

**OBLIGATORY NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT--** Jean Ann

Close to 100 members and guests enjoyed themselves at our annual banquet May 23. A big thank you to Lee Olson for taking on chairmanship of the event, and to Lila Stevens and Marie Lewis for giving of their expertise and help.

Florence Hill has agreed to rejoin the board for a few months, filling in Joe Austin's position as one year director. It is good to have her back!

Please note that the JUNE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP SERVICE CENTER. It is located on Gaylord Smith Dr., which is literally a driveway to the township offices and park, heading east off of Okemos Rd, just a bit North of Grand River Ave.

While this is the last newsletter until September, there are plenty of activities planned to keep members busy and in touch: field trips, work bees, a picnic. As you do your summer collecting KEEP OUR SHOW IN MIND-- a special specimen or two for a **door prize**, interesting kerbels for the **kid's table**. Post the club calendar on your refrigerator and keep reading.....

**JUNE PROGRAM: THE CREATIONS OF DAVID OLSON, JEWELER--**Royal & Lee Olson

David Olson, adjunct professor of fine arts at the University of North Florida for the past 3 years, and professional jeweler for over 20 years will present a slide program including the jewelry, sculpture and found art he has created during his studies and career. He will give an ad-lib commentary/descriptions and answer questions from the club members. (editors note: David also happens to be Royal & Lee's son :).)

**MIDWEST FEDERATION UPDATE--** Neil Snepp

A major topic discussed at the MWF spring executive committee meeting was the financial status of the MWF-- we have a declining balance. There are several reasons for this: increased costs of supplies, postage; AFMS dues increases which have been absorbed by the MWF; and, stable income.

A cost analysis is to be presented at the MWF annual meeting-- I expect that a MWF dues increase will be proposed. Please be prepared to discuss this at the June meeting so our delegates can have some idea of the club's wishes. I will also try to answer questions then.

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED** (jawp)

Two new members were accepted at the June board meeting. Mildred Kitley enjoys lapidary and wirecraft. Mildred's non-rock interests include houseplants, wildflowers, dolls and crafts. Her address: 817 N. Clinton #427, Grand Ledge MI 48837. 627-1318

Katherine Strassburg is interested in archaeology, fossils, geology, lapidary, metalsmithing, minerals, tumbling and wirecraft. She also enjoys bird watching, wildflowers, beads and Native American lore. Her address: PO Box 80552, Lansing MI 48908-0552. 627-0499

**FIELD TRIP TO BAY PORT--** George Heaton

We had one of our largest groups ever to show up for a field trip on Saturday June 1st at the Wallace Quarry near Bay Port, Michigan. I counted at least 22 people who showed up at the quarry. Again, as usual for George Heaton arranged field trips, the weather was near perfect, being sunny and warm but not too hot.

Most of us, including even George Heaton, found some decent calcite specimens. Richard Stevens found a very pretty selenite crystal on brown calcite. Connie Snepp found a very nice coral fossil. Both Roger Laylin and George Heaton found millerite specimens.

**EQUIPMENT FOR SALE:**

Onie Seegar has sold her house and needs to sell her collection of lapidary equipment. If you have need

for SAWS, GRINDERS, TUMBLERS, STONES, SLABS or a DISPLAY CASE give her a call at 616 945-2672.

### **EDUCATION REPORT**-- Margaret Green

The subject of this month's "five minute talk" will be the mineral anhydrite, a calcium sulfate associated with halite and gypsum. As always, if you have a specimen of anhydrite in you collection, please bring it to the meeting to "show off."

THANK YOUS: To the faithful exhibitors who gave their time and effort May 14th at Murphy School. Grit kept us anchored with the Krepes cases; Royal and Lee displayed their Arkansas crystals; Larry Bourland brought his petrified log and worked with Bettie Patterson's "Record of Rocks" display. George brought the field trip posters and Florence and Ed Drown interested viewers with Michigan rocks and minerals. Neil and Connie had their excellent fossil collection laid out to talk about and I did minerals that glow in the light (fluorescent, that is.)

A large thank you, job well done to EVERYONE for all their support. I hope I have helped you serve our community to the best of our ability. See you at the Ingham County Fair-- that's our next public appearance.

The Education Committee is offering a workshop for our members who are interested in doing public demonstrations and classroom presentations. Speakers are Grit Turner, Neil Snepp and Florence Hill. For more information please call Florence 349-3554 or Margaret 882-3637.

### **JUNE FIELD TRIP, BLOOMINGTON IN, JUNE 21-23** -- 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.

This is a very large and interesting rock swap which attracts swappers from surrounding states and Ontario, Canada. Camping is allowed on the Fairgrounds and motels are located in Bloomington. The geodes from Harrodsburg are beautiful and may contain several minerals including quartz, calcite, dolomite, millerite, barite, pyrite, and sphalerite.

To collect the geodes at the Harrodsburg road cut you should have a least a 2-3 lb. crack hammer and several sharp chisels. Heavier hammers, pry bars, and more chisels of all sizes are very useful. The geodes are in limestone so it can be hard work to chisel them out and you can dull your supply of chisels very quickly.

### **FIELD TRIP- MAYBEE MI, JULY 13** -- George Heaton

A field trip to the Stoneco Quarry at Maybee Michigan is scheduled for Saturday July 13. We will meet at the quarry at **7:30 am and will be leaving the quarry PROMPTLY at NOON. DO NOT BE LATE ARRIVING OR LEAVING.** Those wishing to participate need to follow quarry rules:

1. Hard hats, steel toe boots, & safety glasses
2. Stay one car length away from quarry walls
3. 16 years minimum age
4. Hand tools only, NO POWER TOOLS
5. Sign hold-harmless agreement.

This quarry is famous for its celestite and sulfur specimens. Nice calcite specimens are also available. The usual tools for collecting in quarries are recommended. A 2-3 lb. crack hammer, chisels of various sizes, a sledge hammer if you have one, and pry bars may be useful.

For directions to the quarry please see the map printed in this newsletter. The route is too

complicated for written directions.

**POT-LUCK PICNIC AT MORRISON LAKE, AUGUST 24** -- George Heaton

There will be a pot-luck picnic hosted by Richard and Lila Stevens on Saturday, August 24 at their summer place on Morrison Lake. The picnic will begin at 1:00 pm. Bring lawn chairs, folding tables, FOOD, and, serving and eating equipment.

Directions: Take I-96 West towards Grand Rapids to the Lake Odessa exit. Go south 1/2 mile to Portland Rd., west to Jackson Rd. (about 3 miles,) south (along side of the golf course) about 1/2 mile to Elm Rd. which is a private drive in the pine trees. Follow the road around the lake until you reach 291 Elm Road.

**FIELD TRIP TO LIME CITY OHIO, AUGUST 17** -- George Heaton

The August field trip will be to the Stoneco Quarry at Lime City, Ohio on Saturday, August 17. We are allowed to collect on Saturday morning from 7:30 am to noon. This means we must meet at the quarry office before 7:30 am, and must be out of the quarry by noon. You should check in at the office as you leave so they know everyone is out of the quarry. It is about 130 miles from Lansing to Lime City, Ohio, so you should allow at least 2 1/2 hours driving time to get to the quarry.

To get to the quarry from Lansing, take I-96 east to Rt. 23. Go south on Rt. 23 to Ohio where you pick up I-475 by-pass around Toledo. You take I-475 south to where it meets I-75 and you go north on I-75 to the first exit beyond the intersection of I-475 and I-75. This is the Rt. 20 and 23 exit to Perrysburg. From here you go east about 2 miles to Lime City. The quarry entrance is on the left about one or two blocks after you cross the railroad tracks in Lime City.

The material to collect includes celestite, fluorite, dolomite, aragonite, barite, sphalerite, gypsum, galena, marcasite, pyrite and sulfur. The usual tools including hammers of various sizes and an assortment of chisels are needed. Also bring wrapping paper and boxes for specimens. You must have hart hat, hard-toed boots and safety glasses or goggles.

**GREETINGS FROM OLETA (BROCKWAY) SCORPIO, MAY 25, 1996**

Dear Bettie & Club Members,

I think it is time to let you know we have a new address. Also a new house. We are at 138 Old Sunbeam Dr., South Daytona FL 32119-4424. We still don't have the house in shape. We moved in here Dec. 27 (I think.) We have put up a 6 ft. fence and now we are planting trees, flowers, bushes, vines and spending all our "spare change." We really like where we live-- but moving two houses of furniture into one house isn't easy. We still have a garage full.

We will try to see some of you around the last of June. I had surgery 11-7-95. Benny has had two surgeries this year-- his neck in January and two weeks ago he had surgery on his shoulder. Both were very painful. He is having therapy most every day. As he says, "All we do is go to the doctor!"

They tell us Florida has had a "long cold winter." They don't know what a "long cold winter" is. But we did have a couple of freezes-- left some of my plants in bad shape, but they are coming back now that summer is here. Most days are 85 to 95 degrees and the sun is hot.

We hope you are all well and enjoying the spring. Well-- we hope to see you when we are in Michigan.

Love, Oleta & Benny

**ROCK EATING BACTERIA** via Mountain Gem 2/96 & Rock Trails 5/96

Did you know that bacteria will dissolve rock? Bacteria is now being used in South Africa to extract gold. The world's first commercial bio-leaching operation was developed by the Gencor Group laboratories in Transvaal.

Gold mixed with arsenic and pyrite minerals can be dissolved out in cyanide solutions, the standard method of extraction. In bio-leaching, a bacteria called thiobacillus ferrooxidous actually feeds on the pyrite, oxidizing it into sulfuric acid and iron sulfate.

This new process realizes a 95% gold recovery, as opposed to the 90% achieved with the long used roasting and pressure oxidation process.

**CLUB CALENDAR**

- June 20 Regular meeting, 7:30. Meridian Twp. Service Center.  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO WM. "RED" ROGERS!!!**
- June 21-23 Field trip- Bloomington IN swap & geode collecting.
- July 13 Field trip- Stoneco Quarry, Maybee MI 7:30am- Noon
- August 17 Field trip- Stoneco Quarry, Lime City OH 7:30am-Noon
- August 24 Pot-luck Picnic, Morrison Lake, 1:00pm
- Sept. 21 OR 28 Children's table work party & pot-luck, Turner's house

**SHOW CALENDAR**

- 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
- Oct. 25-27 CML&MS SHOW. Marshall St. Armory, Lansing MI. Fri. 6-9, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5.**