



## **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	Sofia Kauma	
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	

### **PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**ATTENTION! THERE IS NO MAY MEETING. THE BANQUET IS ONE WEEK LATER THAN USUAL, MAY 27. EVEN IF YOU DON'T ATTEND THE BANQUET, YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME FOR THE SPEAKER.**

**\*\*Wrapped door prizes are still needed -- please bring donations with you to the banquet.\*\***

#### **BOARD BRIEFS:**

**DISPLAY CASES--** Are there folks out there who would be willing display at shows if you had a case? Would you be willing to pay for the materials to make one? Is there anyone out there who has a case they would like to sell?

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our MSU scholarship winner: Andria L. Mallernee.

**WELCOME** to our newest member: Brenda Freeman, 1805 Alpha St., Lansing MI 48910; phone 371-4576. Her interests are archaeology and mineralogy.

**SCHOOL VISITS:** Rich & Lila visited the Sunfield school on April 28 talking to two classes of third graders about the rocks and minerals of Michigan. We also showed them some of our pretty ones from other places.

#### **A NOTE FROM FLORENCE HILL:**

It is a long way to show time yet, but it's already time to say thank you to some people who have been doing their bit already. Thanks to John Takis for rounding up hundreds of nice clean egg cartons. Thanks to Wilma Hopkins and Mildred Kitley for a great job of sticking covers and labels on those aforementioned egg cartons. All told we have over 600 ready for Rich & Lila to use.

It takes an awful lot of little pieces of rock to fill all the cartons they put together-- thousands, literally. We count on all of you to help. If you have some styrofoam egg cartons saved don't throw them away. Bring them to Roger. They are always needed for holding critters, and all sorts of small stuff.

#### **SHOW REQUEST**

We have been given lots of 2x2, and 3x3 plastic display boxes. If you have any specimens that could go in these boxes for our show, please get them to Rich & Lila Stevens.

Rich & Lila also still need lots of small specimens for the egg cartons, large & small amounts, we will work them in.

#### **APRIL FIELD TRIP TO DUFF QUARRY** -- George Heaton

We had 12 people show up for our field trip to Duff Quarry near Huntsville Ohio on Saturday, April 17. Except for some slight dampness kept us from becoming dehydrated and with clouds we didn't have need for sunglasses or sunscreen, although we did get some sunshine later in the day. Even though there were no fresh blasts and the blast piles were old, the collecting was pretty good and most of us found a few good specimens. Even George Heaton found a few decent pyrites. Joe and Sandy Senkeresty found the most and best specimens I saw collected that day. Sandi seems to have super eyeballs for finding pyrite.

#### **IN MEMORY...**

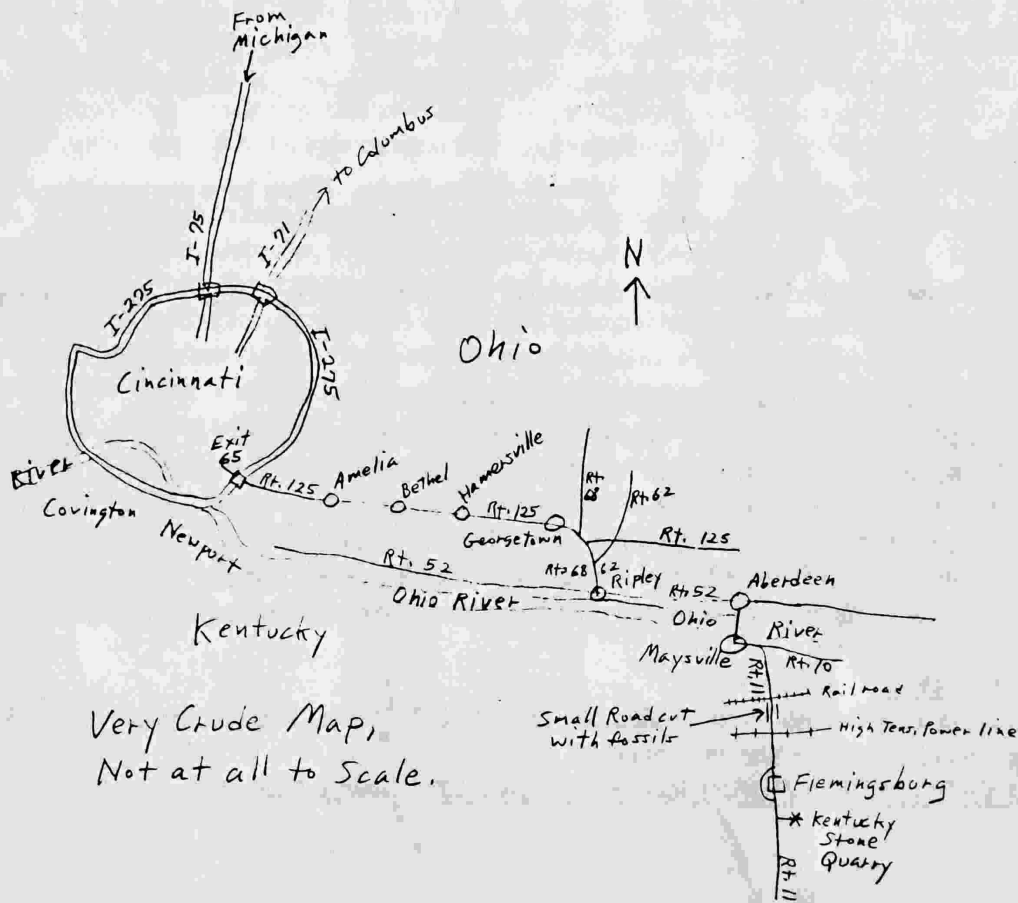
Ethel Gasche, Charter and Lifetime Member, died April 7, 1999 at home at the age of 92. She enjoyed crafting items from stones she had collected.

**FIELD TRIP -- FLEMINGSBURG, KY -- MAY 22** -- George Heaton

For our May field trip we have permission to visit the Kentucky Stone Co. quarry near Flemingsburg Kentucky on Saturday, May 22. This quarry only allows collecting on Saturday mornings from 7:30 am - 11:30 am. This means most of us will need to travel Friday afternoon and spend Friday night somewhere close enough to Flemingsburg, Kentucky. All visitors must have hard hat, hard toed boots, safety glasses or goggles, etc. The usual tools are needed such as cold chisels and 2-3 lb. crack hammers. Heavier hammers and pry bars are also useful, and don't forget boxes and wrapping paper for specimens. This quarry is for the calcite collectors like myself. The calcite here is usually clear, lustrous, rhombohedrons, sometimes sprinkled with small pyrite or marcasite crystals. Barite may also be found as clear, colorless blades. On Saturday afternoon we can stop at a small road cut about 5 miles south of Maysville Kentucky to collect the large ordovician brachiopod, Platystrophia ponderosa, also bryozoa and cephalopods.

To get to the Kentucky Stone Co. Quarry take I-75 south in Ohio to I-275 at Cincinnati. Go east and south on I-275 to the exit for Rt. 125 east (Exit 65.) Go east on Rt. 125 to Rt. 68. Go south on Rt. 68 to Rt. 52 at Ripley. Go east on Rt. 52 along the Ohio River to Aberdeen. Here you will cross the river to Maysville KY where you will make a left turn and pick up Rt. 11. Take Rt. 11 South to Flemingsburg. There is a Rt. 11 bypass around Flemingsburg if you do not wish to go through town. The quarry is on Rt. 11 about 2 miles south of Flemingsburg, on the left. Watch for the Kentucky Stone Co. sign and a small gravel road on the left leading to the quarry. It is possible the sign may have been changed to Hanson Aggregates which now owns the quarry.

We will meet at the quarry office BEFORE 7:30 am on Saturday, May 22 to sign release forms and ENTER the quarry at 7:30 am. There should be motels in Aberdeen, Maysville, and Flemingsburg.



Very Crude Map,  
Not at all to Scale.

1/6 MEM-B Pal.

**Notes from the Education Chair** -- Duane Jorgenson

It wasn't a dark and stormy night, but an essential decision needed to be made, as it was April 15, and the dreaded IRS taxman was lurking in the shadows of many minds. Shall I go to the meeting of the C.M.L.&M.S., or attend Science Night at the Maplewood Elementary School. Fortunately, my tax stuff had been sent in earlier. That was just a diversion. Duty called, and I answered the call, headed off to the Maplewood School with a box of pickemup and feely rocks. Fortunately, the box contained a few rounded rocks of various types, which were put into a pan of water with a sign behind it, which read, "How many of these rocks contain fossils?"

Out of the attendance of 150 or so kiddies, probably 10% or so were able to pick out all the fossiliferous ones, and a few parents were able to do so to, REMARKABLE!! With a bit of good fortune, some of them may even show up at a Club meeting. A kind letter of appreciation has been received from Ms. Madeline Shanahan, the school principal. Until next time, as I have learned to say in "Easy Chinese", "Ha pei hun ting rocks".

**Mineral of the Month of May** -- D. Jorgensen

The mineral of the month for May really isn't a mineral at all, but a short, short course about how to keep from saying "Oops, guess that's what they told me it was, but obviously isn't." In the past brief span of 40+ years of looking at minerals, numerous misidentified minerals have been observed. A few recent examples were amethystine quartz called fluorite; a selenite lined geode that didn't have any selenite in it, the lining mineral was quartz; and some "apatite" collected by a well known nameless mineral collector that was really calcite in trigonal crystals. Long ago my first geology professor, C.E.Kemp, told the story of when he was navigator, flying over the "Hump" in WWII. On one journey to Burma, he related going to the local market and seeing "diamonds" at a reasonable price, whereupon he pulled out something hard enough to see if the "diamonds" were real. The vendor immediately cried out "Please don't scratch my diamonds". As Prof. Kemp said, "It was very expensive bottle glass". Other than obvious fraud, sometimes our wishing to find something rare clouds our vision so much, we don't want to believe this beautiful, odd stuff we've found is not a rare mineral at all as in the case of the "apatite" above.

The whole point of the above is to help the diligent reader to remember that minerals are generally identified by their physical characteristics, to-wit: Hardness, remember Moh's scale? Specific Gravity, you could easily determine that some fine Iranian silverwork that was available several years ago was really former aluminum cans just by the low specific gravity. Color is probably not the best aid to identification, but if its green it can't be amethyst. Luster is difficult for many folks to understand, however each mineral has its own characteristic luster. Cleavage, or the ability of minerals to break along well defined molecular planes. Fluorite has an excellent octahedral cleavage, and is scratched with a knife, and in the misidentification referred to above, it was fairly obvious the owner either didn't know the characteristics of fluorite and amethyst, or maybe didn't care or wasn't curious enough. In the great scheme of things, misidentifications are easily obtained just by ignoring or not knowing some of the basic mineral properties. In summary, mineral identification is similar to the medical profession, it never hurts to get a second or third or fourth opinion.

EMERALD

WHAT IF.....

you found, deep in the heart of Mexico, a plaza with two halls of justice - one, a "tribunal of God" with a throne of pure gold encrusted with precious stones, and on a stool in front of it a human skull crowned with precious gems and topped with a huge emerald?

This is what the astonished Spanish invaders of Mexico found when they entered the royal palace of Tezcucó, as well as a canopy and a tapestry festooned with precious jewels.

But long before the Spanish invasion, the emerald was known to man. The oldest papyrus in the world, Papyrus Prisse, is housed in the National Library in Paris and contains this writing: "But good words are more difficult to find than the emerald, for it is by slaves that it is discovered among the rocks".

Throughout history man has been known to be devoted to the accumulating of precious gems, especially persons of great wealth, rulers and would-be rulers and those wielding religious or political power. They adorned their clothing, accessories and possessions surrounding them.

Aaron's breastplate contained the stone known by the Greeks as smarados and by the King James Version of the Bible as carbuncle, but in modern times was thought to be emerald. Cleopatra owned mines rich in emeralds and many Egyptian scarabs and beads found in ancient tombs and art museums were cut from ~~lovely~~ emeralds.

Shah Jehan, a Mogul ruler, ordered the famous Peacock Throne built which was so named because of two peacocks standing behind it with tails spread and inlaid with many precious stones, including emeralds. Also the canopy above the throne contained crosses adorned with 116 large emeralds and 108 rubies.

The Persian Fath Ali Shah's accessories included emeralds; China's Manchu Emperor Yung-lo's belt contained emeralds and other jewels; King John of England wore an emerald ring given to him by Pope Innocent III; The English Imperial State Crown is set with faceted emeralds among other gems; the earlier crown of the Holy Roman Empire worn by Rudolph II was set with cabochons of gems mounted in gold, among them cushion-cut emeralds; Rudolph's enemy, Istvan Bocskoy, Prince of Transylvania, had a crown topped with an acorn-shaped emerald as well as others embedded within the crown, along with other gems cut as cabochons set in gold mounts.

Ranjit Singh, Maharajah of Punjab, had a strand of 70 emerald prayer beads. In India, Krishna's city had pillars of emeralds and the Kalpa Tree contained shoots of emeralds.

In 1746, the Throne of Shah Ismail, inset with many gems, among them emeralds, was sent to Turkey's Sultan Mahmud I by Nadir Shah to curry his favor. In 1747, Sultan Mahmud I sent to Nadir Shah, the conqueror of Delhi, a dagger decorated with emeralds, one, bead-shaped, tipped the dagger's sheath.

In St. Mark's in Venice is an altarpiece adorned with many precious gems, and in 1796 an inventory of these gems revealed 300 emeralds.

One of the largest single emerald crystals known belonged to the Duke of Devonshire. It was a nearly regular hexagon, approx. 2 inches in diameter and length, weighed 1347 carats, of good color but flawed. The finest cut emerald belonged to the late Czar of Russia and weighed about 30 carats.

The most famous emerald of antiquity is the one which Nero was said to have used to watch gladiatorial contests. However, this story is most likely untrue.

Since man learned to cut and polish the many precious and semi-precious gems, he had been fascinated by and used them for adornment of his personage, as religious symbols, as medicines, as an investment and as birthstones. The deep grass-green or velvety green beryl, the beautiful emerald, is the birthstone for May and is prized by all who possess it.

Bettie Patterson

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY TREASURER'S REPORT APRIL 1, 1999 - APRIL 30, 1999	BALANCE ON HAND(04-01-99) CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99) COMERICA BANK SAVINGS COMERICA BANK CHECKING TOTAL	RECEIPTS: 1999 SHOW DEALER DEPOSITS TRANSFER SAVINGS TO CHECKING INTEREST(SAVINGS) DUES TOTAL	DISBURSEMENTS: MSJ SCHOLARSHIP PUBLICATIONS 1999 SHOW TRANSFER SAVINGS TO CHECKING CORRESPONDING SECRETARY TOTAL	BALANCE ON HAND(04-30-99) CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99) COMERICA BANK SAVINGS COMERICA BANK CHECKING TOTAL	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  ALAN HUKILL, TREASURER
	\$11109.36 10046.34 1039.42 \$22195.12	750.00 1000.00 37.86 29.00 1816.86	2000.00 139.54 39.53 1000.00 13.20 3192.27	\$11109.36 9384.20 326.15 \$20819.71	

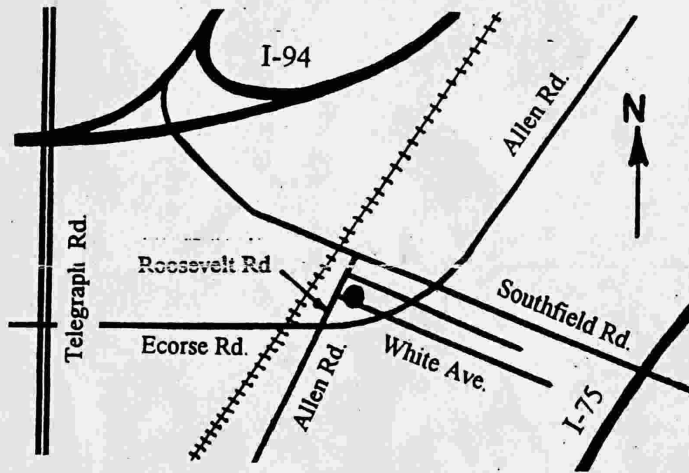
**CLUB CALENDAR**

- May 22 Field Trip, Flemingsburg KY, 7:30 am
- May 27 Club Banquet, Okemos Masonic Temple. Social Hour 5:30, Dinner 6:30  
GET YOUR TICKETS BY MAY 21 FROM ED DROWN 347-5097
- June 3 Board Meeting, Meridian TOWNSHIP Hall
- June 17 Regular Meeting, Meridian SERVICE Center
- July 24 Picnic at Rich and Lila Steven's House
- July 31 Critter Making Party & Bag Filling Contest at Roger & Lee Laylin's House 9:00 to 3:00
- Oct. Our Show "A Century of Gems"

**SHOW CALENDAR**

- 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 See Dave & Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski for more info.

Dearborn Show →



← New Location

\*\*\*\*\*CUT HERE & MAIL\*\*\*\*\*

**BANQUET TICKETS**

Adults: \$7.50

Children 12 & under: #3.50

Checks or Money Order Payable to: CML&MS

Guests who will be attending:

\_\_\_\_\_ Check one  
 Adult \_\_\_ Child \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_ Child \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_ Child \_\_\_

Send to: Ed Drown  
 1825 Nemoke Trail #6  
 Haslett MI 48840  
 347-5097

**MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 21!**

Your phone # so I can confirm receiving your check: \_\_\_\_\_