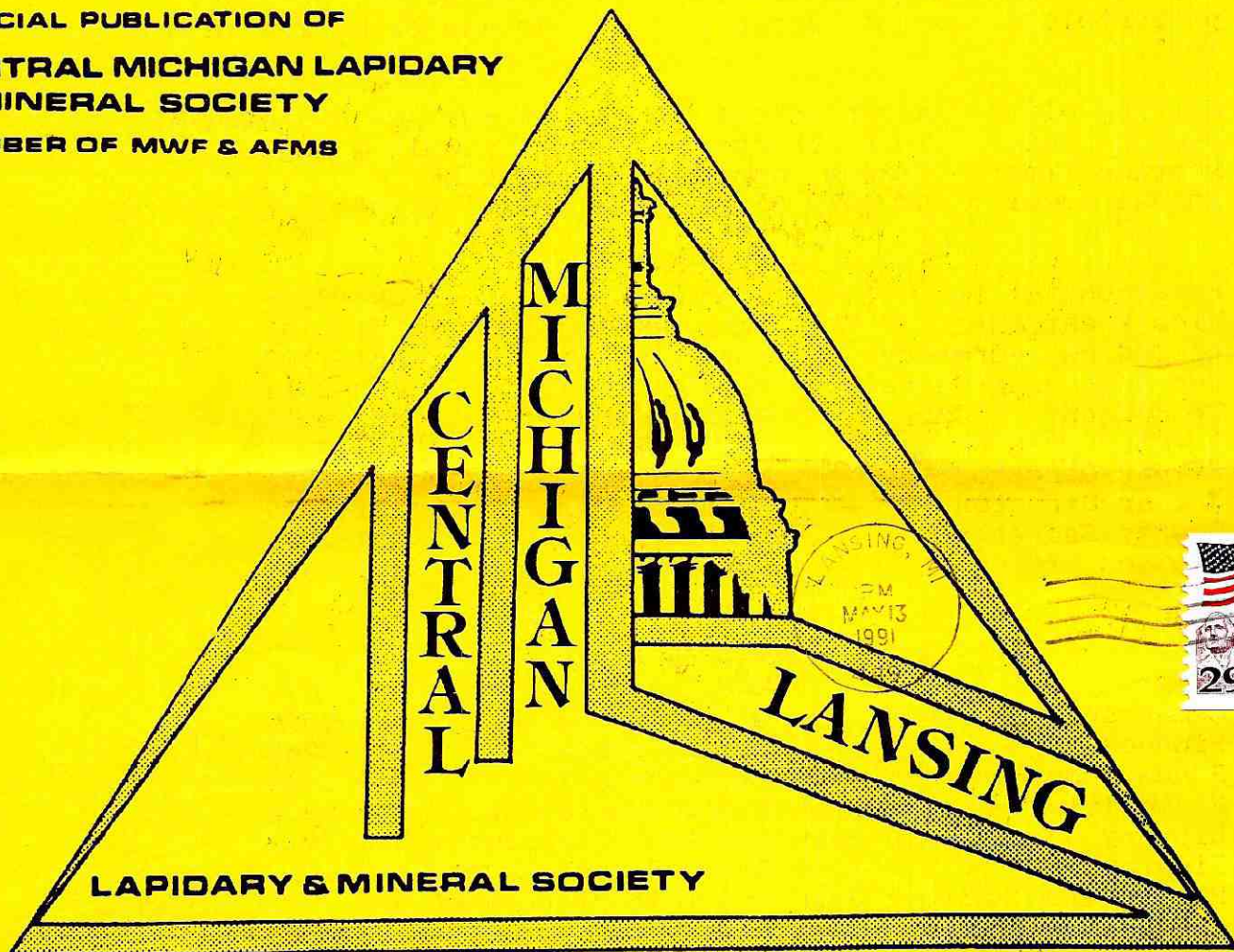


ROCKHOUND NEWS

MAY 1991

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY
& MINERAL SOCIETY
MEMBER OF MWF & AFMS



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FIRST CLASS

TIME VALUE

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 & August
Meeting time: 7:30pm, doors open at 7:00pm
Annual dues: Adults \$3.00 Students \$1.00

OFFICERS — 1991

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Vice President	Mary Gowans	351-6136
Recording Secretary	Mary Kay Bean	351-1107
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Education	Florence Hill	349-3554
Field Trips	George Heaton Jr.	339-8914
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14933 Brown Rd.
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MEMBER OF:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

1991 CLUB DIRECTORY HAS BEEN PUBLISHED

The 1991 CML&MS Directory has been published and can be picked up at the banquet (if you didn't get yours at the April meeting.) Any members who are unable to attend the club meetings and who would like the directory mailed to them should let Bessie Rogers know with a note or phone call: (517) 224-7596; 2222 W. Marshall Rd, St. Johns, MI 48879.

MSU SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO TIMOTHY J. GUYSKY

As a service to our community, CML&MS annually awards a \$1,500.00 scholarship to a MSU geology or earth science student on the basis of performance and financial need. This year's recipient is Timothy Guysky, who aspires to be a high school science teacher specializing in earth science.

Timothy impressed the scholarship committee with his determination to continue his education. He has been putting himself through school, working full time and attending classes half time. CONGRATULATIONS!!

NEW MEMBERS --- ADD THEM TO YOUR DIRECTORY

The following new members were accepted at the May board meeting:

Robert Britton 3212 W. Bath Rd. Perry, MI 48872 625-3243	Irene Britton 450 S. Williams Perry, MI 48872 625-4830	William B. Locke 9143 Meadow Lane Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 663-1434
-------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The Brittons joined right in the fun, attending the April field trip to Irving Materials Quarry. It's a real pleasure to see new members get involved! Welcome to all of you!

CLUB BANQUET --- MAY 16

By now you should have purchased your tickets for the club banquet to be held on our regular meeting night, May 16. There will be no tickets available at the door.

The banquet will be held at the Okemos Masonic Temple, 2175 Hamilton Road. The temple is located 1 block west of Okemos Rd., next to Douglas J's (a hair salon). Look elsewhere in the News for a map. It should be a great banquet with plenty of good food, plenty of door prizes, and a great speaker: Tom Johnson, the Trilobite expert!

If you have any questions call Lila Stevens (321-4379) Banquet Chair, or Marie Lewis (349-2263) Ticket Chair.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY -- Don Lohrer

The Society extends condolences to Frank and Frances Swagart. Frank's brother passed away last month. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them as we too share their grief.

We sent get well wishes to life member Marian Henderson, who recently suffered several strokes and to Ken Kurtz, who is having some cardiac problems. We all wish them the very best and pray that they will soon be feeling better.

I just found out that one of our young members, Lindsey Bean, has been in and out of the hospital with apparent strokes. I'll send her a card, and let's all keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

Take care now, and I'll see you at the banquet!

COMMUNITY SERVICE -- Florence Hill

April 20, Lucille Roggow and Florence Hill took part in Earth Day activities at the MSU Museum. They had an exhibit on rock collecting as a salvage operation.

Margaret Randolph presented a program on Indian artifacts to over 175 children at a neighboring school. On April 25 she gave a program on artifacts of the Looking Glass River area to the Looking Glass Association.

Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski was also busy, sharing her "teaching collection" with three first grade classes at Godwin Heights. Several students had favorite rocks that they wished to have identified -- one turned out to be a large chunk of lead, which was quickly placed in a plastic container!

Seven members of the Sandhill 4-H club have signed up for a project in rocks and minerals. They are Crystal Barry, Carleen Jennings, Sam Kyle, David Maranka, Jim Nash, Chris Pederson and Brian Zollweg. Geoffrey Ruonavara of the All-American club is working on a second year project. Florence Hill is project leader.

OLD TIMER'S CORNER-- Florence Hill

Marian Henderson called Sunday, April 28, at the request of Joyce Kahres. Marian went into a hospital at Mesa AZ on April 9, and suffered a series of strokes. She underwent surgery on the artery in the neck, and is recovering very well. Her speech is clear, and her hand is improving. She says, "I am lucky." Her daughter and granddaughters, with their families, are all out in the Mesa area. Marian was at home on Sunday, doing OK, with a little help from relatives and friends.

Rod Cranson, our good friend at LCC, received well-deserved recognition this winter. At the Michigan Science Teachers' Convention banquet he was presented with the MSTA's Distinguished Service Award. Congratulations, Rod!

APRIL FIELD TRIP to Anderson, Indiana -- George Heaton

I was pleased to see about 14 of our club members and their guests show up at the Irving Materials Quarry at Anderson, Indiana on Saturday April 27. The weather was good. It did not rain on us and was mostly cloudy so George Heaton didn't get sun burned like he usually does. The collecting was good. This is one of my favorite quarries for calcite.

Calcite was plentiful and I believe everyone found some good specimens. George Heaton found the best specimens of the day. He found a very nice twinned calcite crystal and a large vug of beautiful iridescent calcite from which he extracted one very nice large specimen about 5 x 10 inches in size and a beer flat full of nice smaller specimens. (George neglected to mention that the large piece is "sprinkled" with golden marcasite and highlighted with a 1 inch or better clear calcite crystal.--JAWP) Marie Lewis also found a calcite twin. It was larger, but not nearly as nice as the one George Heaton found. She and Gordon also collected a good number of nice crystal groups and single crystals. Dave Piotrowski showed me a very nice doubly terminated calcite aesthetically perched on a small amount of matrix. Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski found a very nice specimen of iridescent calcite.

I am sure other good specimens were found besides those mentioned here, but these are the ones I saw before they disappeared into wrapping paper and boxes. A large amount of material was collected for the children's table.

MAY FIELD TRIP & POT LUCK PICNIC, MAY 19 -- George Heaton

For our May field trip we will be hosting the Scarborough Mineral Club with a joint field trip to the Wallace Quarry at Bay Port, Michigan. It is pay-back time for when the Scarborough Club hosted our club last year with a visit to the St. Mary[s Cement Quarry at Bowmanville, Ont. followed by a big pot-luck dinner.

We will meet the Scarborough Club members at the Wallace Quarry at 10:00AM on SUNDAY, May 19th. This is Canada's Victoria Day Holiday weekend which allows the Canadians to make the long drive on Saturday, visit the quarry on Sunday, and return home on Monday.

Following our visit to the quarry we will gather at a near-by park for a pot-luck picnic to feed ourselves and our Canadian friends. We will probably meet for the picnic around 3:00-4:00 pm. Bring a dish or two of food to share, and eating and drinking equipment. I do not know which park site we will be using for our picnic. Marie Lewis has a place in mind but she hasn't told me where it is yet.

Material to be collected at the Wallace Quarry includes iridescent calcite, millerite, pyrite, chert nodules and fossils. To get to the Wallace Quarry from Lansing take I69 east to I75 at Flint. Go north on I75 to M25 at Bay City. Take M25 east and north to M142, just south of Bay Port. Go east on M142 about 2 miles to Risky Rd. Turn left onto Risky Rd. which will take you to the quarry. That's approximately 94 miles of expressway driving, and 45 miles of 2 lane -- plan your time accordingly!

JUNE FIELD TRIP, BLOOMINGTON INDIANA, JUNE 21-23

The June field trip will include the Bedford Rock Swap, now held at the Monroe County 4-H Fairgrounds in Bloomington Indiana, and geode collecting at the road cut at the Harrodsburg Exit on Route 37, June 21-23. To get to the rock swap at the 4H Fairgrounds you go south on Rt. 37 to the intersection of Rt. 37 and Rt. 45. You turn right on Rt. 45 and go southwest on Rt. 45 about 1 2/10 miles, then turn right and go 7/10 mile on Airport Road.

This is a very large and interesting rock swap which attracts swappers from surrounding states and Ontario, Canada. Camping is allowed on the Fairgrounds, and motels are located in Bloomington. The geodes from Harrodsburg are beautiful and may contain several minerals including quartz, calcite, dolomite, millerite, barite, pyrite and sphalerite.

To collect the geodes at the Harrodsburg road cut you should have at least a 2-3 lb. crack hammer and several sharp chisels. Heavier hammers, pry bars and more chisels of all sizes are very useful. The geodes are in limestone, so it can be hard work to chisel them out and you can dull your supply of chisels very quickly. (Please don't forget your safety equipment!! It is likely that you will be working under overhangs, and doing a bit of climbing. Be prepared rather than injured! Thanks.--Jean Ann)

To get to Bloomington, go south on I-69 to Indianapolis, then on I-465 south to Rt. 37. Go south on Rt. 37 to Bloomington.

FIVE MINUTE "TALK" -- Dave Piotrowski

This month's five minute talk is on Rutile (TiO_2) a tin oxide.

Color	red to red-brown, black
Luster	glassy to sub-metallic
Streak	white to light grey or light brown
Hardness	6-6.5
Specific Gravity	4.2
Crystals	tetragonal; commonly prismatic crystals, striated, usually long, other crystal shapes--rosette twins, needle-shaped, compact and disseminated

Rutile can be found in igneous plutonic and metamorphic rocks, associated with albite, barite, lawsonite, and orthoclase. Rutile can also be found in hydrothermal replacement deposits in association with pyrophyllite.

Cassiterite, a tin oxide, is similar to rutile but its crystals don't have a glassy luster or striations. Cassiterite is also slightly heavier.

Rutile was named after the Latin word for reddish- (rutilus). Rutile is used in ceramic glazes, as a gem stone and is a major ore of titanium.

AUGUST POT-LUCK PICNIC AT MORRISON LAKE, AUGUST 17th

There will be a pot-luck picnic hosted by Richard and Lila Stevens on Saturday, August 17th at their summer place on Morrison Lake.

The picnic will begin at 1:00 PM. Bring lawn chairs, folding tables, FOOD and eating equipment.

Directions: Take I-96 west towards Grand Rapids, to the Lake Odessa Exit (#64). Go south 1/2 mile to Portland Rd, and turn right. Go west on Portland Rd. for 3 miles to Jackson Rd. Turn left (South) onto Jackson Rd. and travel about 1/2 mile alongside of a golf course to Elm Rd. which is a private drive in the pine trees. Follow Elm Rd. around the lake, until you smell the food and reach 291 Elm Road!

CHILDREN'S TABLE

All sorts of rocks and minerals are needed. Keep bringing them in!!

YOU'RE INVITED:

Jean Ann Lay will be celebrating her graduation from Everett High school on June 1! Club members are welcome to attend her open house from 2pm to 6pm on that day. It will be held at home, 408 E. Miller Rd, Lansing.

Jean Ann, the daughter of Dona Lay and granddaughter of Milo Hillis, is a long time "junior" member of the club (number 1022 to be exact). We wish her success!

LAKE SUPERIOR AGATE by Larry Green via The Prospector (Muskegon, MI) 1-90, Osage Hills Gems, and The Rockpile

Lake Superior agates were formed in a range of mountains in Canada. The theory is that they were formed in gas pockets in volcanic basalt by the deposition from silica rich liquids. Because of changing conditions over time, they were layered in color and in forming quartz crystals or agates. These alternating bands form the characteristic pleasing pattern.

Glaciers from further north freed the agates and carried them south throughout several states and over hundreds of miles. The glaciers were called "Lake Superior Drift", hence the agate name. Because of the glaciers, most are found only as fragments. Unbroken ones have a smooth glassy surface and pock-marked appearance. Most range from less than 1 inch to 3/4 pound. Anything over 1/2 pound is rare and anything over 2 pounds, very rare.

Saganite agates occurred when a cluster of crystals formed as cluster or single crystals of varying sizes and the cavity was then filled with agate to surround the crystals.

Tube agates were formed when there was no liquid circulation occurring. Seepage formed agate stalagmites as in a cave. Then the cavity was filled with agate as in saganite types.

Water level agates were formed by liquids seeping into a cavity and forming level strata. Layer after layer was built up in this manner until the cavity was filled. Often, circulation started later and fortification agate was formed on top of the layer agate.

Eye agate, not plentiful by any means, usually appears on the surface like a saucer or half ball. They may have formed as beads on the cavity walls. Later, circulating agate filled the cavity.

Jasp-agates are usually opaque with agate patterns mixed in. Many have patches of black hematite or plume-like patterns. They are quite solid.

Moss agates are found also and often are larger than other types.

Rare types include plume agate, agate in agate, agate with amethyst center, radiating tube agate, shadow agate, rain agate, faulted agate and geode agate.

Every type can be hunted in any spot. Gravel pits are the prime location but river beds, gravel roads, newly graded roads, and farmers fields also are good.

NO-TUMBLE POLISH FOR AGATES via Tulip City Conglomerate 2-91 & others

If you want to bring out the color and banding of Lake Superior agates without tumbling them, rub with heavy mineral oil, place on a cookie sheet for 20 minutes in a 200 degree oven. Remove, and let cool at room temperature. Remove the excess mineral oil with a paper towel. The results will surprise you!

(Not liking the sticky residue oil sometimes leaves on the agates, I have tried rubbing them with paste wax. It does produce a "wet look." I'm waiting to see if any stickiness develops. JAWP)

THOMSONITES via The Prospector (Muskegon, MI)2-90 and others

Lava flowed from volcanoes on the shore of Lake Superior, with gem bubbles appearing in the lava. Surface water and condensed oxygen seeped down and mixed with other chemicals and acids. Gemstones of Thomsonites resulted from the unique conditions, with copper playing a part in the coloration. About 90% of the world's supply is found on 10 acres of land near Grand Marais, Minnesota.

Interestingly, they are found no further than two miles from Lake Superior, which indicates they appeared on the surface after most glacial activity was over, about 11,000 years ago.

MORE ON THOMSONITES (AND AGATES)--- Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski

As mentioned in the article from The Prospector, Thomsonite is more or less limited to the Lake Superior region. It is a zeolite mineral, usually found as nodules showing radial-fibrous growth. It is primarily pink in color, but can fade into white and also be green. These color variations and radial nature can make it difficult to differentiate poorer examples from prehnite.

While the best specimens do seem to come from Minnesota, Thomsonites are fairly easy to find among beach pebbles on the west shore of the Keweenaw Peninsula. Five Mile Point is recommended by Tony Bausano who owns the Copper World gift shop in Calumet. Dave and I enjoy collecting at that location and have had success. The Mineralogy of Michigan by Heinrich and Geology of Michigan by Dorr & Eschman give the following additional locations:

- near the Ashbed Mine at Eagle River
- Fort Wilkins-Copper Harbor beaches
- Great Sand Bay beach (a few miles north west of 5 Mile Point-- there is a scenic turnout & picnic table, the beach appears almost black from the roadway)
- Grand Marais (MI) area beaches.

If you're interested in trying your luck at agate hunting, any of the above beaches will do. Heinrich also recommends:

- Horseshoe Harbor
- Agate Harbor
- Mouth of Silver Creek
- Seven mile point (walk there from 5 mile point)
- Black Creek
- Gull Point on M-64
- Beaches near Ontonagon.

SOURCES:

Dorr, John A. Jr. and Donald F. Eschman. Geology of Michigan. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1970.

Heinrich, E. Wm.. The Mineralogy of Michigan. Lansing: State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources Geological Survey Division, 1976.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL RED METAL RETREAT, JULY 3-6--Jean Ann W-P

If you have never collected in the Michigan Copper District; or have never visited the Seaman Mineral Museum at Michigan Tech, you should consider attending this event.

Richard Whiteman of Red Metal Minerals began the retreat as a get together for copper lovers, and as a benefit to the Seaman Museum. As the years have passed, the gathering has grown and Michigan Tech has taken over organizational responsibilities.

Highlights of the extended weekend include a chance to tour or collect in the Caledonia Mine; the world's best pasty lunch from Henry's Inn at Rockland; a collecting field trip to the Cliff, Allouez and Laurium Mines; a benefit auction for the Seaman Museum; and, a talk by Dr. David Krause titled "Should the History of the Keweenaw be Rated X: Houghton, Jackson and Native Copper." Of course there's also plenty of time to take in the museum.

The Seaman Mineral Museum has been named the official mineralogical museum of Michigan by the state legislature. It takes up the entire fifth floor of the Electrical Energy Resources Center on Tech's Campus and displays over 20,000 specimens. Most notably, it holds the best of mineral specimens from Michigan's copper and iron mining districts.

Dave and I have attended the past three retreats, and plan on going again this year. If you have any questions we would be glad to talk to you. There is a registration fee, and nominal charges to cover the costs of certain events.

NEW STONEHENGE FOUND ON BEAVER ISLAND via Tulip City
Conglomerate 2-91, Michigan Gem News & Rockhound News

Michigan archaeologists believe a circle of boulders found on Beaver Island may be a primitive calendar, akin to the famous Stonehenge, that enabled Indians to track the movement of the sun to determine the seasons.

Some Indian leaders said there may have been spiritual significance to the mysterious rocks, arranged in a circle, 397 feet in diameter, in a brushy area that once had been cleared, near the shore at the north end of the island in Lake Michigan.

If it is verified that the boulders are astronomically aligned, the Beaver Island site could represent one of the major discoveries of prehistoric landmarks in North America. Such monuments had not been known to exist this far north. Experts tentatively date construction of the boulder ring to about 1,000 years ago.

LYME DISEASE INFORMATION via the AFMS Newsletter & others

EXPOSURE: Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted by the bite of a "deer" tick found on all types of vegetation and animals, especially in the woods. The "deer" tick is most active in the spring and fall but present throughout the summer.

PRECAUTION: Wear long sleeves and pants. An insect repellent such as DEEP Woods OFF! can help repel ticks. Brush off clothing and pets before going inside. Check yourself and pets carefully for ticks. Remove attached tick at once with a fine-jaw tweezers by grasping the tick's head as close to the skin as possible and gently pulling straight out. Be careful not to squeeze the tick's body as this may cause it to inject fluid into you. Wash the bite area and apply an antiseptic.

SYMPTOMS: A ring-shaped rash may occur within 4-20 days. Symptoms may include fever, chills, headache, stiffness in the joints, weakness and fatigue. Common symptoms of Lyme disease may mimic arthritis. In some cases there are not symptoms.

CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU SUSPECT LYME DISEASE OR ITS SYMPTOMS.

IF DETECTED EARLY, LYME DISEASE IS USUALLY TREATABLE WITH ANTIBIOTICS.

TICK IDENTIFICATION:

"Deer" Tick: Can be a carrier of Lyme disease. Very small. Is orange-brown with black spot near head.

"Wood" Tick: Is unlikely to transmit Lyme disease. Twice as large as "Deer" tick. Has white marks near the head.

CLUB CALENDAR

May 16	Club Banquet, Okemos Masonic Temple, 2175 Hamilton Rd., Social Hour 5:30, Dinner 6:30. No tickets available at the door.
May 19(Sunday)	Field trip & Pot Luck Picnic, Wallace Quarry at Bayport MI.
June 6	Board Meeting, 7:30
June 20	Regular Meeting, Meridian Twp. Service Center
June 21-23	Field Trip, Bloomington Indiana Rock Swap & Geode Collecting
August 17	Pot Luck Picnic at Stevens' on Morrison Lake
October 25-27	SHOW "Rough Rocks to Gorgeous Gems", Marshall Street Armory.

DON'T FORGET TO CELEBRATE MICHIGAN WEEK -- MAY 19-25!!

UPCOMING SHOWS

- May 17-19 Dearborn Show -- Dearborn Civic Center,
Michigan & Greenfield, Dearborn
- June 1-2 State Line Gem & Mineral Soc., Fulton
Co. Fairgrounds, Wauseon, Ohio
- June 21-23 26th Show and Swap, Lawrence County Rock
Club ("The Bedford Swap" now held in
Bloomington, Indiana) Free admission
Fri 10am-9pm Sat 8am-9pm Sun 8am - 4pm
- June 22-23 MGAGS Rockhound Seminar, Northwestern
Michigan University, Traverse City
- August 10 & 11 Ishpeming Rock Swap & Field Trip
swap is Saturday, field trip Sunday
- Aug. 30- Sept. 1 Midwest Federation Show & Convention
South Bend, Indiana
- Sept. 6-8 Muskegon Co. Rock & Mineral Assoc. Show
Wilma Hall, 2950 McCracken St, Muskegon
- Sept. 13-14 Tulip City (Holland) Show
- Oct. 5-6 Not a show, but it might be fun--
OPEN HOUSE at Eddy Geology Center,
Chelsea (see our News 2/91)
- November 15-17 Midwest Faceters Guild Fair, Dearborn
Civic Center

Map to banquet:

