

# ROCKHOUND NEWS

SEP 1990

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY  
& MINERAL SOCIETY  
MEMBER OF MWF & AFMS



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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 are open at 7:00 p.m.  
 Annual dues: Adults \$3.00 Students \$1.00

OFFICERS -- 1990

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Membership	Alice Turner *	694-9596
Finance	Gordon Lewis	349-2263
Education	<i>same</i> Florence Hill *	349-3554
Field Trips	George Heaton Jr *	339-8914
Library	<i>new</i> Vickie Jacobs *	323-3962
Display	<i>new</i> Bettie Paterson	

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MEMBER OF:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies  
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## NEIL'S NOTES

Judging by the list of projects still on my work list, it should still be June. The calendar, however, says it is September, Labor Day is past and it is time to resume our labors.

I hope you all had a pleasant and relaxing summer. At our house it has been a rare weekend that anyone was at home. We attended the Bloomington Swap with Mary Gowans. I met a group of Scouts in Indianapolis on Sunday and went to the National Boy Scout Ranch (Philmont) at Cimarron, N.M. That trip took three weeks. I picked up some specimens enroute but decided to leave some in the mountains. The prospect of adding 100# of petrified wood to a 49# pack with 30 miles to go at 8000-16,000 feet was not appealing.

I got home in time to reload the car for the trip to Evansville and the MWF Convention. A separate report on that is in the Newsletter. A week later we headed for Grand Marais for our agate hunting. After the summer pace, a couple of weekends home seems almost like a vacation. I know that others of our group have done some travelling this summer. I hope you will share your experiences with us at the September meeting.

The activity of the moment is our Annual Show. Bill Rodgers has his committee chairs at work. This is the time to just say "YES" when they ask for your assistance. It is a CLUB Project thanks to you, we have a good reputation. I have received a number of calls from teachers wanting to bring their students already!

We have made some changes in our meeting schedule due to the Show. The next Board meeting will be on September 27th at Bettie Patterson's at 7:30 p.m. The October Club meeting will be a week earlier than usual - October 11th at the Okemos Community Church Social Hall. This is to avoid conflict with the Show Set-up.

Bring your specimens, pictures, tall tales etc. to the September meeting to share with the group. See you then -

Neil

## Corresponding Secretary Report

Labor Day is past and it's time for fall, football and our Annual Show!! I'm not ready yet, are you?

During the past two months, we sent our condolences to Dottie Dyer who lost both her mother and her husband in unrelated deaths a day apart. Also to Nora DeLashmutt who lost her son and to Milo Hillis whose brother died in mid-August. We sent our sympathy to the family of Life Member Homer Godfrey who also passed away in August. We all share their grief at this time. We sent get well cards to Bill Gardiner and Dona Lay. Both had surgery during the summer. We also sent get well wishes to Sandy Hukill who was severely injured in an auto accident and to Lisa Powers who suffered a bicycle accident. We all wish them the very best.

So-- how was your summer? I'll be at the September meeting and I hope to see you there also.

Respectfully submitted

Don Lohrer2, Corresponding Secy.

## Children's Table

Last chance to bring in your donations for this project if they will need preparation before the SHOW. Please give name and location to help the committee to properly label the specimens.

## MEMORIALS - Florence Hill

We are saddened by the loss of another life member who was once very active. Homer Godfrey of Grand Ledge died August 14 after many years of declining health. Long-time club members will remember Homer's skill as a silversmith, an art which he practised until he was forced to give it up for his health. He then turned to wood carving, also with great skill. Homer and his wife, Angie, travelled and collected in the 50's-70's. They were always willing to help when help was needed on club projects.

## LIBRARY ACQUISITION

A real treasure has been added to the club library in memory of Mary Werle, George Fulton, Glee Westcott, Al Fox, Glendull Klopfenstein, June Fernald and Lois Clever. The book is "Montregia, Treasures, the Minerals of Mont Saint-Hilaire, Quebec". It is written by Dr. Joseph A. Mandarino, Curator of Mineralogy at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, with photographs by Mrs. V. Anderson, an amateur mineral collector who specializes in micromounts. Mont Saint-Hilaire is one of the world's classic mineral localities with over two hundred species to be found there. Many of them are rare, fifteen at least being found there for the first time. Not only quantity but quality of specimens makes this place a wonder for mineralogists.

The book contains information on 221 mineral species, with photographs and drawings. The information is in-depth and should please the serious student of mineralogy, but it also includes facts we can all understand.

## MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTION REPORT

Connie and I would like to thank the club for the privilege of representing the organization at the MWF Convention in Evansville, Indiana on July 20-22nd. We left Friday after work and drove straight through.

This was the Golden Anniversary Convention. The Silver Anniversary was also hosted by the Evansville club. Some general observations - the facilities were very good. All meetings, meals, and banquets were in the hotel. A covered walkway led to the parking ramp and the exhibition areas. There was enough airconditioning to be comfortable.

58 delegates were in attendance representing 29 percent of the clubs. To me this seems like a small percent. The business meeting was conducted fairly rapidly - printed report summaries were distributed supplemented by oral reports. I have these if anyone

continued MWF report:  
wishes to review them. I also have copies of some of the executive board reports. There was practically no discussion from the floor.

State directors reports were given. Some directors were able to introduce their assistants. Other state directors didn't know who their assistants were, had never met them. I found this appalling! Our Michigan director was ill but was able to give a short report. He mentioned the apparent concentration of officers in one geographical area whereas there is supposed to be a distribution of positions throughout the federation.

The new officers elected are: Margaret Heinek (Ind.) President, Harold McClure (Ohio) 1st V.P., Kathy Miller (Ind.) 2nd V.P, Jean Reynolds (Ill.) Secretary, Kitty Starbuck (MI) Treasurer. Nominating Committee: John Washburn (Ill.), Lloyd Brown (WS). Diane Dare is the new president of the AMF.

A proposal presented to the AMF for a national credit card was presented and rejected. Honorary memberships were presented to Calvin and Harriet George.

The Endowment fund stands at approximately \$18,000. Funds are deposited in Terre Haute First National Bank. An interest bearing checking account has been established to receive the endowment fund interest. Endowment fund operating procedures have been established. We do not yet have a copy of these. The committee (endowment fund) consists of chair Larry Costigan (MN) Secretary Mary Hanning (IL) Treasurer Dr. Ben Moulton (Iowa), Financial advisor Bill Cook (OH), Silent auction Norm Brown (IA), Margaret Heinek (Ind.) and Glen Hanning (IL) former pres. MWF.

Future MWF conventions are scheduled for South Bend, Ind. 8/30 to 9/1 in 1991. Stowe, Ohio 7/23-26 in 1992. This will be in conjunction with AMF convention. It was reported that Oshkosh, WI will bid for the 1993 Show.

I'll be glad to answer questions about the convention at the September meeting.

Neil

The Exchangite reports the death of Merle Pittinger. Long time members will remember her husband, Henry Pittinger as an avid collector of rocks and minerals. He had even incorporated his slabs in the construction of his home.

It should be noted that, in compliance with Merle's wishes, the contents of Henry's "Mineral Room" have been donated to and accepted by the Geology Department at Michigan State University, Henry's Alma Mater.

## June Field Trip to Bloomington, Indiana

The June 22-24 Field Trip to the Rock Swap at Bloomington, Indiana and geode collecting attracted only about 6 of our members, at least that is only the number I know about. It is possible I may have missed some in passing going to and from the rock swap and geode collecting sites. The Bloomington Fair Grounds seemed a good enough location for the old Bedford swap, but I think I prefer the Bedford location. It may be I am just used to the Bedford Grounds. Also there did not seem to be quite as many dealers and swappers this year.

At least some that I have come to expect to find there in the past were not there this year. I have not opened all my geodes yet, but so far I have found only one that is almost good enough to keep for myself. I am still hoping to find something good as I continue to open the others.

## July Field Trip - Bay Port, Michigan

George Heaton was the only member of our club to show up for the July 28th field trip to the Wallace Quarry at Bay Port, Michigan. He had the quarry all to himself. Calcite crystal collecting was good and he found some nice specimens. He did not spend much time at the millerite collecting site. The day was hot so he left for home a little earlier than he usually does.

## August Picnic at Morrison Lake

The August 11th Picnic was hosted by Richard and Lila Stevens at their summer home on Morrison Lake. This picnic is always well attended. It offers a pleasant environment with the lake and lots of trees for shade, gracious hosts, and lots of good food. I wish to thank Richard and Lila Stevens for their willingness to host our August picnic every year.

## August Field Trip - Southern Ohio - August 22nd

The planned visit to the Kentucky Stone Co. Quarry at Flemingsburg, Kentucky had to be cancelled, which left only the fossil hunting portion of this field trip. The first stop was at the Caesar Creek Reservoir spillway at 10:00 AM on Saturday morning. Only Neil and Connie Snapp and George Heaton made this trip. A few tiny, pea sized, enrolled Flexicalymene trilobites were found by each of us. Much searching on hands and knees was required to find the little critters. Neil Snapp made the best find with a finger nail sized enrolled Isotelus trilobite. Some gastropods, brachiopods, and other fossils were also found. The Army Corp of Engineers' collecting rules at Caesar Creek are very restrictive. No tools are allowed, only your hands and fingers may be used. You may not collect anything larger than the palm of your hand.

## September Field Trip

For the September field trip I have decided to go back to the Michigan Storage Co. Gypsum Mine in Grand Rapids because this is an easy one to schedule, it's a cool place to collect, and I want to gather more "pencil ore" for the Childrens Table.

We will meet on Saturday, September 22nd at the Michigan Natural Storage Co. Office at 10:00 AM. The Storage Co. charges \$2.00 per person. Bring flashlights, lanterns and spare batteries since the mine tunnels are dark. You will need hammers, chisels and buckets or boxes to carry tools and rocks. If you wish to collect selenite crystals you will also need tissue paper to wrap them.

Material to be collected includes massive gypsum in the form of "pencil ore" or alabaster for carving material and gypsum crystals called selenite.

To get there take I-96 west to the 28th street exit at Grand Rapids. Go west on 28th street to Clyde Park Avenue. Turn right (north) on Clyde Park Ave. to Grandville Ave. and turn left (west). Grandville Ave. becomes Chicago Drive just west of Clyde Park. Take Chicago Drive to Judd Ave. and turn right (north). Take Judd Ave. to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. on the right just before the RR tracks. Allow about 1-1/2 hours driving time from Lansing.

## TEACHER DISCOVERS SUNKEN TREASURE

One day last August, Brian Schulze scanned the depths of Lake Superior with his boat's sonar equipment and picked up a strange pattern. The Livonia Churchill High Math teacher and master diver was doing something he often does in the summer, looking for uncharted shipwrecks in the Sawtooth reef off Eagle River in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

What Schulze had found lying on the bottom of Lake Superior ensures him a place in Michigan history. Schulze found a lump of copper so massive it's nearly three times the size of the famous Ontonagon copper boulder now housed in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. The lump's exact weight is not yet known, but it's close to 9,000 pounds. Schulze's discovery puts him in the same league as Alexander Henry, the European trader who in 1766 traveled 30 miles up the Ontonagon river, found the Ontonagon boulder, and became the first Englishman to set eyes on it.

Schulze's sawtooth copper lump, deep burgundy in color and amazingly shaped like the Upper Peninsula itself, now sits in a warehouse in Crystal Falls in the Upper Peninsula. Its exact destination is unknown. But Schulze, who spent months getting the proper recovery permits and who owns the lump, hopes his find will also end up in the Smithsonian. One thing is for certain, the copper won't be melted down.

The sawtooth lump was formed at least one billion years ago, when volcanic eruptions created the Superior-Keweenaw landscape. The crevice where it laid had protected it from glacial movements. It kept the lump from being swept ashore, as was the ONtonagon boulder.

Five teachers - Schulze, John Covert, Edward Segowski, David West and Richard Zyczynski - all played a part in getting the sawtooth rock out of Lake Superior and onto a heavy-duty truck. They were all avid divers and taught at Churchill High School. Schulze arranged for a salvage barge and crane to depart from Houghton, but no one knew the exact time or date. Calm waters were needed, and Lake Superior divers often are at the mercy of the surly, stormy lake. "We found out at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26, that it would be the next day," Segowski said.

At the last minute television crews rushed from Marquette to Houghton to record the historic moment. Segowski, adept at underwater photography supplied some of the footage. The divers had marked the location where the lump was, about a mile off shore. All the barge captain had to do was to position himself over the spot. The divers went underwater to attach the hook and cable. "It took only 10 minutes to get it out," Covert said. "We knew the rock wasn't attached to the ground but was laying flat."

How valuable is the lump? A Smithsonian spokesperson told a reporter the rock, some nine feet long and 4 and 1/2 feet wide, is worth "tens of thousands of dollars".

From "The Pterodactyl" via The Livonia Observer  
July 23, 1990

Raffle Tickets are here! If you need some before the September regular meeting, give me a call at work (323-1568) or home (647-7810). I will have sign-up sheets at the meeting for those who are willing to help for an hour or two at the SHOW. I also need donations for raffle prizes.

Thanks, Jim Moses

#### Education - Florence Hill

Minerals of the month are brucite, a magnesium hydroxide and manganite, a manganese oxide. David Piatrowski will discuss them at our September meeting.

The 4H program in the county in which CML&MS participated produced eight entries in the Rocks and Minerals division at the Ingham County Fair. Displays were entered by David Maranka and Sam Gyles of the Sandhill Club; James Abbott and Geoffrey Ruonavara of the All-American Achievers; Tory Brower and Melody Scott of the Aurelius Club; Rachelle Da Munk of the Well-Dunn Club and Christopher Pugh of the Columbia Cloverleafs.

CML&MS matches the awards given by the 4H Fair Committee. That means \$3 for the blue ribbon winners, \$2 for red ribbon winners and \$1 for white ribbon winners. Kenneth Ammerman judged Rocks and Minerals this year.



## CLUB CALENDER

- Sept 20 Regular Meeting at North School 7:30 P.M.
- September 22 Field Trip to Michigan Natural Storage Co.
- September 27 Board Meeting at Bettie Patterson's
- October 11 Regular Meeting will be held at the Okemos Community Church Social Hall. The Church is at 4734 Okemos Rd. just south of Meijer's entrance. Enter north door, elevator is across lobby.
- October 18 Set-up for SHOW
- October 19-21 SHOW

## September Shows

- September 15-16 Wonderland Show Sat. 10-7:00 Sun. 10-5:00  
American Legion Post 256  
1329 Michigan Ave., St. Louis, MI
- September 29-30 Livingston Gem and Mineral Show  
Hartland High School  
9525 Highland Rd, Hartland, MI

Constitution and By-laws changes will be discussed at the September meeting. BE THERE!

