

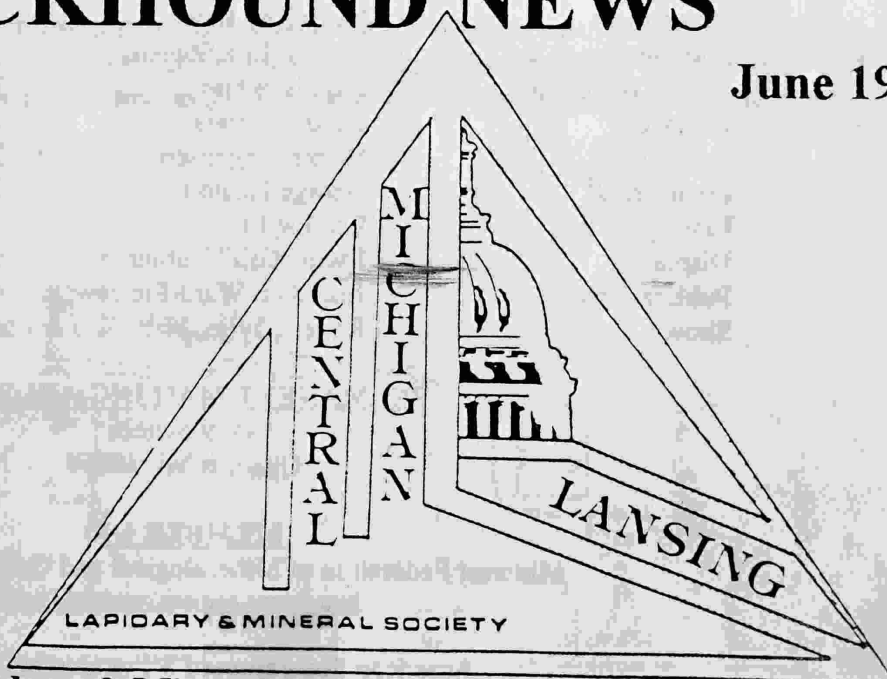
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ROCKHOUND NEWS

June 1999



Official publication of the
Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society
Member of MWF & AFMS

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		
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

IMPORTANT: JUNE MEETING HELD AT MERIDIAN TWP. SERVICE CENTER!!! Take Okemos Rd. north from Grand River, turn east onto Gaylord Smith Dr. & you are there.
S-Z please bring refreshments.

SHOW RAFFLE TICKETS ARE READY.....Get yours from Gail Hopkins at the meeting!

WON'T YOU DISPLAY AT OUR SHOW?-- Florence Hill

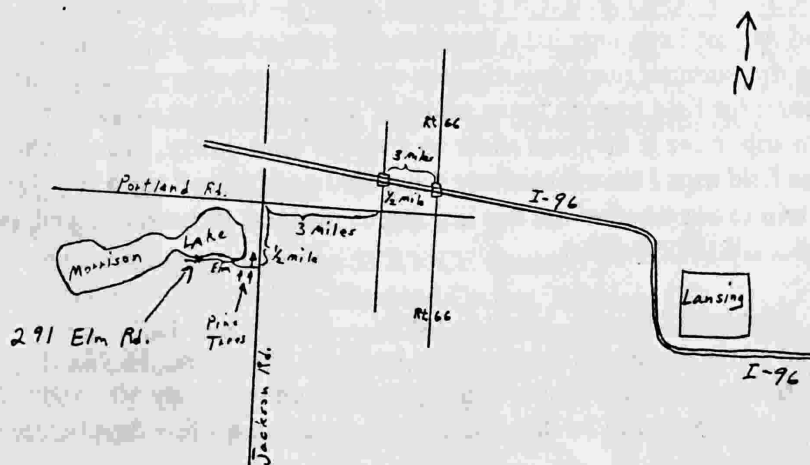
To Newish members (and not so new too) we want to see what you are collecting or making! Won't you plan on setting up a display to show off your interests? We will have lots of room in the display section at our show this fall. We really could use a lot more member displays.

Its really not hard to arrange a display, you don't need a lot of pieces. The most common failing of first-time displayers is putting in too many pieces. It takes a little judicious spacing to make any object look its best. Don't be overawed by the professional quality of the displays of some of our members. You can make a very interesting and attractive display without using competition-level specimens. You will want to select your best or most unusual, interesting pieces for your display. Club members who display regularly will be glad to tell you how they make labels and plan their arrangements. Its really fun to see what you can come up with. Why don't you take some time this summer and arrange your display?

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, July 24 at their 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.



MAY FIELD TRIP REPORT--George Heaton

Our May 22 field trip to the Hanson Aggregates Quarry (formerly Kentucky Stone Co.) near Flemingsburg KY had 11 people, including seven from our club and four from the Cincinnati club in attendance. As usual for George Heaton field trips the weather was near perfect. It was cloudy but remained dry. The clouds kept us cool and comfortable and safe from sunburn. We could work hard pounding on rocks without becoming hot and sweaty. There was lots of beautiful calcite and some fossils to be found and all of us found nice specimens.

After our visit to the quarry we stopped at the road cut between Maysville and Flemingsburg to look for fossils. There we found brachiopods, cephalopods, gastropods, pelecypods, and bryozoa. Plus, Lila Stevens found a nice trilobite which was probably the find of the day at the roadcut.

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 25-27. 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.

POSSIBLE JULY AND AUGUST FIELD TRIPS-- George Heaton

For July and August I can only list a tentative field trip schedule at this time. Due to all the road construction this summer many quarries are very busy and quarry management find it difficult to give permission for field trips so far in advance, and request that I wait and call them about a week ahead of our trip to see if they can allow us a visit to their quarry. Those who are interested in attending the field trips I have tentatively scheduled **need to call me a few days before the scheduled trip** to see whether the trip is going as planned, or been changed, or canceled. My phone number is 517-339-8914.

Davon Inc. Highland Quarry, July 10, 1999.

Our July field trip is tentatively scheduled to be to the Davon Inc. Highland Quarry near Fairview Ohio, about 6 miles west of Hillsboro in Highland County on July 10, 1999. We will meet at the quarry office at a time yet to be determined. Please call me a few days before to know the time.

All field trippers must have hard hat, hard toed boots, and safety glasses or goggles. Tools needed are chisels in both large and small sizes and crack hammers of 2-3 lb. size. A prybar and sledge hammer of 8-12 lb. size are often useful. Also don't forget wrapping paper and boxes for packing specimens.

Minerals to be found include dolomite, pyrite, calcite, barite and sphalerite. Silurian age fossils may also be found here.

To get to the Highland Quarry take I-75 South in Ohio to I-275 at Cincinnati. Take I-275 east and south around Cincinnati to Rt. 50 at exit 59. Take Rt. 50 east approximately 32 miles to Fairview. At Fairview turn right onto Danville Rd. just past the Fairview sign. There should be a Highland Quarry sign on Rt. 50 at its intersection with Danville Rd. This is from vague memory from several years ago when I last visited this quarry. As you go south on Danville Rd. you may be able to see the quarry stone piles in the distance to the east. Go south on Danville Rd. about one mile to Roush Rd. Turn left on Roush Rd. and this should lead you to the quarry.

Bluffton Stone Quarry, Bluffton Ohio, August 28

Our tentatively scheduled August field trip will be to the Bluffton Stone Quarry at Bluffton Ohio on August 28, 1999. We will meet at the quarry office at 8:00 am and can collect from 8:00am until Noon.

All field trippers must have hard hat, hard toed boots, and safety glasses or goggles. Tools needed are chisels in both large and small sizes and crack hammers of 2-3 lb. size. A prybar and sledge hammer of 8-12 lb. size are often useful. Also don't forget wrapping paper and boxes for packing specimens.

Minerals to be found include fluorite, dolomite, and sphalerite.

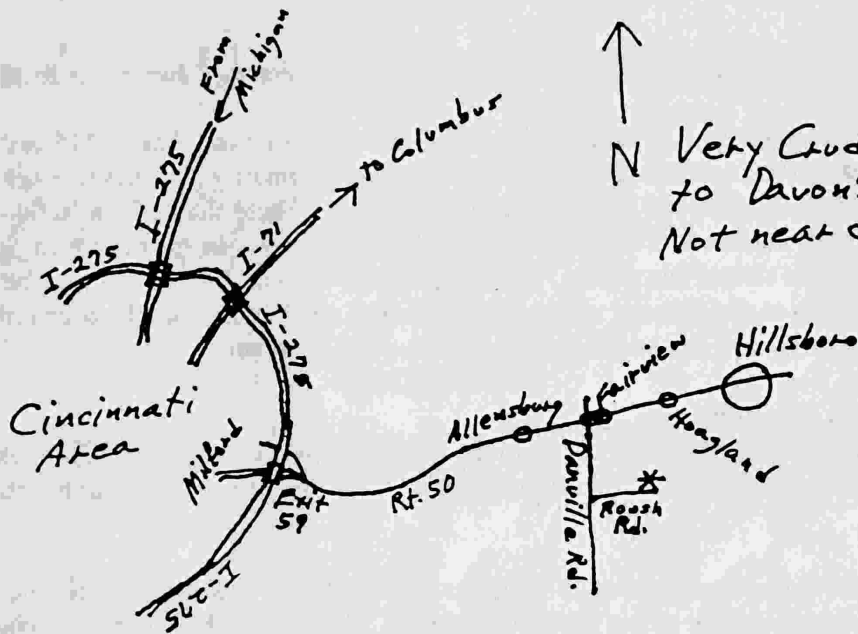
To get to the Bluffton Stone Co. Quarry take I-75 south in Ohio to Rt. 103 and Exit 142 at Bluffton Ohio. Go West on Rt. 103 into Bluffton about 1 mile where Rt. 103 will turn south. Turn left and go south on Rt. 103 about 1/2 mile to Kibler Street. Turn left on Kibler and go about 1 block to Harmon Rd. Turn right on Harmon road and then left at the next street. Take this street east a short distance and cross a railroad track and you are at the quarry.

There is also Exit 140 at the south end of Bluffton, but my map does not show if it is possible to exit going south on I-75, or only if going north. When this map was made that may have been true, but this could have changed since then. If you are feeling adventurous you could try this exit.

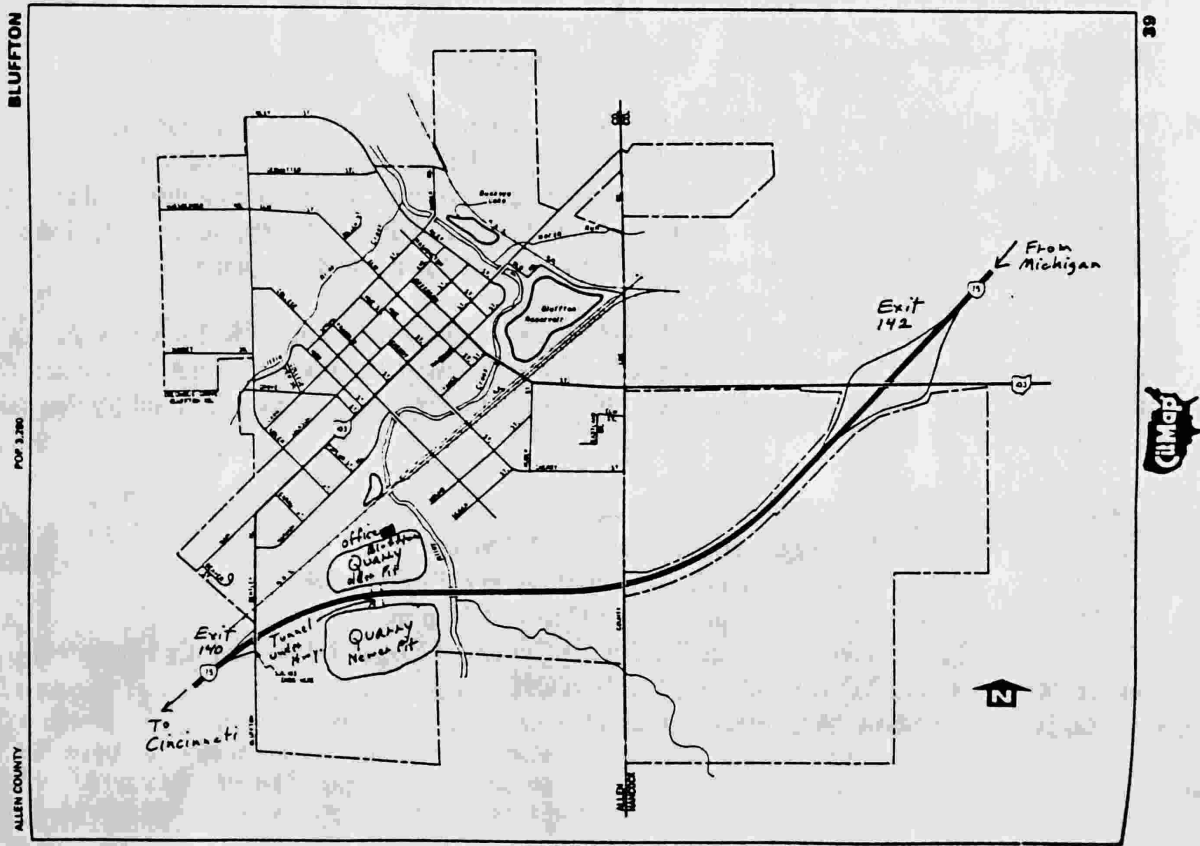
CLUB CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 17 | Regular Meeting, Meridian SERVICE Center |
| July 10 | TENTATIVE Field Trip, Highland Quarry, Fairview OH |
| July 24 | Picnic at Rich and Lila Steven's House, 1:00 p.m. |
| July 31 | Critter Making Party & Bag Filling Contest at Roger & Lee Laylin's House 9-3 |
| August 28 | TENTATIVE Field Trip, Bluffton OH |
| Oct. 22-24 | Our Show "A Century of Gems" |

FIELD TRIP MAP PAGE:



↑
N Very Crude + Poorly Drawn Map
to Davon's Highland Quarry.
Not near drawn to Scale.



BLUFFTON

POP 3,300

ALLEN COUNTY



SUMMER BIRTHSTONE REPORTS -- Bettie Patterson

The pearl, 'tho not a mineral, is nevertheless considered a gem and is a birthstone for June.

Pearls are malformations of the external skeleton of the pearl-oyster, are secreted by the mouth of this mollusk, and are the same structure as the mother-of-pearl which forms the inside of the shell. When attached to the shell the pearls are irregular in shape, and those isolated or embedded in the tissue of the mantle are spherical. The nacreous material of mother-of-pearl and pearls is in alternate layers of calcium carbonate and conchiolin and, thus, the spherical pearls are built up like an onion.

A pearl was believed to be a gem of purity, would preserve the integrity of the wearer, would protect those who worked in the sea and was unlucky as an engagement gem as it resembled tears.

Throughout recorded history pearls were fitting adornments for royalty and famous beauties, on caskets of early Egyptians, and even today are highly regarded as choice gems by collectors of precious jewels. They were in crosses, on thrones, on altarpieces such as the one at St. Mark's in Venice which contained 1300 pearls as well as other precious gems. Even a set of harness and trappings for the horses of John George IV were adorned with 500 pearls.

Artists depicted religious figures, such as Stephan Lochner's "Madonna in the Rose Garden" with a crown bearing two arches of pearls, and even Lucifer was depicted before his fall from grace, wearing a brocaded silk robe embroidered with pearls and precious stones and a crown set with four large pearls and a huge ruby.

Pearls, as well as other precious gems, were included in crowns of rulers: Queen Elizabeth, very partial to pearls, wore a long string of pearls, earrings, pearl drops in her hair, a circlet of pearls on her wrist, as well as pearls in her crown and scepter; the crown worn by Queen Victoria contained 300 pearls; Holy Roman Emperor Rudolph II wore at first a crown containing many pearls, and Istvan Bocskoy, Prince of Transylvania, wore a crown with 24 pearls.

Even Faberge used pearls in his highly ornamental objects of plants and flowers.

Natural pearls are today regarded as symbols of great wealth and power, but the cultured pearls are worn by all ranks of the modern woman.

In more recent years, jewelers have promoted Alexandrite as the June birthstone. There are no myths of early times associated with Alexandrite, simply because it was not discovered until 1830, on the birthday of Alexander II, Czar of Russia. The red and green of this stone were also the national colors of Russia, so Russians wore it with great pride, naming it in honor of the Czar. Since then, Alexandrite has also been found in Ceylon.

Ruby, the birthstone for July, a corundum with a range of pink to red to pale violet colors, was considered a stone of royalty throughout periods of history.

Rubies have adorned the thrones of royalty, such as the famed Peacock Throne, their costumes such as the Persian Fath Ali Shah's which was inset with 40 rubies of one to two inches in length. and in their store of precious gems such as the King of Sri Lanka, Sender-naz, who owned a ruby about 9" in length, as thick as a man's arm and entirely flawless.

Jane Seymour had a pendant made to symbolize the three persons of the Holy Trinity - God the Son was a rectangular ruby.

A portrait of Queen Elizabeth shows her wearing rubies as well as other precious stones. The Imperial State Crown is set with step-cut rubies and other gems. A replica of the Crown of St. Edward was stolen, the jewels sold, several stones disappeared and among those ~~that~~ reappeared later was the Black Prince's Ruby.

Catherine the Great of Russia transformed the Winter Palace into a retreat which she named the Hermitage. Everywhere one turned there were gemstones used to build this marvelous palace. The throne room contained an 88 sq. ft. map of Russia made entirely of precious stones. The cities and rivers were rubies and emeralds.

In the Louvre in Paris is a dragon cut from a ruby by Mme. Pompadour's favorite jeweler, M. Guy.

Chinese snuff bottles were magnificent works of art and the caps of the stoppers were made of polished gemstones shaped like the button on top of a mandarin's hat - this article of dress came in nine grades of gems and ruby ranked first.

Rubies acquired a reputation of being luminescent. Those owned by the King of Southern Burma glowed so brightly that they lighted his city at night.

The ruby was believed to guard its wearer from enemies, to be an antidote against grief, evil thoughts or discord, to prevent or cure headaches, strengthen the heart against poison, to insure good health as it supposedly had the power to fade if the wearer had ill health or was in danger. Then when the danger was over, it would go back to its original color.

Today, the ruby still remains a favorite jewel among gemstones and it has now entered the field of technology as it is used in the generation of the laser beam.

One of the onyxes which were suited for cameo engraving was the sardonyx, the August birthstone.

The ancients thought sardonyx to be an entirely different mineral than onyx and that it would grant eloquence to its wearer, that it symbolized conjugal bliss, granted a superior degree of understanding and strengthened the intellect of its owner.

The book of Revelations named it as one of the stones in the foundation of the Holy City.

The famous Farnese Cup in the Museo Nazionale, Naples, is a saucer-like bowl, eight inches wide, carved from a single piece of sardonyx. On the inside are portraits of Queen Cleopatra I, her husband, Ptolemy VI Philometer, the River God, Nile, the north winds and seasons of flood and harvest. On the outer side is a representation of the Medusa.

The Cup of the Ptolemies, once called the Cup of St. Denis, which is in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, is a sardonyx bowl, 4-3/4" high by 5-1/8" wide, is carved in relief presenting attributes and rites of Bacchus and Ceres.

The largest cameo to have survived from antiquity is the Great Cameo of France. It is 12" x 10 1/2" with five layers of sardonyx and 24 personages carved on the surface.

Another famous sardonyx cameo is the one upon which the portrait of Queen Elizabeth was cut and set in a ring which she gave to the Earl of Essex as a pledge of her friendship. Sentenced to death, the Earl sent the ring to Lady Scroop, his cousin, to deliver to Elizabeth. By mistake a messenger gave it to Lady Scroop's sister, Countess Nottingham, who was an enemy of the Earl. The Countess, in a vengeful fit, did not give the ring to Elizabeth and, consequently the Earl was executed. On her death-bed, the Countess confessed to Elizabeth this act of vengeance and historians recorded that Elizabeth shook the dying Countess, saying, "God may forgive you, but I cannot".

The art of carving cameos has been dying, so the public has demanded a more colorful birthstone for August. Peridot is more pleasing to the ladies, especially. This gem, once known as topazos was valued by the Greeks and Romans. Pliny, a first century naturalist, mistakenly called this gemstone topaz.

Peridot is sometimes found in one type of meteorite, the stony iron called pallasite, which when cut in a lab looks like a slice of fruit cake.

For many years peridot has been mined on St. Johns Island in the Red Sea, and later has been found in the ant-hills of the U.S. Southwest. More recently, fantastic size crystals are coming out of Pakistan, not only as loose crystals, but also on matrix.

SHOW CALENDAR

- June 25-27 Lawrence County IN show/swap. Monroe Co. 4-H Fairgrounds, Bloomington IN. 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 info
- Aug. 6-8 Ishpeming Swap on the 7th @ Negaunee Twp. Hall; Field Trips on the 6th & 8th.
- Aug. 8-16 Red Metal Retreat. Houghton MI 23 guided freshly bulldozed mine-dump field trips, 4 underground collecting trips, historical tours, geological bus tour, evening seminars, silent auction, scavenger hunt with prizes, all day swap, benefit auction for Seaman Mineral Museum. Get a flier from Dave & Jean Ann Wahl-Piotrowski or on-line <http://www.portup.com/~swhelan/rmr99/>
- Sept. 17 & 18 Holland Show. Holland Civic Center, 150 West Eight St. Holland. 10 am -9 pm
- Oct. 8-10 Detroit Show. NEW LOCATION: South Macomb Community College Expo Center, Bldg. P, 12 Mile & Hayes, Warren MI. Free parking, Adult \$5, Seniors \$3, 15 & under \$2, Under 5 free. Fri 9-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-6

HUGE YARD SALE: June 18 & 19, 8:00 -5:00.

A&B Jewels & Tools, on the side yard @ 350 W. Grand River, Williamston.

Lots of used equipment.

Saws: two 24"; one 18"; two 10"

Ultra Tech faceting machine

Casting burn out oven

And a bunch of other stuff including some close outs from the store.

Any members welcome to bring equipment to sell (20 percent commission to A & B.)

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
MAY 1, 1999 - MAY 31, 1999

BALANCE ON HAND(05-01-99) \$11109 36
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99) 9384 20
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS 326 15
COMERICA BANK CHECKING \$20819 71
TOTAL

RECEIPTS
1999 SHOW DEALER DEPOSITS 300 00
DUES 33 00
BANQUET 592 00
MINI-AUCTION 28 40
TOTAL 953 40

DISBURSEMENTS
BANQUET 785 39
PUBLICATIONS 136 09
1999 SHOW 15 00
TOTAL 936 48

BALANCE ON HAND(05-31-99) \$11109 36
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT(07-16-99) 9384 20
COMERICA BANK SAVINGS 343 07
COMERICA BANK CHECKING \$20856 63
TOTAL

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ALAN HUKILL, TREASURER

ENJOY THE OUT OF DOORS THIS SUMMER, BUT
DON'T FORGET YOUR HAT AND SUNSCREEN!!!!