

PLAN ON ATTENDING THE CLUB BANQUET MAY 23??? YOU MUST HAVE YOUR MONEY TO LILA STEVENS BY SATURDAY MAY 18. NO TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR!!!

OBLIGATORY NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT-- Jean Ann

It's a beautiful sunny day, the grass is dry enough to mow & my garden is freshly plowed thanks to a neighbor. I have bananas & rhubarb waiting to be baked into something yummy. And here I set, no more time for procrastination, the newsletter must be completed! :) At Dave's suggestion, I have at least taken the computer out on the deck to soak up some of the fresh air and sunshine...

Thanks to Jude Miller, the 1996 **club directory** has been completed with absolutely no effort on my part!!! Dave & I will copy it off & have it available at the banquet. Please be sure to pick up your copy then. The new mailing labels are also compliments of Jude's efforts. If there are any errors in your address, PLEASE let Jude know.

I'm rather saddened to report that member and director **Joe Austin** has made the move to enjoy his retirement in Arizona. Joe says we can plan on seeing him at least once a year, as his daughter and grandchild still live in the area-- and to watch for him at next year's Tucson show if you are lucky enough to be there!

The **Midwest Federation Convention-Show-Field Trip** will take place July 26-28 in Macomb Illinois. Lila Stevens will be our club delegate for the meetings at the convention, and Connie Snapp has agreed to be our alternate. Thank you, ladies. If anyone else is interested in attending the show and field trips you can see Grit Turner for more information.

One last note: the **JUNE MEETING** will be held at the MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP SERVICE CENTER.

SPECIMEN KITS--Florence Hill

Through the thoughtfulness of many generous people, the specimen kit project is in the best shape it has ever been at this time of year. 500 egg cartons are partially labeled(3 pieces of 4) and bagged up for storage in my barn until the show. Enough samples have been gathered in to fill the 6,000 spaces which are the target this year. **The only request I still have-- do any of you have some pieces of sulfur?** There is some here, but not enough, and sulfur is attractive and interesting to youngsters.

If you have saved up some good egg cartons, don't throw them away. I'll bag them up and --hopefully there's another year --or use-- coming. Maybe some replacements will be needed for stone on hand this fall.

To Mary Crosby, Rich and Lila Stevens, Gordon and Marie Lewis, Alan Hukill, George Heaton, Royal Olson, and anyone else who brought in material-- **thanks a million.**

HINTS via The Rockpile 4/96 & 5/96

--To finish soapstone as the ancient Chinese did, heat the finished carving in the oven for an hour at 200 degrees. Remove from the oven and apply a coat of paste wax and polish. A jade effect results from this method.

--Never use ammonia, soap or detergent on turquoise. Ammonia will turn turquoise white, but is a good test to see if a piece is genuine.

CLUB BANQUET, MAY 23 (jawp)

Please note that this is **NOT** our regular meeting night! Once again, we will have a **delicious chicken dinner**. Social hour begins at 5:30, **dinner is served at 6:30 SHARP**-- so don't be late.

Tickets for the event are available from Lila Stevens. The charge this year will be \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children. **If you wish to attend the banquet, you must get your money to Lila by this Saturday, May 18.** The cooks need to know in advance exactly how many folks for whom to prepare. Send your check to: **Lila Stevens, 5889 W. State Rd., Lansing MI 48906 or call 321-4379 if you want to make an appointment to pay in person.**

Our speaker for the evening will be **Dr. Kazuya Fujita** from the MSU Dept. of Geological Science. For our banquet, he will tell of his recent geologic research in Russia where the North American plate actually begins. Hope to see you there.

"MAY" FIELD TRIP, JUNE 1, TO WALLACE QUARRY-- George Heaton

The field trip for May will be to the Wallace Quarry at Bayport on Saturday June 1. This is the year the Scarborough Ontario Club was to host our club on a field trip to somewhere on their side of the border, but Blair Campbell was having difficulty getting enough people interested in this event this year due to so many other distracting things occurring about the same time, in which many of his club wished to participate. He wished to postpone his club's turn at hosting our field trip until next year.

Because of this development I had to come up with an alternate plan, and since I like the quarry at Bay Port, I decided to go there, and to schedule the May trip for the Saturday of June 1 so it will not interfere with any Holiday or mushroom collecting plans. We will plan to meet at the quarry office shortly before 10:00 am on Saturday June 1 and enter the quarry promptly at 10:00 am and stay until about 3:00pm. I estimate the distance from Lansing to Bay Port to be about 150 miles. You should allow about 3 1/2 hours driving time from Lansing. From Lansing take Rt. 69 east to I-75 at Flint. Go North on I-75 to Rt. 25 at Bay City. Take Rt. 25 east and north to Rt. 142, just south of Bayport. Turn right (east) on Rt. 142 and go about 2 miles to Risky Rd. Turn left on Risky Rd., cross the railroad tracks and go a little further where you will have to turn right and go on to the office.

Material to be found includes brown & iridescent calcite, pyrite, millerite and fossils. You will need a hard hat, hard toed boots, safety glasses or goggles, crack hammer and chisels.

APRIL FIELD TRIP--George Heaton

We had about a dozen members and guests show up at Duff Quarry on Saturday, April 20 for our April field trip. Typical of George Heaton arranged field trips the weather was good except for a little wind.

There were a few good specimens found but collecting was mostly very poor. The weather this spring has held back quarry operations so they still had not blasted. They said they probably would not have a blast until late May. The best pyrite specimens I saw collected were found by Alan Hukill. Roger Laylin found an impression of a cephalopod fossils. Finding any kind of fossil at Duff Quarry is not very common. George Heaton found a couple of sphalerite specimens.

NEW MEMBERS-- jawp

We are pleased to welcome several new members to our club. Their addresses, etc. will be in the new directory.

--Steven Lee Bellant, 680 Second St., Pontiac MI 48340 810 335-3304

Steven is 16 years old and is interested in minerals, geology and fossils. His other hobbies include: basketball, football, hockey, motorcycle riding, snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, and nature hiking.

--Elaine Angstman, 927 S. Barnes St., Mason MI 48854-1909

Elaine is a teacher at Webberville Community schools, and a friend of our Recording Secretary, Mary Gowans. She is interested in minerals and geology. She is a talented artist, and also enjoys traveling, animals and antiques.

--Ed Drown, 1825 Nemoke Tr. #6, Haslett MI 48840 347-5097

Ed is a graduate student at MSU and is interested in minerals and fossils. His other interests include fishing and photography.

--John Esch, 9302 Oakdale Dr., Laingsburg MI 48848 651-2975

John is a geologist with the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources. He is interested in Michigan geology (especially it's structural geology), bedrock geology, minerals and fossils.

--Milka Hutna, Magda Hutna and Jan Hutny

703-101 Cherry Lane, East Lansing MI 48823 355-7792

When Jan and his family returned to Poland back in 1991, I never really expected to see them again.

And then lo they appeared at our April meeting! Jan is back in the same biochemistry lab at MSU. He enjoys minerals and fossils. Magda is in her Senior year of high school, and plans to pursue a degree in geology next year. Magda is especially interested in minerals and archaeology. Milka is the youngest child of the family, and is also very interested in rocks and minerals. Welcome back!

LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

--Used rock saw 10", screwdrive carriage,
2 used blades

--Used, Diamond Pacific Genie, new
Nova Bond 280 wheel, needs 600 wheel

--Arbor with 100 & 200 silicon carbide grind
wheels, 8' x 1 1/2' with motor & work table

--Lartone flat cap 10"

--New Poly arbor with 8" expanding drum and
hard felt buff 8 x 1 1/2"

--Large tumbler 3/9" barrels, motor, on table

CALL ROGER LAYLIN

(517) 349-3249

HINT via The Happy Hounder 5/96 via Emerald Gems

Tell the weight of a gem stone easily using US coins: penny-- 15 karats, nickel-- 25 karats, dime-- 11 karats, quarter-- 28 karats, half-dollar-- 56 karats. These are approximate weights.

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU HAVE FOUND-- Florence Hill

It's not too early to be thinking about a display for our show this fall. a lot of you have some very interesting pieces that you have never shown. Why not try your hand at setting up an exhibit this year? Of course, most of us do not have the fantastic collections to draw from that a few of our members have. We admire those. But if you have collected twenty or twenty five specimens that you like, you can select enough to make an attractive showing. The main fault with beginning exhibitors, anyway, is crowding in too many specimens. A tasteful background, clear and accurate labels, a careful placement and --viola! your display is an eye catcher.

There are several categories of displays to be considered. Specimens from one area, varied forms of one mineral, special color schemes, glacial drift, and of course, general display. "Self-collected" is also a category, perhaps one we should emphasize. Let's fill those display tables this year so there is not an inch of empty space. You--all of you who have never exhibited before-- have more to offer than you realize. We are counting on you.

EDUCATION-- Margaret Green

Thank you to all the generous folks who donated their time to the Fairfew Science Evening. This was the first year for this school and our club helped it to be a success. Bettie Patterson demonstrated the record in rocks with her partner Larry Bourland. Roger Laylin tumbled rocks; and, Royal and Lee Olson brought their beautiful quartz crystals.

The same evening, another group of hard workers kept our annual date with Ralya School. Florence Hill brought Michigan rocks and teamed up with Alexis Oesterle who brought the display she put together as her school science project. Neil Snapp discussed fossils; George Heaton brought our field trip pictures; and, Dave Gibbs helped me demonstrate fluorescent minerals. Thank you to these hardworking, dedicated individuals.

Florence Hill is still teaching. Currently she is mentoring Alexis Oesterle in presenting rock displays. On Wednesday, May 1, Alexis gave a successful presentation to her classmates at Aurelis Street School. (Florence is very proud of this accomplishment.)

Royal Olson gave a presentation at Ralya School to two groups of fourth graders on Monday, April 29 about the "fun part" of Earth science. He also went to the Williamston Elementary school Friday May 3 to talk about crystals and gypsum.

On Wednesday, May 1, I participated in the Science Day at Williamston Elementary and had a great time. Thank you to Bettie, Florence and Grit for their support in this endeavor. If you know of any educational outreach opportunities or want to participate in future events, please contact me.

JUNE FIELD TRIP--George Heaton

The June field trip will be June 21-23 at Bloomington Indiana for the rock swap at the Monroe Co. Fairgrounds and geode collecting at the Harrodsburg exit road cut on Rt. 37 and other area road cuts and streams. There will be more on this in the June newsletter. If you plan to participate in this activity you should make motel reservations early unless you plan to camp at the Fairgrounds. My reservation is at the Motel 6, 126 S. Franklin Rd. near the junction of SR 37 at SR 48. The Motel 6 phone number is (812) 332-0337. There are other motels in Bloomington but Motel 6 is the cheapest and also the closest to the fairgrounds.

SEEING WHAT'S REALLY THERE--Tom Noe, Michiana Gem & Mineral Soc. via MGAGS Spring 1996 via The Rockfinder

Last summer, I spent about six days at the Fairburn agate beds just southeast of the Black Hills. Each day I dedicated the same amount of time to my search for Fairburns (except for one morning when it rained and it was impossible to get to the agate areas because the mud piled up around my shoes so fast-- but that's another story.)

During the first two days I didn't find a single Fairburn, though I looked long and hard. I did find lots of other things such as some petrified palm and various small geodes, but they were incidental. Finally, I found one Fairburn on the third day, four on the fourth day and raked in an astonishing eleven on the last day. Most of these were pretty small, but seven were good examples. Since I was covering the same territory day after day, I wondered why I had found more as I went along? You'd think the agates would be scattered randomly across the fields and I'd be able to find the same number per day.

It reminded me of the time I took a friend along a gully in Colorado so we could collect some petrified wood. In among the stream-tossed rocks were pieces of petrified wood. I didn't even have to bend down to see them -- I just dug them out of the dirt with my boot. My friend, however, craned his neck and got down on his hands and knees and still couldn't find any wood. I'd point out examples and he'd try to look for similar pieces, but he didn't have any success. He just could not see them!

Recently I read an article by a scientist who was visiting one of the ancient hominid sites in Africa. Folks were walking around through the brush, picking out hominid bones from several yards away. The scientist couldn't see them. Even when hominid bones were pointed out to him, he could

not distinguish them from the rocks. Instead he started finding fossil snails. Snails were his specialty and he saw them lying all over the place. None of the paleontologists on the scene had ever noticed these snails before-- they hadn't seen them.

So the point seems to be: sometimes you can be looking right at something and not really see it. Your brain fails to distinguish the gold from the glitz. The information is all there, but it takes time for your eyes and mind to process the information correctly.

I doubt there's any way to learn this except by doing it-- looking, looking, looking. Sure, you can always stumble across that lucky find, but consistent results, time after time, depend on the long hours of practice spent in looking. After a while, you can look at a field of agates (or whatever) and see what you're looking for (it was there all the time.)

Some finds come through simple perseverance, you keep turning over tons of that black gritty stuff until you see the shine of crystal. Other times, you're essentially sorting through material that may look quite similar to the prize you are looking for. Here is where perseverance is not enough. You also need to have trained your eyes and brain to recognize what you are seeing. Familiarize yourself with rough examples at rock shops and museums; study what they will look like as you encounter them in the field. Buy a few examples and look at them regularly.

Sometimes I hear about somebody returning from a site with the complaint, "I couldn't find anything there. It's all worked out." I wonder?!

HINT Fluorescent display labels can be read in the dark by using ink made by mixing quinine and water. It glows a bright blue under the black light.

MWF Newsletter 5/96 via Strata Gems

CLUB CALENDAR

- May 23 Banquet. Okemos Masonic Hall. 2175 Hamilton Rd. Social hour 5:30.
Dinner at 6:30. Speaker: Dr. Kazuya Fujita, geology of Russia
- June 1 Field trip- Bayport Quarry. Be there 10:00 sharp.
- June 6 Board meeting, 7:30. Meridian Twp. Service Center.
- June 20 Regular meeting, 7:30. Meridian Twp. Service Center.
- June 21-23 Field trip- Bloomington IN swap & geode collecting.

SHOW CALENDAR

- May 17-19 Dearborn Show. Dearborn Civic Center, Michigan & Greenfield.
Fri. 5-9, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 11-5:30
- June 1-2 State Line Swap. Fulton Co. Fairgrounds, Wauseon Ohio, Ohio Rt. 108 just
North of the Ohio Turnpike. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4
- June 21-23 Bloomington Show & Swap, Bloomington IN
- June 29-30 MGAGS Rockhound Seminar, Alpena Community College.
- July 19-21 Sudbury Gem & Mineral Show, Sudbury Ontario
- July 26-28 Geodeland Earth Science Clubs & MWF Show & Convention,
Macomb IL
- Aug. 3-5 Ishpeming Swap/Field Trips. Ely Twp. Hall, US 41, Ishpeming. Swap Sat. 9-5.
Register for Sun. field trip at swap.
- Aug. 5-9 Red Metal Retreat
- Aug. 9-10 Copper Country Show. Student Development Complex, MTU, Houghton
Fri. 10-8, Sat. 10-6
- Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Michiana Show. Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St. South Bend IN
Fri. 2-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5
- Sept. 6-8 Muskegon Show. Doo Drop Inn, 2410 Henry St., Muskegon.
Fri. 6-9, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5

Sept. 6-8 Toledo Show. Strananhan Theater, Masonic Complex, 4645
Heatherdowns Blvd. Fri. 4-9, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 10-5

Sept. 21-22 Livingston Show. Hartland High School, 9525 Highland Rd, Hartland MI
Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5