding ring developed.

However, long before this, the Greeks, Romans and Egyptians had been wearing rings, as many as 15 or 16, even on the thumbs. The Egyptians had decided that a "VEIN OF LOVE" ran from the heart to the tip of the third finger of the left hand and no rings should be worn there except the one that pledged his love forever. This belief was, in turn, passed on to the Romans and then to the Greeks.

The Roman rings were metal, from iron to gold, depending on whether poor or rich, and the wedding ring was called a "speaking-for" ring, which the suitor placed on his girl's finger after the approval of her parents and a marriage agreement was agreed upon.

Early Christians adopted some of the marriage customs but added a blessing to the use of wedding rings and wore the ring on the third finger of the left hand.

The first record of a diamond given as a love pledge was the story of Caligula giving his sister a diamond ring. However, until the beginning of the Renaissance there was a lack of diamonds among the people. As Christianity spread over Europe, laws were developed forbidding the wearing of jewelry by anyone other than nobles or clergy. As a result, diamonds bedecked chalices, crosses and priestly robes. From the 15th century on, diamonds began to appear as cut stones and were worn by royalty and given as gifts to favored servants, courtiers and friends. By 1477, Archduke Maximilian of Germany presented Mary of Burgundy a diamond engagement ring and a gold band, the wedding ring.

The custom of a diamond engagement ring lived on, and the diamond became an important part of the jewelry worn by royalty. The larger the diamond, the more costly it became and was collected by many potentates throughout the world.

As the diamond industry flourished, lesser prominent people began to wear diamonds and rings included small diamonds and/or chips encircled a slightly larger diamond to make it look larger. Soon the diamond ring was given, even by the most lowly, as a symbol of a pledge of loyalty and protection from the groom to the bride-to-be.

From Europe the custom was adopted by Americans and today both the man and his love are all a part of the long history of love rings and pledge rings, and the diamond remains the glowing symbol of a commitment of fidelity, hope and love thru eternity.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
MARCH 1, 1999 - MARCH 31, 1999

BALANCE ON HAND(03-01-99)	\$11109.39
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99)	11046.34
COMERCA BANK SAVINGS	421.58
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	\$22577.28
TOTAL	
RECEIPTS	
TRANSFER SAVINGS TO CHECKING	1000.00
DUES	40.00
1999 SHOW (DEALER DEPOSITS)	450.00
SILENT AUCTION (MARCH)	50.00
TOTAL	1540.00
DISBURSEMENTS:	
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	24.35
MISCELLANEOUS	27.00
LIBRARY	118.40
4H (1998 AWARDS)	6.00
RENT	50.00
PUBLICATIONS	132.43
ROSTER SECRETARY	67.20
TRANSFER SAVINGS TO CHECKING	1000.00
1999 SHOW (FLYERS)	496.78
TOTAL	1922.16
BALANCE ON HAND(03-31-99)	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99)	\$11109.39
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS	10046.34
COMERICA BANK CHECKING	1039.42
TOTAL	\$22195.12

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ALAN HUKILL, TREASURER

BIG ROCK SALE
April 17
8 a.m. – 6p.m.
from the estate of
Art & Ruth VanWormer
Onsted, MI

- High Grade Mineral Specimens
- Rough & Slabs
- Cabs & Polished Stones
- Display Cases & Shelves
- Findings & Finished Jewelry
- Jewelry Making Books

For more information call:
Mike Coon @ 517-436-3463