

# ROCKHOUND NEWS

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 17, 2012**

## **ANNUAL BANQUET**

**PROGRAM: "Ancient Diggings: Nineteenth Century Observations on and Actions in the Prehistoric Copper Mining Pits of the Lake Superior Basin" by John R. Halsey**

**Location and Time:** The CMLMS March Meeting will be held on May 17, 2012, at the Masonic Center on Hamilton Street in Okemos.

5:30 P.M. - Gathering and Social Hour; 6:30 P.M. - Dinner; 8:00 P.M. - Program

**Tickets are still available, \$10.00 - contact Ernie Aughenbaugh.**

**ALSO**

**Please bring an appetizer dish for the hospitality table.**

### **Calendar for June 2012 and later**

June 7, 2012 Board Meeting at Okemos Library, 7 pm

June 21, 2012 Show work day, y'all come now!!! Also at Okemos Masonic Center  
SUMMER BREAK, SEE EVERYONE IN SEPTEMBER

September 6, 2012 Board Meeting at Okemos Library, 7 pm

## **HAPPENINGS**

### **New Member**

Please welcome Jill Kozak of Lansing to the Society. She is interested in faceting, lapidary crafts and wirecraft and a variety of needlework crafts.

### **Get Well**

Neil Snapp is recovering from surgery and doing very well. We wish him a speedy recovery.

### **Graduation**

Elliot Wood is graduating from Northwest HS on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations on this important life event and best wishes for a successful and exciting future.

### **Scholarship Recipient**

Jeffrey Hudson of Marysville, Michigan is our scholarship recipient for this year. He is majoring in environmental geoscience. Congratulations to Jeffrey.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Now is a good time to be of service to your society. There is always need for help with various projects and committees. Please think of lending a hand for any of our committees, becoming an officer, and getting to know us better. We are a fun group!!!

**Display committee:** A new committee chair is needed. We also need a person or persons to take the beautiful new cub display cases to shows put on by other mineral, lapidary and gem clubs in Michigan. If you are going to a Michigan show, please consider taking the club's display with you. Call or email Jan Sjoquist to join the committee or President Elaine Beane if you would like to be chairperson.

**Show committee:** Show Chair *Pro Tempore*, Roger Laylin, needs an apprentice to help with the 2012 show committee and who will be willing to take over the show chair position. Call or email Roger Laylin to join the committee or President Elaine Beane if you would like to be chairperson.

**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.

## **ALWAYS WANTED**

Needed for the show and outreach are clean styrofoam egg cartons, about 1,000 and quantities of specimens for the show's children's tables; polished rocks, about 2" diameter, for Ele's Place; Petoskey stones (not Alpena type) for the show and outreach.

## **CLUB NEWS**

**Field Trips!** See Dan Sine to sign up and for more information.

- ▮ May 26, Grand Rapids gypsum mine, 10-4
- ▮ June 2, 9-1, Pipe Creek Junior Quarry, Irving Quarry, Noblesville, IN. 8:30am-1:00pm for fossils/calcite.

Minimum age for above trips, both quarries, is 12. No children under 12 will be allowed at the quarries (their rule). Trips to Charlotte, Grand Ledge, and Schoolcraft will be coming. There is no minimum, or maximum, age requirement for these trips. 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.

**Request #1:** Lyle Laylin is trying to update our club website with older editions of the newsletter. He says our website has over ten years of our newsletter online and we would like to have more! If you have copies of our newsletter from 2002 and before and any old news clippings, please bring them to our meeting so they can be scanned and added to our online offerings.

**Request #2:** Jan Sjoquist, club display chair, wants to let everyone know that the club memorial display cases have been organized for easy set up if anyone would like to take them to a rock and mineral show. She said it takes about 45 minutes to set up. Let Elaine or Jan know if you would be willing to take the display chair position, or help by bringing the cases to other shows. It is a good informal way to get to know members of other clubs.

**Free to Good Home:** The CMLMS display case, located currently at Fenner, needs to find a new home. Fenner wants it out ASAP!! So, it is available, free of charge to the first interested person who can pick it up from Fenner. Glassed-in front, lighted case is 6' x 20" x 40 1/2". Call Roger Laylin if interested.

**PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO—Check [www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf)  
or our website [www.michrocks.org](http://www.michrocks.org)**

**FoundMichigan, an online magazine on culture in Michigan—[www.foundmichigan.org](http://www.foundmichigan.org)**

**Minnesota Mineral Club/Midwest Federation event, “A Celebration of Agates”** July 26-29, 2012 in Minnetonka, Minnesota. If you would like the opportunity to represent the club as a delegate, with expenses paid, contact Elaine.

### **CMLMS MINUTES**

#### **CMLMS, Membership Meeting, April 19, 2012, Minutes**

**Call to Order:** The April membership meeting was called to order by President Elaine Beane at 7:41pm at the North Elementary School, Lansing, Michigan.

**Welcome and Introduction of Guests/Visitors:** Welcome to Ari Bozann (age 10) and Andrea Bozoki. Ari has been collecting rocks for a long time and Andrea plans to take him collecting at Lake Michigan. Thanks to all who gave suggestions about locations, etc.

**Welcome of new members,** Jill Kozak from the Lansing area, and to Jim and Barbara Thornton who came from Corunna to attend the meeting.

#### **Announcements:**

President Elaine Beane:

- ☞ Shared an article from the March/April *Gem and Mineral* magazine about the Huron River Uranium project, written by Travis Olds.
- ☞ Received an email from David Rechar who has inherited agates and gems. He would like to donate them for the use by youth. CMLMS outreach program could use these, but if anyone has other suggestions, contact Elaine.
- ☞ Reminded members/guests to purchase banquet tickets soon and to bring an appetizer to share. Banquet is on Thursday, May 17 at the Masonic Hall in Okemos. It starts at 5:30pm.

Jan Sjoquist:

- ☞ Retired State Archaeologist, John R. Halsey, will be our banquet speaker. Dr. Halsey will speak about prehistoric copper use and mines in the Upper Peninsula. He is the author of several articles on the topic.

Dan Sine-Field Trips:

- ☞ May 5: Paulding, Ohio, for fossils. Collecting 8:00 am-1:30 pm
- ☞ June 2: Pipe Creek Quarry, Indiana. Collecting 9-1. (approx.. 237 miles)

Minimum age for above trips is 12.

Trips to Charlotte, Grand Ledge, and Schoolcraft will be coming. There is no minimum, or maximum, age requirement for these trips. Dan reviewed safety rules about equipment and procedure. Let Dan know of any other locations that you may know and would like to visit. Contact Dan for more information about field trips or to sign up.

Gordon Lewis:

- ☞ CMLMS scholarship goes to MSU environmental geoscience student, Jeffrey Hudson of

Marysville, Michigan. Congratulations, Jeffrey!

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** The corrected minutes of the March board meeting, March membership meeting and of the April board meeting were printed in the April newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report was sent to the April board meeting. Treasurer is recovering from some fractured ribs. Get well, Kris.

**Door Prizes:** Drawings were held. Thank you, Dan Sine, for providing these door prizes.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned by President Elaine Beane at 8:07pm.

**Program:** *Geology of Michigan*, DVD

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Sjoquist, Recording Secretary

### **CMLMS, Board Meeting, May 3, 2012, Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Elaine Beane, Sue Casler, Jan Sjoquist, Theresa Hubbard, Bob Mosher, Milt Gere, Lyle Laylin, , Alan Hukill, Roni Sionakides, Dan Sine, Kara Miller, Jennifer Martin, Gordon Lewis, Roger Laylin, Kris Wood, Elaine Angstman.

**Board Members Absent:** Ernie Aughenbaugh (at Kalamazoo Show), Mary Gowans.

**Guests:** George Heaton

**President:** Elaine Beane called the meeting to order at 7:04pm, and:

Shared newsletter from American Lands Access Association.

Gave report from Ernie Aughenbaugh about banquet ticket sales.

Suggested club appropriate cash for next year's banquet to avoid concern about numbers.

**Vice President:** Sue Casler has planned programs for the membership meetings:

▮ May 17: Banquet

▮ June 21: Show workshop (egg cartons), etc.

The May and June meetings will be held at the Okemos Masonic Lodge.

**Recording Secretary:** Jan Sjoquist said April membership and May board meeting minutes will be in the May newsletter.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Theresa Hubbard will send a get-well card to Neil Snapp.

**Treasurer:** Kris Wood presented the treasurer's report for February, March and April, 2012. A revision was made to the April report as the scholarship award payment of \$2000 was deducted from the savings account balance.

**Directors:** Bob Mosher (1-yr.) had no report; Milt Gere (2-yr) shared experiences about a Kentucky Coal Mine Tour not being open on Mondays; Lyle Laylin(3-yr.) had no report.

**Roster Secretary:** Ernie Aughenbaugh was absent , but sent information and materials to the board for distribution. He has received an application for membership from Jill Kozak, Lansing, Michigan. Jill attended the April membership meeting and we learned of her multiple interests, including lapidary. Dan Sine moved to **“accept Jill Kozak into membership”** and Lyle Laylin supported the motion. The motion was passed and we are pleased to welcome Jill into CMLMS!

**Liaison Officer:** Alan Hukill has received information from the Federation about insurance issues. This full report will be available on our website. Members are encouraged to read this. The report will be reviewed by Milt Gere for summary.

**Past President:** Roni Sionakides had no report (see outreach).

**Membership:** Elaine Angstman presented Jill Kozak for membership approval. See above Roster Secretary report.

**Field Trips:** Dan Sine:

▮ May 5, 2012: LaFarge Quarry, Paulding, Ohio.

▮ May 26, 2012: Alabastine Gypsum Mine, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 10am to 4:00pm.

▮ June 2, 2012: Pipe Creek Junior Quarry, Irving Quarry, Noblesville, IN. 8:30am-1:00pm for

fossils/calcite.

**Outreach:** Mary Gowans, absent. Report by Roni:

- ▭ Two emails were sent to David Rechar to express our interest in obtaining the offered specimens for use with our youth outreach. Mary has had no response.
- ▭ Leslie Schools are interested in attending the show. They are interested in learning about the rock cycle. Could we support that goal?

**Education:** Kara Miller and Jennifer Martin had no report.

**Publications:** Roni Sinonakides had no report.

**Club Display:** Jan Sjoquist said the Memorial Cases are on display at the Kalamazoo Show this weekend. The specimens have been inventoried and re-arranged. Each display case has a bin of specimens, a photograph of the case arrangement, and a numbered key for specimen arrangement. This makes set-up and take down very quick and easy and user-friendly. Let Elaine or Jan know if anyone would be willing to take the display chair position, or help by bringing the cases to other shows. It is a good informal way to get to know members of other clubs.

**Library:** Lee Laylin has the library at home for the summer. Contact her if you need some materials.

**Finance Chair:** Gordon Lewis reported on the scholarship winner, Jeffrey Hudson, environmental geoscience student from Marysville, Michigan, was notified of the scholarship and invited to attend the CMLMS banquet. Regretfully, he is unable to attend.

**Webmaster:** Lyle Laylin had no report.

**Show:** Roger Laylin:

- ▭ Passed samples of purchased specimens and discussed prices.
- ▭ Received 45 pounds of rose quartz purchased for \$ 30 by Jan Sjoquist.
- ▭ Would like to have someone write an article that could be submitted to newspapers to promote the show. The goal is to increase interest and curiosity about the show and to increase attendance. Contact Roger if you would be willing to do this.

**Old Business:**

1. Elaine Beane on the Banquet. Review of task assignments: Final numbers to Masonic Hall - Elaine Beane; ticket table - Ernie Augenbaugh, Doug & Jan Sjoquist; decorations - Marie Lewis and Lee Laylin; appetizers - ALL bring; Elaine Angstman will do punch and set-up; programs - Roni Sionakides; speaker - Elaine Beane will present honorarium; displays - Dan Sine will be absent; please bring displays.
2. CMLMS Display case at Fenner: St. Johns Schools unable to use it at this time, so it is available, free of charge to the first interested person who can pick it up from Fenner. Glassed-in, lighted case is 6' x 20". Milt will approach Woldumar, Mega Mall or Craig's List. It will be offered in our CMLMS Newsletter.

**New Business:**

1. Elaine Angstman has returned from her winter in the west, with lots of materials for the silent auction and games.
2. Milt Gere has briefly reviewed the Federation insurance information obtained by Alan. Coverage is very limited and 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. Again, members should review this insurance information on our website. Milt's over-view is not a legal declaration.
3. Theresa Hubbard expressed interest in the Ad Hoc committee and made the suggestion that we review membership interest and provide programs to align with those interests. Sue Casler will follow up with future programs, if possible.

**Announcements:** Milt Gere has the March/April issue of Gem and Mineral. If anyone would like the article by Travis Olds on the Huron River Project, see Milt.

**Adjournment:** Kara Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Alan Hukill supported that

motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Sjoquist, Recording Secretary

## SHARING

### Rock Church

By Marvin Oesterle

As my wife and I were preparing to go out for the evening, I was preening in front of the mirror. "Hey, Honey, when you were young did you ever dream that a handsome man would sweep into your life and take you away?" She looked sadly at me and said, "It is still my fondest wish."

This exchange got me to thinking. Was there something in one's early life that kindled a fondness or even passion for rocks? Picture, for example, a young boy sitting on the steps of a Gothic style church built entirely of large square blocks of stone as he waits for a ride home after Sunday school. In his mind's eye, his Sunday suit of clothes becomes a suit of armor. With his back up against the solid stone wall, he battles dragons and foes that would bring harm to the princess. The princess is very beautiful and just happens to be the same age as me ... er, him.

Besides being the backdrop to a young man's fantasies, the First Presbyterian Church of Mason is a grand structure with an interesting past. It was constructed in the summer and fall of 1900 with rocks and boulders from the nearby townships of Vevay, Alaiedon, and Aurelius (although at least one load came from a faraway place called Lansing, Michigan). The sand and gravel for the base came from the nearby Hogsback Pit. The driving force behind the building of this stone church was the Rev. Andrew S. Zimmerman. He soon got the nickname of All Stone Zimmerman. He would call on the farms in the area in an attempt to increase his flock and, by the way, to inspect their stone piles.

The building of this church was not just a Presbyterian project. The entire community pitched in. The boasting rights for the most loads of stone hauled in one day went to the Ingham County Farmers Club for 98 loads. (And they did boast.) Finally, the Mason Merchants had enough and organized to beat the record by 10 loads. Even the area school districts, like the Hawley School and Alaiedon Center School got in on the action and sent many loads. As the farmers got busy with field work, the area military people kept up the supply. In all, nearly 1000 loads of stone were "broken up, squared, and blocked."

When the church was dedicated on Sunday April 7, 1901, it was almost entirely free of debt. Some families donated 2 large and several smaller stained glass windows. Later, in the 1960's, a rock would play another role in the stone church's history when a couple were thrown through one of the large windows. The cost to repair those stately windows was huge and so a plastic exterior was placed over the windows which dimmed them a little but they are still impressive.

The stone church that was inspired by Rev. "All Stone" Zimmerman is a tribute to community spirit and cooperation. It has stood on the town square of Mason across the street from another impressive stone building, the Ingham County Court House, for 112 years. (The centennial publication called it Rockin' the Square for a hundred years.) And the fondest wish of those local rocks is looking forward to serving for many more.