

**NEXT MEETING: June 20, Meridian Twp. Service Center**

Take Okemos Rd. North of Grand River, Turn East onto Gaylord Smith Ct.

The service center is close to the road.

**Mineral of the Month: Diopside**

**PROGRAM: "Memorable Field Trips" club members**

**Share stories of your favorite field trips. Get some new ideas of places to go.**

**Some real some far fetched.**

**REFRESHMENTS: R-Z please bring goodies.**

**June 21-23 Field Trip, Bloomington IN--** George Heaton

The June field trip will include the Bedford Rock Swap, now held at the Monroe Co. 4-H Fairgrounds in Bloomington, Indiana and geode collecting at the road cut at Harrodsburg, Indiana exit on Rt. 37, June 21-23.

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. To get to the rock swap at the 4-H 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 Rd. to the Fairgrounds.

For further details consult the May Rockhound News.

**July and August Field Trips?** – George Heaton

As of the June board meeting I still do not have anything scheduled for July or August. If I do find something it would probably be scheduled for the Saturdays of July 20 and August 24. If you are interested you may wish to contact me near these dates to see if I was able to arrange anything. My phone number is 517-339-8914.

I tried to arrange a visit to Davon's Plum Run Quarry near Peebles Ohio but was told Davon is no longer allowing visits to their quarries. I also called Michigan Natural Storage and was told they would not be allowing any visits this year due to their construction. I will keep trying to find something. We may need to make a return visit to Duff Quarry or Bluffton if we are going to have anything this summer.

### **September Field Trip** – George Heaton

For September, I have decided to have a field trip to Flint Ridge Ohio during Labor Day weekend August 31 - September 2. This is a trip that should appeal to both the mineral and lapidary people since the flint beds often contain vugs lined with quartz crystals and sometimes have barite and calcite crystals. The Flint Ridge flint is well known for its lapidary qualities and is the state gem of Ohio. I have chosen Labor Day weekend for this trip because the Flint Ridge Lithographic Society is sponsoring a large flint knapping show at the Flint Ridge Park and Museum. This event attracts master flint knappers from all over the country who will be demonstrating their ancient art of making flint arrow and spear points and other tools. Admission to the flint knapping event at the park is \$5.00 per vehicle and museum admission is included. The hours for this event are 10am-5pm on Sept. 1-2.

The flint collecting will take place at the John Nethers Farm. Collecting is not allowed at the park and this is the only private property that now allows flint collecting, but this is one that has always been known for the high quality of their flint. They charge a \$2.00 collecting fee that entitles one to collect 20 lbs. Anything over 20 lbs is an extra 25 cents per pound. The Nethers farmhouse is a white two story at 3680 Flint Ridge Rd. (Muskingum Co. Highway 8). The collecting is in the woods across the road from the house with parking space for several cars near some of the digging pits. If no one is home you may go ahead and collect. There is a scales to weigh your stuff on the side porch and some envelopes to deposit your money in the door and written instructions explaining all this. Equipment you may need includes shovels, trowel, hammers, chisels, pry bars, gloves, towels, buckets, and water and brushes for washing to check your material.

I am not planning any special meeting times or places to meet. I will leave that up to individual preference. Some may wish to spend most or all their time digging flint while others may wish to spend part or most of their time visiting the museum and flint knapping show. I will let people choose to do as they please.

There should be motels available in Newark and Zanesville. Both cities are within 15-20 miles of Flint Ridge State Memorial Park. I believe I saw a private campground a short distance east of the park on Flint Ridge Rd. and some of my old maps indicate another campground on Rt. 40 near the intersection of Rt. 40 and Country Line Rd.

To get to Flint Ridge take Rt. 23 South from Michigan to I-75 south of Toledo Ohio. Take I-75 south to Rt. 15 east near the south end of Findlay. Take Rt. 15 east and south, which becomes Rt. 23 near Carey Ohio. Continue on Rt. 23 to I-270 at Columbus Ohio. Take I-270 east and south around Columbus to I-70. Go east on I-70 about 32 miles to exit 141 where you will take Licking Co. Rt. 668 (Brownsville Rd.) north to Brownsville where Rt. 668 takes a short jog to the left on Rt. 40 one block, then turns to the right and continues north again to the Flint Ridge Memorial Park and Museum on the right at the intersection of Rt. 668 and Flint Ridge Rd.

To get to the John Nethers Farm from the Flint Ridge Park I suggest you rely on the map printed in our club's Rockhound News since it would take too many words and too much space to give both written directions and the map.

### **Children's Table Work Party & Pot luck** – George Heaton

On **Saturday, September 21** we will have a children's table work party and pot-luck at Grit and Alice Turner's garage where our club's children's table stuff is stored at **2667 Pine Tree Rd.** Please come and help and bring food and eating tools for the pot-luck lunch. Work will **begin between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.** I plan to be there about 9:00 a.m. Lots of work needs to be done to prepare material for our October show. A significant part of our show income is derived from our children's table. **We need help and donations of material.** Please mark this on your calendar and come to help.

### **Field Trip to Flemingsburg Kentucky** -- George Heaton

We had only 5 people show up for our visit to the Hanson Aggregates Quarry at Flemingsburg Kentucky on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. This included four from the Lansing Michigan Club and two Friends of Mineralogy members. George Heaton counted for both Lansing and F.O.M. The quarry manager who would normally lead us into the quarry and show us where we would be allowed to collect had taken the day off so we asked if we could go to the area of the old quarry where the quarry management had taken us last year and where we had found very good collecting. They then gave us directions in how to get there. This part of the old pit is now filled with a small lake, but the upper rock layers containing the mineral filled vugs are exposed around the lake shore.

We had only collected there about an hour and a half when two men showed up claiming that one of them was the land owner and that they thought we were fishing. We explained that we thought it was quarry property because the quarry people had taken us here last year to collect, and the quarry had a pump house at the site. The property owner was afraid of liability and still did not want us collecting there, but the other man said he would take us to his part of the property and we could collect there. The rock in this man's part of the property seemed to have very few vugs and the collecting was very poor. A few nice specimens were found in the first location. As usual the weather was good and we did not get rain until it was time to leave.

### **2002 Banquet** – Connie Snepp

It was a pleasure to chair this year's banquet because everyone else did the work! Ed Drown began helping early on by being my "Computer Guy" doing tickets, letters, certificates, etc. Wayne Zittel took over the ticket sales starting a couple of months early and continued through taking tickets at the door along with Gail Hopkins. Mary Kay and Lindsey Bean volunteered to do the appetizer table and it has never looked more attractive with such a wide variety of food. Thanks to all who brought additions to the fare.

Jean Ann, already swamped with her regular duties, took on the table decorations and programs. Roger Laylin did a superb job of passing out the door prizes (thank you to those who brought gifts to add to those the club purchased), and Lee Laylin and Mary Crosby brought beautiful flowers. Since you can't keep Grit and Alice Turner from welcoming people, they were our greeters, and Grit made sure we had some displays. Many thanks to those who took the time and energy to transport and set up such interesting displays.

We had many visitors and it was wonderful to see Florence Hill in attendance. I had a great time. Hope you did, too.

### **A Note from our MSU Scholarship Winner:**

Thank you for the scholarship you awarded me this spring. It will be very helpful in the fall semester at MSU. Thank you for inviting me and my family to your annual banquet. We enjoyed meeting you, and I look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Sincerely,

Laura Swafford

**Corresponding Secretary Report** – Mary Gowans

Get well cards were sent to Barb Smith and Florence Hill. Florence was in the hospital but has returned home.

Sympathy cards were sent to Sandi Hukill on the death of her mother; the family of Scott Taylor; and, the Aves family. Scott, a life member, passed away on May 29. Dave Gibbs remembers Mr. Aves being very helpful when shows were held at the Michigan Street Armory years ago.

A thank you letter was sent to Keith Hayes in acknowledgement of his generous donation of mineral specimens to our club. Some specimens were used for banquet centerpieces, the remainder will be divided up between the children's table and silent auction.

**Places to go, things to do:**

June 20 Friends of Mineralogy Midwest Chapter Mineral Symposium. Indiana University,

Bloomington IN. For info: Nelson Shaffer 812-855-2687 or shaffern@indiana.edu

June 21-23 Bedford/Bloomington Show & Swap. Fri. 10-7; Sat. 8-7; Sun 8-4. Monroe Cty.

4-H Fairgrounds, Bloomington IN

June 22 Lapidary Auction. Boone Co. Fairgrounds, 8791 Rt. 76, Belvidere IL 9am Machines, tools, minerals & crystals, rough, finished jewelry.

June 29-30 MGAGS Rockhound Seminar. Roscommon Middle School. For info contact

Katy Brown 734-421-8159

Aug. 2-4 Ishpeming field trips & swap. NEW LOCATION for swap on Saturday 9:30-4:30: Ishpeming Elks Club Hall, 597 Lake Shore Drive, Ishpeming MI. For info contact: Ernest Johnson 906-228-9422 or ejohnson@nmu.edu. Fri. field trip meet 9am K-Mart parking lot, Marquette. Sunday trip to Lindberg Quarry must sign up at the show on Saturday \$2.00 per person.

Aug. 4-11 "Keweenaw Week" Copper Country Club. Field trips, speakers, swap, show. For

info: Steve Whelan (906)337-2599, swhelan@up.net or www.ccrmc.info

August 16-18 Midwest Faceters Guild Seminar. Mott Community College, Flint MI. Class size

limited, register early. Contact Harold "Arizona" Rice (810) 463-5972 [azrice@wwdb.org](mailto:azrice@wwdb.org)

Sept. 6-8 Toledo Show. Stranahan Theater Complex, 4645 Heatherdowns Ave, Toledo OH.

Fri. 4-9, Sat. 10-8, Sun. 10-5. For more info: <http://toledogem.homestead.com>.

Sept. 13-15 Tulip City Show. Holland Civic Center.

Sept. 21-22 Geology Art Fair. Eddy Geology Center, 10730 Bush Rd. Chelsea MI.