

**CALL MARIE LEWIS BY MAY 15 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR THE BANQUET. NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.**

**PRESIDENT'S CORNERSTONE**-- Chuck Smith

Tis May, banquet time, and spring is finally here. If you have not got your tickets yet, hurry 'cause time's running out. The banquet is May 18, 1995. Social hour begins at 5:30; dinner is at 6:30 sharp. A great speaker will follow the dinner--Dr. Richard Lefebvre will speak on volcanoes and plate tectonics. Hope to see you there. Watch your June newsletter for all the summer club activities.

**LAISON REPORT**-- Bettie Patterson

I have received notice that the Spencer Opal Mines in Southeastern Idaho will be closed after the summer of 1995. I have information on the location, hours, fees, etc. If you are interested, you may phone me for details.

I also have a letter from the Conley Casting Supply Corp. advising the development of a self contained centrifugal casting and vulcanized rubber mold making apparatus called the "Conley Mini Pewter Factory." Anyone interested can write: Fritz Prattt, Pres. Conley Casting Supply Corp., 124 Maple Street, Warwick RI 02588, and he will be happy to send a video and descriptive literature at no charge.

**NEW MEMBERS** (jawp)

Vaughn Snook- Vaughn is the coordinator of the Okemos Science-Is-Fun Day and a collector of fossils from the old Grand Ledge coal mine. He is interested in geology, archaeology, fossils, minerals and lapidary, in that order. Vaughn's address: 4341 Hulett Rd, Okemos MI 48867; 349-9387

Lynell Scofield and Stanley Moore have been guests at several meetings and should be familiar faces. We are glad to have them as members! Lynell's address: 6405 Thornapple Lake Rd. Lot 307, Nashville MI 49073; (517) 852-9355. Stanley's address: 1205 Alsdorf, Lansing MI 48910; 484-9315.

We also welcome our 1995 MSU scholarship recipient Daniel R. Cassidy. His address: 453 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823.

**EDUCATION**-- Florence Hill & Royal Olsen

The next mineral in the carbonate family to be studied is strontianite, a strontium carbonate ( $\text{SrCO}_3$ ). Since there will be no five minute talk at the banquet, here is a "five minute" write up.

According to Dr. Pough, strontianite has a glassy luster, a hardness of 3.5-4, and a specific gravity of 3.7. It may be white, colorless, light green, pink, yellowish, brownish or gray-white. It is in the orthorhombic crystal system, and is commonly found in fibrous veinlets. It may be in long needles, or massive and fine-grained.

Strontianite is an important source of strontium, used in fireworks to produce brilliant red, and in the refining of sugar. It is found in Germany and England, and in the U.S. in New York, Pennsylvania, and California.

**MAY FIELD TRIP & POTLUCK PICNIC, BAYPORT MI, MAY 21** -- George Heaton

For our May field trip we will be hosting the Scarborough Ontario Mineral Club with a joint field trip to the Wallace Ontario Mineral Club with a joint field trip to the Wallace Quarry near Bay Port Michigan on **Sunday**, May 21st. It is pay-back time for when the Scarborough Club hosted our club last year with a visit to a great fossil collecting quarry near Gamebridge Ontario and a nice potluck picnic. Now it is time for us to return the favor.

We will meet the Scarborough Club members at the Wallace Quarry at 10:00 am on Sunday, May 21. Wallace Quarry at 10:00 am on Sunday, May 21. 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 potluck 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.

**APRIL PROGRAM REPORT**-- Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski

Those of you who missed the April meeting missed one of the best speakers our club has had in years! Dr. Graham Larson briefed us all on the field of glacial geology. His beautiful slides and thorough explanations made it easy to learn about morains, kettle lakes, eskers, and the like. His sense of humor was also greatly appreciated. Actually, after this lecture, I think several members might volunteer to be lowered into cracks, or pick-ax their way into glacial ice!

**APRIL FIELD TRIP-- CORYDON INDIANA**-- George Heaton

We had eight of our members and three guests show up for our field trip to the Corydon Crushed stone Co. Quarry at Corydon, Indiana on Saturday, April 22nd. Again, as it usually is on George Heaton's field trips the weather was good. On Saturday at corydon it was dry, partly sunny, and cool so one could work hard without getting hot and sweaty. The quarry's new policy of not allowing visitors to drive their cars into the quarry was in effect and we had to leave our cars in a designated parking area outside the gate and walk into the quarry. They said they had trouble with visitors finding themselves locked in when they went to leave. This will make people much more selective when collecting, and the children's table may suffer for it. In the future visitors will have to be prepared with back packs, carts, etc. to help carry out their collected material. I believe most of us were able to collect some good specimens of pink dolomite and some good calcite crystals were found too. The best calcites I saw were collected by my brother, Roger Heaton.

Some of our members stopped at the road cut on Rt. 56 on Saturday morning and did some collecting there before going on to Corydon. Connie Snapp found some trilobite pieces at the road cut and the others collected some nice geode pieces on Saturday morning. On Sunday morning there was another visit to the Rt. 56 road cut and many more nice geode pieces were collected. Some of the calcite crystals were very nice some should make good keepers and swapping specimens and there should be lots of stuff for the children's table.

**HINT:** To make your tools more visible in the field, spray on a band of fluorescent orange paint. (Got this idea from a fellow Master Gardener who had painted his crack hammer.

One of those "Why didn't I think of that?" moments. jawp)

**SHOW NEWS**-- Rich & Lila Stevens

On your summer trips please be looking for children's table specimens. You could also save some nicer pieces for the also silent auction and door prizes.

Lee Olson has agreed to be in charge of hospitality this year. She will be asking for some "kitchen-sitters" off and on, as she likes to work on the children's table too.

We will need volunteers Thursday afternoon set-up decorating tables with Mary Crosby. Plan on coming again Friday morning to help with the school children.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT**--Florence Hill

On April 27 a group from CML&MS presented a display-demonstration at the Ralya School, Haslett, durring their Science Night program. May 11 we gave a similar presentation at the Murphy School, Haslett. Members involved in these projects were George Heaton, Florence Hill, Royal and Lee Olson, Bettie Patterson, Neil and Connie Snepp, Rich and Lila Stevens and Grit Turner.

We have been asked to repret our presentations at these schools, as well as the Okemos "Science-Is-Fun" event next year. We need more of you ready and willing to take part in these demonstrations. Think what you can show and talk about briefly to children and adults, and offer your services. It is fun to do, and a good deed toward our club's purpose of interesting and informing the public in geolgy, rocks and the hobby.

May 1, Grit Turner talked on rocks and minerals to three groups of first graders at the Horizon School in Holt. The teacher-leader was Carol Haasch. Grit Turner again gave a talk on rocks and minerals on May 8 to the 3rd and 4th grades at the Bancroft Elementary School. Terry Junger was the teacher contact.

Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski prepared two Michigan rock and mineral "exploration" kits for the fourth grades at North Godwin Elementary, Wyoming. Each box contains 24 specimens, a hardness test kit, magnets, field guides, and information sheets for the students to fill out. The information sheets require the students to make observations, and look up information in the field guides. A May 8 presentation on mineral identification, rock formation and everyday uses of rocks & minerals introduced the kids to their exploration kit. These will be available for use by other members if they desire.

May 10, Bettie Patterson gave a talk on birthstones, with specimens on display to St. Luke's Lutheran Church. And, on May 11, Florence Hill gave a slide presentation on the geologic background of Michigan to the Compass Group of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lansing.

**A BRIGHT IDEA**-- Mike McGuire via Agate Explorer & Rock Trails

I made a few cabs over the weekend, and used the hot glue gun agian to secure the slabs to the dop sticks. I have found this to be a very effective and easy way instead of the regular dop wax. No heating of the stone is required, but you do need about the same amount of glue as you would of dop wax.

I used a sharp knife to separate the cab when finished. If you have a hot glue gun you probably have found uses for it was beyond what you first dreamed of. It is amazing what

can be fastened with it, and later removed with little effort

**BOARD BRIEFS NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN NEWSLETTER** (jawp)

--2 guests, 16 members present

--Discussed the possibility of giving presentations at Fenner Arboretum one or two Saturdays a month next winter. The Education Committee will make the offer to the naturalist at Fenner.

--The Meridian Service Center, Okemos, has been reserved for board meetings through December; and, for the June regular meeting.

--Jean Ann submitted the Rockhound News for competition in the Midwest Federation Bulletin Editors Contest. We have been notified that we placed in the top ten of the small bulletin category. The final results will be announced at the MWF convention in Detroit this October.

**CHUCKLE OF THE MONTH**-- via Border Gem Chatter 4/95

To the tune of "On Top of Old Smokey"

Road cuts, fields and mountains  
All covered with rocks,  
We fight off mosquitos  
And get burrs in our socks.

It's easy to find us,  
If ever you please,  
Our elbows and fannies  
Are up in the breeze.

We laugh at the chiggers  
And sneer at the rain,  
The hot sun beats on us  
But we feel no pain.

We're shap-eyed and eager  
And ready for fun,  
From eleven 'til ninety  
We stay on the run.

For we are the rockhounds,  
A great, hardy bunch.  
We eat sand for breakfast  
And lick rocks for lunch !

Of all the world's people  
Rockhounds are the best,  
And God will confirm it  
When finally we rest.

**HINT** via The Rockpile 5/95 & Stoney Statements

Hydrochloric acid is good for testing lapis lazuli. A drop of it on the blue stone creates an odor of hydrogen Sulfide. On the white areas it usually effervesces because the white is usually calcite. This test will distinguish lapis from sodalite and lazulite.

**ARE YOU IN POSESSION OF ANY CLUB LIBRARY BOOKS? PLEASE RETURN THEM TO LEE LAYLIN ASAP. THANKS!**

**CLUB CALENDAR**--

May 18      BANQUET, Okemos Masonic Lodge. 5:30 social hr., dinner 6:30.  
                 Program: Volcanoes & Plate Tectonics, Dr. Richard Lefebvre  
May 21      FIELDTRIP & POTLUCK PICNIC, Wallace Quarry Bayport MI,

10:00am

June 8 Board meeting, Meridian Service Center  
June 22 Regular meeting, Meridian Service Center  
July 15 FIELDTRIP-- Maybee Quarry, Maybee MI  
**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** via MWF Newsletter 5/95



### **SUMMER SHOWS, ETC.--**

- May 6-7 Kalamazoo Show. Fairgrounds County Center Bldg., Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5  
Cincinnati Show. Cincinnati Gardens, 2250 Seymour Ave. Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5
- May 19-21 Dearborn Show. Dearborn Civic Center, Michigan & Greenfield.  
Fri. 5-9pm, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 11-5:30
- June 3-4 State Line Gem & Min. swap & craft sale. Fulton Co. Fairgrounds, Route 108,  
Wauseon Ohio. Sat. 9:30-5; Sun. 9:30-noon.
- June 10 Dearborn Club 2nd Annual Sale of Surplus Lapidary Material. Kuzara's residence,  
20281 Thomas, Brownstone Twp. (313) 675-5237.
- June 10-11 Toledo Open House & Mineral Sale. Toledo Botanical Gardens, 5403 Elmer  
Drive, Toledo Ohio. 10-5 both days.
- June 23-25 Lawrence Co. (Bedford) Indiana Swap, Monroe Co. 4-H Fairgrounds,  
Bloomington
- July 7-8 Stonehead Lapidary & Mineral Club Show. Mineral River Plaza, White Pine MI
- August 4-6 Ishpeming Swap, Sat. 9-5; Field trips Fri & Sun.
- August 7-11 Red Metal Retreat. See Dave or Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski for info.
- August 12-13 MGAGS Seminar. Houghton MI. See Florence Hill, Grit & Alice Turner or  
Red & Bessie Rogers for info.
- Sept. 1-3 Michiana Gem & Min. Show. Century Center, South Bend Indiana.
- Sept. 15-16 Holland Show. Holland Civic Center.
- Oct. 7-8 Eddy Center Geology Arts Fair; Waterloo Recreation Area, 10730 Bush Rd,  
Chelsea MI
- Oct. 13-16 Detroit Show/ MWF Show & Convention. Detroit Light Guard Armory, 4400 E.  
Eight Mile Rd.