

# Rockhound News

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 17, 2010: 7:00 pm**

**Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing**

**Prepare for Summer Fieldwork and Learn About the Science Center**

**Location & Time: Impression 5 Science Center, Newton Room, 7 – 9 pm [Note Time].**

**VP Richard Lassin: *Property Rights and Collecting Etiquette.***

**Museum Drive is south off Michigan Ave. opposite the Lansing Center; see map, page 2.**

**The 2010 CMLMS Directory was included as part of the May newsletter.**

**All CMLMS members received a mailed copy. KEEP the MAY NEWSLETTER!!!**

## CMLMS Calendar for September 2010 [No Meetings in July & August]

Thursday, September 2, 2010

Board Meeting-7:00 pm at the Okemos Library

Thursday, September 16, 2010

CMLMS meeting 7:30 pm, North School, Lansing.

The September program will be a DVD on *Faces of Earth*, plus Show & Tell. Bring all the great stuff you found over the summer – and be prepared to talk about it!

## Club News

- **Past President Milt Gere** arranged a Saturday (June 5) trip to the Crandell Brothers' Gravel Pit in Charlotte. About 25 CMLMS members collected little rocks for the Pebble Pond and BIG rocks for the yard. No one was run over by the gravel trucks and everyone admired the drycanter.
- **David Westjohn** is planning a day trip to the Blue Ridge Esker near I-127 south of Jackson on the last weekend in June to look for fossils. Call Dave for more information at 517-703-6219.
- **Field Trip Chair Dan Sine** has arranged a field trip to the **LaFarge Quarry in Alpena, MI, on Saturday, June 19. Alpena is a 4-hour drive from Lansing. Call Dan for motel information.**
- CMLMS members participating in the field trip will **meet at 9:45 am** at the LaFarge Quarry "Operations Center" parking lot at 1435 Ford Avenue, at the northeastern edge of town, on the bay.
- Everyone will sign in and meet our host Don Oliver, who will give us a safety briefing and then guide the vehicles down into the quarry. Hard hats, hard-toed boots, and safety glasses are **REQUIRED**.
- This very large Devonian era quarry has marine fossils (Petoskey corals, horn corals, favosites coral, brachiopods, crinoids & stems, and occasional trilobites).
- Bring collecting tools, buckets, and stuff for wrapping specimens. Also bring **WATER, SNACKS, SUNSCREEN, FIRST-AID KIT, and BUG REPELLANT.**
- **Contact Dan at 517-381-0805 (cell) or 517-749-0414 or [daniel.sine@opm.gov](mailto:daniel.sine@opm.gov).**
- July 17, Dan is planning an overnight trip to the Paulding Quarry and the Duff Quarry in Ohio. If you are interested in any of these trips, please call or email Dan (see numbers and email address above).
- July 25, Dan recommends the Mine/Quarry safety training session in Parchment, Michigan – east of Kalamazoo. This MSHA training costs \$20 (training & certificate). Call Dan for more information.

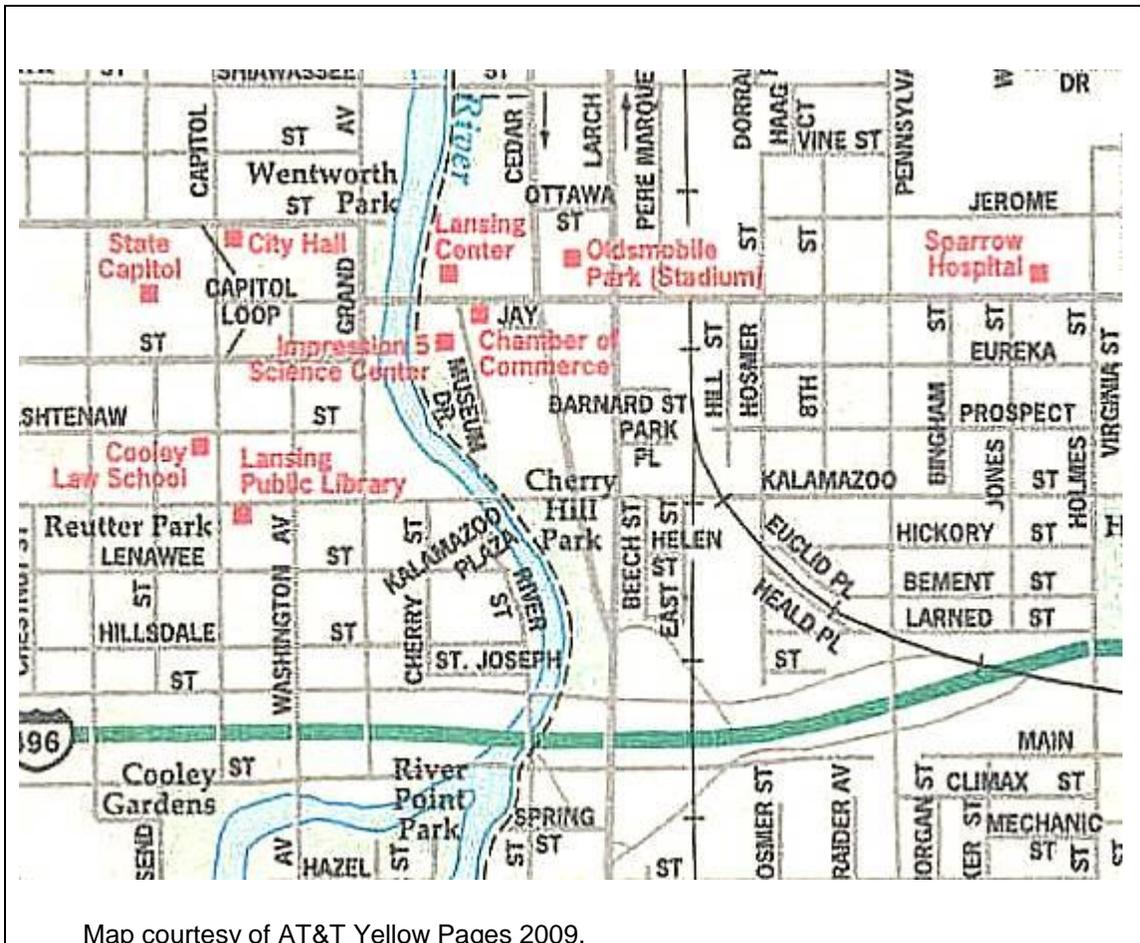
**Work Bee at Laylins' Backyard in July or August on a date to be determined.** We'll send out an email notice. If you have questions, please email Roger at [TandLLaylin@broadstripe.net](mailto:TandLLaylin@broadstripe.net) or call 517-349-3249.

- **The CMLMS Annual Banquet was held on May 20 at the Masonic Hall in Okemos. Thanks to the Board and CMLMS members:** Roni Sionakides, Kris Wood, Mary Gowans, Lyle Laylin, Marie Lewis, Lee Laylin, Sue Casler, Elaine Angstman, Elaine Beane, and all the members who helped! A program titled *The Life of Douglass Houghton, Michigan's Geologist* was presented by Steve Leyto, Author and Historian.
- **Membership Chair Elaine Angstman** has filed a claim in New Mexico on a site containing beautiful blue opal. She brought pieces of this great stone to the Banquet for viewing. Contact Elaine for more information at 517-282-9775 [and write this number in your CMLMS Directory to replace the incorrect one listed!]. Elaine and Sue Casler are going on a rock collecting trip to Brazil in October and will bring back great items for the Show.

- CMLMS has received information from **Jan Dassance, daughter of Howard and Margaret Randolph**. Since her parents are no longer active in rock hounding, Jan is putting together a sale of their rock specimens, faceting machine, tumbler, and other supplies and equipment. If you are interested, call Jan at 517-647-4503.
- **Web Master Lyle Laylin** reports that the CMLMS website won the Mid-West Federation contest for best club website, and now moves on to the national competition as a strong contender. Check the member pages of [www.michrocks.org](http://www.michrocks.org) for a link to the site maintained by a CMU Professor Emeritus, who catalogues Michigan buildings made of glacial fieldstone, as well as hundreds of varieties of granite.

Check the MWF News at [www.amfed.org/mwf](http://www.amfed.org/mwf) for shows & sales.

**Impression 5 Science Center: South of Lansing Center between Grand Ave. and Cedar. Find Lansing Center, look South (off Michigan Ave.) for Museum Dr. -- Science Center is at 200 Museum Dr., parking near Museum.**



Map courtesy of AT&T Yellow Pages 2009.

### Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society, Board Meeting, May 6, 2010

**President:** Roni Sionakides called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm at the Okemos Public Library.

**Board Members Present:** Elaine Angstman, Ernie Aughenbaugh, Elaine Beane, Sue Casler, Milt Gere, Mary Gowans, Mary Anne Smith, Alan Hukill, Rich Lassin, Lyle Laylin, Roger Laylin, Gordon Lewis, Jennifer Martin, Bob Mosher, Roni Sionakides, David Westjohn and Kris Wood. [Absent: Kara Miller and Dan Sine] Also attending, Neil Snapp.

**Vice President:** Rich Lassin – Program Review: May 20<sup>th</sup> – Banquet. Speaker will be author Steve Lehto, author of the new Douglass Houghton book. Roger Laylin has found space for the June 17 meeting at the Impression 5 Science Center (the North School will be closed). Rich will speak on Property Rights & Collecting Etiquette.

**Recording Secretary:** Sue Casler was absent for the April Board Meeting. Minutes were taken by Elaine Beane and will be printed in the newsletter when there is time and space.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Mary Anne Smith – No report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kris Wood - reviewed receipts and disbursements for April 2010.

**Directors:** 1-YR, Bob Mosher reported on contact with Dave Lowry of Wayne State University, who may serve as mineral identification expert at club show in October; also recommended Dry Dredgers website.

2-YR, Mary Gowans – small zip lock bags available to club members if needed.

3-YR, Dave Westjohn – 1) Dave will be giving a talk on Aug. 8 in Bellevue on the Methodist Church (famous architects/stone buildings) for the Bellevue Historical Society; 2) Dave will be setting up a display (will be in the large glass display window) at the Capital Area District Library – Downtown Lansing, potential topic “rocks produced by violent/explosive geologic activities such as volcanoes/earthquakes/faults”.

**Roster Secretary:** Ernie Aughenbaugh – No report.

**Membership:** Elaine Angstman – New member applications for Phillip Smith; and the Hoppe Family – Robert & Darlene and Shannon were presented for board action. **Alan Hukill moved to accept the new member applications; seconded by Elaine Beane. Motion approved. Welcome to new members.**

**Field Trips:** Dan Sine (Absent). Neil Snapp reported that July 17 (Sat.) a field trip is scheduled to the LaFarge quarry in Paulding (Ohio) in the AM and to Duff Quarry (Huntsville, Ohio) in the afternoon. Lyle Laylin reported that June 19<sup>th</sup> a field trip is scheduled for the LaFarge Quarry in Alpena.

**Publications:** Elaine Beane – “Directory” project. Keep May newsletter, will be your Directory for 2010.

**Library:** Roger Laylin – the Library is at Laylin’s barn for the summer.

**Show:** Roger Laylin – There will be a picnic/work party in July or August. Ernie A. – dealer report.

**Old Business:** Banquet: we need to have a final count of folks by May 14 (Friday before the banquet on the 20<sup>th</sup>).

Roni S. will call the banquet hall with the final count.

#### **New Business:**

\*Rock of Authority plaque needs to be engraved.

\*Reimbursement of travel for display set-up or convention – how much do we reimburse? **Motion made by Elaine Beane to pay Federal rate, presently \$0.50 per mile, for display setup; seconded by Lyle Laylin. Motion approved.**

\*Neil Snapp asked if the club would handle the hospitality for the MGAGS seminar, June 12-13 in Webberville.

\*Need two interested folks from the club to be delegates for the Midwest Federation meeting; expenses paid for (2), 1 delegate and 1 alternate. The meeting will be held in Peoria, IL on August 27, 28, 29, 2010.

\*Lyle Laylin – potential “scholarship” opportunity for CMLMS is the Impression 5 Science Center, summer science camps. The club could sponsor one or more kids to attend the science camp.

\*Elaine A. is planning a trip to Brazil in the fall for rock/mineral collecting and asked the Board if she could have an extension of funds on the silent auction budget to purchase minerals for the club. This item will be re-visited at the next board meeting due to time.

Elaine Beane moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Gowans. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Casler, Recording Secretary

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## **Blindness**

Yet Another Cautionary Tale by CMLMS Member

**Marvin Oesterle**

I say, “Honey, we are out of butter.”

She says, “No, try the third shelf.”

I reply, “Nope, you must have forgotten to buy some.”

She shuffles into the kitchen, opens the refrigerator and locates the butter. As she hands it to me, she mumbles, “Worst case of refrigerator blindness I have ever seen.”

And she is right! I have never worried about my refrigerator blindness because I know I can call upon her uncanny ability to locate absolutely anything in our refrigerator. For this reason, I have never asked her to find Jimmy Hoffa, particularly not in our refrigerator – or our back pasture.

I tell her that it must be her Indian blood that makes her such a good scout. She says that 1/32<sup>nd</sup> probably isn’t enough for scouting, but it’s more than enough for scalping. [Your editor, also a 1/32<sup>nd</sup>, agrees with this assessment.]

However, refrigerator blindness aside, this brings me to something that **does** bother me -- Arrowhead blindness!

Yes, it is true. I have searched and searched and in my entire life, I have found perhaps 5 or 6 arrowheads, and no artifacts. Now this might not be so bad, except it seems that Native Americans not only lived in our area, but that this was a major pathway for Native Americans seeking to trade for goods in the Lansing area from their homes around what is now Stockbridge.

I had a neighbor named Owen Smith, who was a master arrowhead finder. You would see him slowly wandering around the fields. He would stop and poke his toe at the ground; then he would bend over and pick up yet another arrowhead for his collection.

Although not one to give up his prime collecting fields, he did offer some tips. "You will find arrowheads where you have found them before." I loved that one since I had never found **any** before.

We do live near an area of muck. Muck is highly organic soil that used to be an old lake bottom. Near us, Dobie Lake is the remains of a lake that used to cover a much larger area. Muck is great for growing vegetables like onions that used to be grown in the Dobie Lake muck, and grass which is grown now as part of the Green Acres Turf Farm. A tip from Mr. Smith was to search the land as it breaks into the old lake bottom because that is where the Native Americans would hunt and sometimes camp.

This tip proved to be golden. One day, as I was hurrying across a field that fit the above description, I stumbled upon an arrowhead. I mean stumble in the literal sense. I had tripped on something (I believe it was my shadow) and there, inches from my nose was a gorgeous arrowhead. I treasured that arrowhead until I lost it. The last I saw of it, my niece was going to show it to her friends at school. Which proves the last tip from Owen Smith... "You can find 'em anywhere."

Although Mr. Smith has passed away now, you can still see his large arrowhead collection at the Smith Farm Museum located on Harper Rd. Also at the Museum, you can see some Mastodon bones which were discovered on a nearby farm.

It appears that, before Native Americans developed the ability to run casinos, they were skilled arrowhead "knappers". This skill is practiced today by some very talented craftsmen (and craftswomen). At the Jackson rock show a few years ago, a gentleman was demonstrating how to make an arrowhead. I thought that I would try my hand at it. It wasn't long before my hand was tired and **bloody** -- those shards are sharp! Contrary to what my wife might tell you, I did NOT scream like a little girl...my voice was much deeper.

Indian artifacts, other than arrowheads, also seem to be able to hide from me successfully. A neighbor brought over a couple of his finds. One was obviously a 6 inch spear head, but the other was a mystery. So I carted it over to my resident expert, Roger Laylin. He took one look at it and pronounced it a "bird stone". It was shaped like a bird and we don't know if the object was religious or simply art. [Editor: Some bird stones and pierced circular stones are throwing stick (atl-atl) weights.]

It was difficult for me but I did return the artifacts to their owner. Another farmer neighbor brought a circular artifact over to taunt me. He had taken it to some experts at MSU and they did think that it had religious significance. This farmer wouldn't even let me touch it. I think he could see the larceny in my heart.

So, if you should drive by some old lake bottom land and see a person wandering aimlessly around but with empty pockets -- that would be me. [We share your pain, Marvin. – And many thanks!]



